

**Toledo Harbor Dredging Task Force
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: May 24, 2010

Lake Erie Center- Oregon, OH

Attending Committee Members:

David Romano, USACE (by video conference)
Craig Forgette, USACE (by video conference)
Brian Miller, USACE (by video conference)
Scott Pickard, USACE (by video conference)
Traci Clever, USACE (by Phone)
Jane Ruvolo, Rep. Marcy Kaptur
Timothy R. Schneider, Rep. Robert Latta
Joe Cappel, TLCPA
Paul LaMarre, TLCPA
Gilda Mitchell, TLCPA
John Watkins, ODNR
Ed Hammett, OLEC
Sandy Bihn, WLEWA
Steve Smigelski, Kuhlman Corporation
Charlotte Hickcox, OEPA
Tim Murphy, City of Toledo
Eileen Granata, ODOD
Richard Bartz, USGS
Cheryl Rice, Lucas County USDA NRCS

Not Present: Mark Locker, Ohio Department of Transportation
Jeff Reuter, OSU Stone Lab
Wes Fahrbach, Sen. George Voinovich
Danielle Nameth, Sen. Sherrod Brown
Tim Schetter, Toledo Area Metroparks
Peter Ujvagi, Lucas County
Ron Kozlowski, USACE
Everett Woodel, Rep. Robert Latta

Mr. Cappel welcomed the group, made opening comments, and facilitated introductions.

The Committee approved the minutes from the April 21, 2010 meeting.

Task Force Charter Document: The Task Force agreed to accept the Charter document. The four agencies that have been invited but have not yet joined are:

1. US EPA
2. US Fish and Wildlife

3. Maumee River RAP – Mr. Hammett mentioned we should have a decision later this week
4. City of Oregon- Ms. Bihn agreed to seek permission from the City of Oregon to become Oregon's representative on the Task Force

Ms. Bihn agreed to send a list of agencies represented by WLEWA to the Committee.

WRDA: Mr. Cappel noted that the WRDA language to be submitted by Congresswoman Kaptur requesting \$60M has been replicated in an identical request to Senator Brown's office. Mr. Cappel also noted that it is unlikely WRDA will get through Congress in 2010 and that even if the WRDA was approved it would take several years (3-5) before construction could commence on any large scale habitat restoration initiative. He noted that Congresswoman Kaptur's office is encouraging that smaller scale projects continue to be pursued as WRDA moves forward.

ACE Update: Mr. Forgette noted that the cost estimate he was expecting to have prepared for a large scale (15M c/y +) habitat restoration unit has not been finalized. He expects to have the estimate prepared for the June Task force meeting. He also noted the following developments:

- The implementation guides for WRDA indicate that a 204E project can fund the design, NEPA review, and feasibility study for habitat restoration units.
- The ACE has received \$25,000 from the Energy & Water Stimulus program that can be used for the 204E project as described above with the potential of another \$100,000 in funding from the GLRI for the same purpose.
- The ACE has 207 construction authorities for habitat restoration units where there is no cap on the amount that can be spent. The 207 authority requires a 35% non-federal matching amount.
- Mr. Forgette has agreed to forward the implementation guide and 207 language to the task force.
- Construction could commence for a habitat restoration unit under the 204 program in 2012. Construction could commence for a habitat restoration unit under the 207 program in 2-3 years given the availability of non-federal sponsorship.

GLRI Update: In addition to the ACE awaiting the results of their GLRI funding request, the Lake Erie Commission is also waiting to hear if their proposal will be funded. The GLRI proposal submitted by the LEC is for support services to manage and expedite task force initiatives. GLRI results will be reported on in the June meeting.

Task Force Communications and Representation: Mr. Cappel communicated his concern that the Dredging Task Force should be represented by its members

on the other groups that have formed to discuss dredging issues. He was assured that members of the task force were already actively involved with the Great Lakes Dredging Team, the Phosphorus Task Force and the WLEB Committee. Mr. Cappel encouraged that information from these and all other meetings related to dredging issues concerning Toledo Harbor be openly communicated with all members of the Toledo Harbor Dredging Task Force.

ACE response to Letter for ODNR and OEPA Directors: ACE noted that a formal response to the State Directors is currently being drafted and will be shared with all committee members. Mr. Cappel noted that the ACE letter in response to the Port Authority's letter expressing concerns over the spending of the ACE operations and maintenance budget will be shared with all task force members.

Grassy Island Update: Mr. Forgette noted that there are many options that the ACE is willing to discuss regarding the future of Grassy Island. Currently the island has 300,000 cubic yards of capacity for dredged material. Raising the dike walls could create additional capacity. ACE is currently considering making improvements to Grassy Island with a 204 project involving constructing habitat restoration areas and possibly installing a weir to dry material to be used in the restoration project. The ACE also noted that it would consider turning the island over to an interested party either before or after the projects have been completed. Mr. Watkins noted that the State of Ohio would have to enter into a lease agreement with leaseholder and approve any future use of activities conducted on Grassy Island with the party interested in assuming ownership.

Point Place 204 Project: Mr. Cappel noted that it has come to the attention of some members of the task force that the Point Place Business Association is concerned that 204 habitat restoration projects could interfere with plans to move forward with a monument and several other projects that the community has planned. The group from Point Place has requested that the ACE engage the community and present their proposed project as soon as possible in a public meeting. ACE has proposed that the Point Place meeting will take place the evening of June 29th or 30th and the next task force meeting be held the morning of June 30th at the Lake RErie Center at 10a.m.. The City of Toledo requested advance notice of the agenda for the Point Place meeting and encouraged the ACE to communicate any plans that would impact Point Place directly with the City of Toledo. ACE agreed to send the agenda and background information on the Point Place project to members of the task force.

Task Force Subcommittees: The task force agreed that sub-committees would be useful and enable the need for the Task Force as a whole to meet less often. Mr. Hammett suggested a list of seven potential subcommittees. After discussion the group agreed to shorten the list to include the following subcommittees:

1. Steering Committee
2. Habitat Restoration Units Committee

3. Beneficial Reuse and Short Term Option Committee

4. Finance, Funding, Tourism, and Economic Impact Committee

Mr. Cappel agreed to send an e-mail to task force members regarding membership and proposed structure of the subcommittees.

Appeal to OEPA Open Lake Disposal Permit: Ms. Bihn noted that the WLEWA and others are appealing the OEPA Open Lake Disposal Permit issued for 2010 through the ERAC process. Ms. Bihn stated that she would share the appeal letter, updates, and information with the task force as the process moves forward.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded.