

Western Gulf Regional Dredging Team

Meeting Minutes

5/2/2012

Location: Room 388, USACE-MVN offices, New Orleans, LA

Time: 1:00pm-2:30pm

Attendees: USACE-MVN Ed Creef, Jeff Corbino
EPA-R6 Karen McCormick, Jessica Franks, Aaron Hoff
via phone: NOAA/NMFS Kimberly Clements
LDNR Jeff Harris
CPRA Bren Haase

Welcome and Introductions (Ed Creef, MVN)

- Contact information is needed for each participating agency, asking for one point of contact for each agency. EPA asked that each agency select a representative, and send the following information to an EPA representative:
 - 1) Name of representative
 - 2) An after-hours phone number in the event that you need to be reached for emergency purposes
 - 3) Any suggestions for how future meetings should be structured
 - 4) Preferred dates for next meeting, set tentatively for some time in late July

Overviews of RDT/NDT Roles and Responsibilities (Karen McCormick, EPA)

- Brief review of the purpose of dredging teams
- Potential for their use in guidance and planning for dredging operations within the Western Gulf

“Action Agenda for the Next Decade”

- Beneficial use of dredged material
 - o MVN tries to use as much material as possible for BU
 - o Limited by budget and feasibility parameters (sediment pipeline length, locations, etc.)
- Sediment management
- Emerging Issues
 - o Wetland loss vs. budget constraints – how can we as a group come up with novel ideas regarding different sources of funding for these projects?
 - o DWH/BP settlement outfalls and implications
 - o Potential, implications, and results of new Hydro-Delta model
- Strengthening the Regional Dredging Teams
 - o Explore reasons why informal RDT meetings waned shortly before Katrina

Future Activities/General Discussion

- Dredging teams in other regions are currently doing dedicated dredging for coastal restoration projects, doing their own dredging without using O&M budget money – what mechanisms are these other teams using?
- Who else should be included in these meetings in order to mount a unified front against coastal management and dredging issues?

- LDEQ
- USCG
- Possibility that there will be two subgroups within the RDT based on the two districts (New Orleans and Galveston) – different issues in each district
- Planning for the best use of our sediment resources
 - Using past experiences to plan for possible scenarios
 - Possible formation of “dredging response team”-type forum for emergency issues that arise
- New ODMDs locations – only one new site in Louisiana
 - Atchafalaya-West has been a USACE Sec. 103 temporary site that EPA and MVN are working on turning into a permanent disposal site to replace the old Atchafalaya-East site because of increased channel runback that results from use of the Eastern site.
 - Clarification – management of ODMDs will not be a responsibility of the RDT

Next Meeting

- Possibility of moving meeting to Baton Rouge?
 - If this was done, EPA could fly into BR and the only folks traveling would be MVN from New Orleans, since all the state agencies are in Baton Rouge or Lafayette
 - All agencies present agreed that Baton Rouge would be the location for the next meeting, hosted by one of the state agencies (TBD)

Adjourn