



Technical Committee Work Plan 2022-2023

Supporting efficient and responsible dredging for the Great Lakes region

Overview: The focus of the Technical Committee is on actual operations involving navigation dredging and dredged material management in Great Lakes federally authorized harbors and waterways. Overarching committee priorities include:

- Assurance of a safe, reliable Great Lakes navigation infrastructure through maintenance of adequate channel depth for commercial and recreational waterway users
- Advancement of the technology of dredging and dredged material management in the Great Lakes and connecting channels
- Promotion of maximum efficiency, cost-effectiveness, sustainability and timeliness in the dredging process and in the management of dredged material, including the identification of opportunities to beneficially use dredge material when appropriate
- Support and advancement of science-based policy and best environmental management practices in dredging and dredged material management to protect, restore, and enhance Great Lakes water resources and nearshore and upland areas

Membership: The Technical Committee is co-chaired by two Great Lakes Dredging Team (GLDT) members representing the federal and state delegations respectively. Committee membership may include other GLDT members as appropriate. Participation in meetings and discussions is open to all interested parties.

Work plan development: The work plan is based on issues and trends within the Great Lakes dredging environment. Concerns for the Technical Committee fall into several major issue areas: 1) beneficial use of dredged material including regulatory issues related to the beneficial use of dredged materials; 2) environmental dredging windows; 3) support for small harbors, and 4) other issues such as contaminants of concern. These issues are carried forward from the last several years of work and cover a range of topics of interest to members of the GLDT.

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Activity	Description
<u>Beneficial use of dredged material</u>	
Marketing materials for broader uses, Commercial sale of federal navigation materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to connect to markets? • USACE liability concerns – how can these be addressed?
Navigational servitude verses real estate rights; who owns and controls the lake bottom and implications for beneficial use projects	<p>Public trust lands and submerged lease lands. States own the lake bottom; the feds have navigational servitude; states have coastal management – how do these interact? What policy or laws need changes to work together for in water BU?</p> <p>Action: Future webinar topic: Create a summary of these for all GL states – host a webinar and discuss the implications of this</p>
WRDA 2020	<p>Implications of new language; beneficial use at more locations?</p> <p>Action: USACE to keep GLDT updated on guidance and implications. This is a future meeting topic.</p>
Turbidity	<p>Requirements, controls? How is this being addressed for beneficial use or other in water projects? Potential future webinar topic</p>
Fine grained sediment or sand with higher fines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we do with this material, if it’s not “beach suitable”? • How is this sediment different than any other sediment in the system, and what are the implications of this? • <i>What are some creative solutions for marginal materials?</i> <p>Action: Future webinar on beneficial use of fine-grained sediment. Get input from other regions?</p>
<u>Environmental Dredging Windows</u>	
Environmental Windows Symposium II <i>Tom Crane, GLC</i>	<p>GLC is interested in follow up to previous symposium. Proceedings are posted on Great Lakes Commission website and include findings and recommendations. (Link added to GLDT website)</p> <p>Waiver issues? Deep dive on best practices?</p> <p>Action item - Phase II symposium. Possible 2023 or 2024 symposium. Proposed to broaden to other states, provinces. The scope needs to be developed, and additional funding (beyond GL Fisheries Trust and Fund for LM) need to be developed.</p>
<u>Small Harbors Support</u>	
BU for small harbors (shallow draft harbors and especially non-fed harbors)	<p>BU opportunities have been focused on larger harbors. What can be done to support small harbors? Are the ideas being implemented scalable or size dependent?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask David Clark about Ontario small harbor plan/projects. How was the plan developed, what can be learned from NY’s experience at small harbors? • At least two different “sediment + use” matching tools were developed within the last 10 years or so. The intent was to match sediment sources with BU opportunities. Would these tools be useful for small harbors? <p>Action item: look up ERDC tool and RSM tool; host a webinar on these to promote and/or determine the fate/future of these. Ask states to consider these and give input on this issue.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up with Tom on RSM tool and compare to ERDC tool • How to support small harbors more broadly, in the face of infrastructure funding (or lack of funding)
<u>Other Issues</u>	
Contaminants of concern? (PFAS? Others? microplastics?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is PFAS an issue for upland sediment placement? In water placement? How to deal with emerging contaminants of concern? • What is the conceptual exposure pathway for these in sediment? How to evaluate the risk from these? • What methods are out there for emerging issue testing? State or other agency procedures? • Basic research needs? What all data are available from any source? Background levels? • Action item: webinar to present this issue and summarize available data on PFAS in GL sediment • What do the numbers mean?? <i>How do we move forward in the meantime, while we're evaluating the risk or developing guidance? What is the impact of this issue on BU?</i> • Possible connections or overlap: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ USFWS effort on PFAS (especially in fish and wildlife) ○ LAMP coordinators make recommendations on cooperative sampling efforts for lakes? Reach out to LAMP folks, to see if this could be a priority on CSMI process. ○ Focus area 1.3 of GLWQA ○ USGS is doing tributary sampling
Planned update to Great Lakes Datum and Low Water Datum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does this impact dredging around the GL. How does this impact DMM? Placement site capacity? Impact to budget and management priorities? • Superior, Michigan, Huron datum will be lowered (so deeper dredging) • Erie datum will be raised (so shallower dredging) <p>Action: USACE to keep GLDT updated on proposed datum changes and implications. This is a future meeting topic.</p>