

**Toledo Harbor Dredging Task Force 3/29/2010 Draft
COMMITTEE MEETING
ODNR Office – Sandusky, OH**

March 18, 2010 @10a.m.

Attending Committee members:

**Jeff Reuter, OSU Stone Lab (by video)
Mark Locker, ODOT (by video)
David Romano, ACE (by video)
Craig Forgette, USACE (by video)
Ron Kozlowski, USACE (by video)
Scott Pickard, USACE (by video)
Ed Hammett, OLEC
Joe Cappel, TLCPA
Gilda Mitchell, TLCPA
Paul LaMarre, TLCPA
John Watkins, ODNR
Sandy Bihn, WLEWA**

Representatives: Danielle Nameth, Sen. Brown's Office

**Not Present: Don Retting, Metroparks
Steve Smigelski, Kuhlman Corp.**

The Toledo Harbor Task Force Committee approved last month's minutes (February 18th) and had no additional changes.

Task Force Roles & Responsibilities:

The Toledo Harbor Dredging Task Force reviewed the Toledo Task Force Charter which includes the roles and responsibilities document and updated it accordingly.

One major change to the document is adding a signature page. The signature page contained each company/business agreeing to perform their individual tasks and tasks set for the Task Force members. (See Attached)----The Task Force Committee will discuss at a later date, who will be responsible for the signature page. ACE stressed the importance to gain signatures by all parties listed on the page to show a sign of commitment to the goals and principals of the task forced. In addition Ron also suggested that ODOD and OEPA be part of the Task Force.

Mr. Hammett noted that the process of obtaining signatures should not delay the work of the Task Force.

USACE Update:

-The USACE briefed the Task Force Committee of the potential funding sources for funding particular projects. They named that Energy & Water, Great Lakes Restoration Initiatives and Non-Federal funding are the appropriations funding is available for. (See Handout)

--Also, the USACE briefed the Committee on other studies they've been involved in concerning Maumee Bay. Many authorities were mentioned and in particular Mr. Pickard briefed the Task Force Committee regarding the proposed study on potential links between the placement of Toledo Harbor dredged material in Lake Erie's Western Basin and harmful algal blooms (HABs). A meeting with OEPA, ODNR, ERDC and USACE was held last week in Sandusky to discuss the proposed study concept. He noted that the USACE would not perform the study unless it was endorsed by OEPA and ODNR. The study is being performed in response to a widespread public

and agency perception that open-lake placement is either exacerbating or causing the algal blooms; this was particularly evident at the January 2010 OEPA Section 401 Public Hearing for the State Water Quality Certification (WQC) that is necessary to open-lake place the dredged material. Mr. Pickard noted that it was likely that the first phase of the study (estimated at \$250,000) would be supported by funds that were allocated toward the Maumee River dredging contract. It was estimated that this study cost would translate to dredging 40,000 CY yards less under this contract. USACE explained that there would be up to two other study phases which may span three years. The TLCPA strongly objected to the use of the O&M dredging funds to support the study due to the reduced dredging and the fact that Toledo Harbor has already suffered from a decline in USACE dredging funds. The use of Mr. Reuter questioned the high cost of the study and suggested that OSU perform or support it. Mr. Pickard pointed out that the investigation was being supported by dredging funds because the issue was directly tied to Clean Water Act Section 404 Guidelines (which requires Section 401 WQC to confirm that the discharge complies with promulgated State Water Quality Standards), which goes to the determination of the Federal Standard. Mr. Forgette mentioned that Dr. Joe DiPinto of Limno-Tech is working on a study under the Maumee Section 204 of WRDA 1992 and 516 authorities that would augment this proposed investigation.

In response to a question, the USACE stated that there was not a black or white answer as to whether this funding could be used to develop a plan for dredged material for Toledo Harbor.

****The Task Force has agreed to discuss this matter further as needed. Mr. Reuter has agreed that he will look further in the harmful algal bloom study/project and funding for the project.

(With much discussion, significant concern about the proposal was expressed. Individual agencies will be expressing their position on this proposal directly to the USACE prior to the next Task Force meeting).

Potential HRU Activity:

The U.S. ACE did not report on potential HRU activity and associated authorities due to no changes from the last time the Task Force met in February. U.S. ACE did mention that they were looking for funding for Island 18 which is a 600,000 – 900,000 cu. yd. project, with a cost still being determined.

TLCPA Update:

Currently, the T-LCPA is using the properties mentioned for potential beneficial use as industrial sites. Mr. Cappel mentioned that these sites will be developed soon as terminals and will not be a storage place for dredge material.

Mr. Cappel will work with the staff at the TLCPA and the County to come up with locations for storing beneficial dredge material and present information at the next Task Force meeting.

Next Meeting:

At the next Task Force Committee meeting we will discuss the items below:

- Mr. Cappel, Mr. Hammett and Mr. Locker agreed to work on a representative from ODOD to join the Toledo Harbor Task Force Committee.
- The next meeting Mr. Hammett and Mr. Watkins will discuss U.S. Fish & Wildlife role pertaining to the Toledo Harbor Dredging Task Force. (Mr. Hammett will discuss OEPA role with OEPA)
- Mr. Watkins and Ms. Mitchell will take responsibility to send out the updated Toledo Harbor Task Force Charter handout. (There will be an approved document by next meeting)
- Mr. Cappel will present sites/locations for beneficial reuse.
- The Task Force will discuss in further detail the harmful algal bloom study as needed.
- The Task Force will discuss work programs and potential sources of funding.
- Identify Cost Share Sponsor willing to take on long term Operations and Maintenance of Grassy Island Nearshore wetland creation projects

Other:

-One comment was brought up regarding the name of the Task Force being changed to "The Greater Toledo Harbor Task Force Committee. Currently, the Task Force would like to just focus on the Toledo Harbor at this time and will keep the idea in mind for the near future of the Task Force.

-The TLCPA and ODNR will work together to add the Toledo Harbor Task Force to their website (s). (A comment was made to add: press conferences, meetings, information about the Task Force, etc.)

****Our next Toledo Harbor Dredging Task Force Committee Meeting will be in April at ODNR in Sandusky, OH

There being no further business, the meeting concluded.