

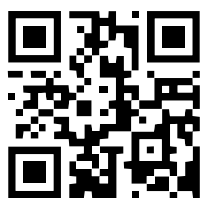
SOUNDINGS



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Dredged material pilot project benefits environment and navigation



Soundings is going electronic starting Spring 2014

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COVER: Whitetail deer and other wildlife enjoy wetlands that will be invigorated using dredged material around the 21st Avenue West embayment in Duluth, Minn. Material will be placed in the embayment as part of a three year pilot project to use dredge material in an environmentally beneficial way. Photo by Corey Weston, from Duluth Area Office.

Soundings is going full-digital! In order to evolve with the times and keep up with the latest media tendencies the *Soundings* newspaper will join the digital era starting with the Spring 2014 issue. Visit our homepage for more details: <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/>

Commander's Column

Dredged material pilot project benefits environment and navigation

Team Detroit, in keeping with the tradition of highlighting one of my priorities in each edition of *Soundings*, I want to take the opportunity to focus on my priority of Project Management.



Lt. Col. Robert J. Ells

One of the many challenges we face in maintaining the Great Lakes Navigation System is disposal of dredged material. There are 20 active confined disposal facilities, CDFs, on the Great Lakes and collectively they are 80 percent full. The district continues to work with other federal agencies, state and local governments and local sponsors to develop innovative sustainable solutions for dredged material management. The last issue of *Soundings* highlighted one of the success stories from this ongoing effort – the Green Bay/Cat Island restoration project. I want to highlight another success story in this

edition – the 21st Avenue pilot project.

There are currently four harbors on the Great Lakes rated *critical* because dredged material management issues could severely restrict channel availability within five years. One of these *critical* locations is Duluth-Superior Harbor and the CDF at Erie Pier. As the leading port in the Great Lakes in terms of tonnage and the 18th leading port in the nation, any disruption to channel availability would have major consequences for the entire system. Approximately 110,000 cubic yards of material must be dredged each year to keep the harbor open; nearly 80 percent of that material is typically placed in the CDF at Erie Pier each dredging season.

Construction of the Erie Pier CDF was completed in 1979 with a design capacity of 1.1 million cubic yards and a 10-year life expectancy. The life of the CDF has been extended by raising the dikes, better-than-expected settling and compaction rates, beach

Continued on Page 6



District Outreach spreads awareness of Corps programs

By Dave Gerczak
Outreach Coordinator

Welcome to the first of an ongoing series of articles highlighting the Detroit District Outreach Program. What is Outreach?

Outreach is educating stakeholders and the general public on Corps policies, programs and services. A key component of outreach is that we at the Corps are not stationary, but mobile; in other words we meet the customer's needs at their location. We want to tell the public that the Corps is a world class organization and the agency of choice for their projects.

Outreach has several goals. The program seeks to:

- Educate Congressional members and staff, and other Great Lakes basin stakeholders about our programs and capabilities, and raise awareness of existing services;
- Identify, coordinate and respond to opportunities with the right people and the right resources; and
- Bring groups of like-minded people together to recognize, create, or act upon common business opportunities.

Why is Outreach Important? Because it enables the district to:

- Share the Corps' capabilities with others to help solve problems;



- Help support other agencies and stakeholders with Corps expertise;
- Improve customer service and relationships;
- Improve technical capabilities and maintain core competencies; and
- Bring work to the district.

To encourage innovation and reward outstanding performance, the Outreach Program is initiating an Outreach Star Award. The Star Award is presented to an individual that promotes outreach as part of their everyday activities by recognizing potential opportunities and forwarding these tips and information on to the Outreach Coordinator.

Look for potential tips on television, internet, social media, radio, newspaper, and during meetings and site visits and maybe YOU can be the next Outreach Star!

Pat Kuhne, the District's Emergency Manager, is the first Outreach Star Award recipient. This past summer, while meeting with several community leaders

during a heavy rain event, he described various Corps flood risk management programs and forwarded their contact information to our Outreach Coordinator. This ultimately led to several Letters of Request. Great Job Pat!

Detroit District Outreach Team

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Environmental Branch

Bridget Rohn

Engineering & Construction

Julie Udell

Regulatory Office

Jim Luke

Real Estate

Robert Jameson

Corporate Board Oversight

Marie Strum

Detroit Area Office

Adam Verga

Lake Michigan Area Office

Tom O'Bryan



Pat Kuhne, District Emergency Manager receives from Lt. Col. Ells the first "Outreach Star Award." And yes, it's a mug. How else would you be able to cope with the extra work?

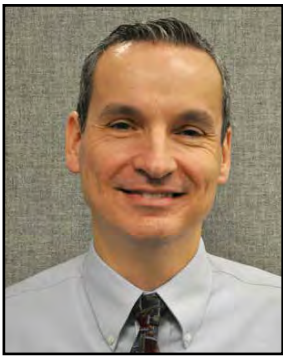
Holiday party festivities kick off the season



Ushering in the holiday season and the New Year, employees gathered together for an afternoon of food, fun and conversation. People went from table-to-table catching up with old friends and finding new things to talk about with current associates. Clockwise -- Lt. Col. Robert Ells sends holiday greetings to participants at the event; lines flowed swiftly around the pizza buffet; our TACOM team was on-hand to savor the festivities; Alaa Jafar and her husband, Jamal Alameadi join in the festivities; Bill Kempisty and Charles Berg are engrossed in conversation as Chuck Sidick looks on; Mollie Mahoney and Dave Reaume enjoy the simple fare of the holiday menu; Mike Allis and Jan Smith check event goes in at the Hockeytown Café; our retirees are back – yes, to catch-up with friends and former colleagues; H&H is represented well, ask Eric Tauriainen and Keith Kompoltowicz. *Photos by Ricardo J. Garcia*



Another view of the USACE division quality policy



Scott Thieme

I am pleased to provide you with a different discussion of the quality policy. Keith Kompoltowicz was thoughtful enough to provide his take on things to give you another great perspective.

A key statement in our district and division quality policy mentions the “*Conscientious stewardship of federal tax dollars.*” Take a moment to think about that statement and how it relates to the current period of sequestration, the repeated political discussions over funding the government through

continuing resolutions and consistently declining budgets. All of these factors impact our missions in the Detroit District every day.

A fundamental goal of every Detroit District employee should be to use the available mechanisms to safely, effectively and **efficiently** get the job done. All employees should feel empowered to seek out and develop new cost effective and innovative methods to do our jobs, keeping the tenants of the quality policy in mind. This mindset shouldn't be limited to just project labor costs, but expanded to include travel and overhead. All employees should be prudent about travel – carpool, take government vehicles, take the cheapest

airline route, etc. Then all supervisors and approving officials should scrutinize travel orders and make sure travel is conducted as cost effectively as possible, keeping in mind mission requirements.

The quality policy also states, “Use best practices and seek continual improvement.” Think about this for a moment. Should we replace the

being done?

When combined, these two statements in our quality policy give district employees a powerful tool to employ. Next time an opportunity to use them presents itself, jump in with both feet. The outcome may very well be a huge cost savings and a new, more efficient process to help advance toward being the BEST!

Thank you, Keith, for sharing your insights. And thanks to all of you as we continue to strive to do quality

work. Keep looking for those opportunities to be conscientious stewards and bettering our practices.

Scott Thieme, deputy district engineer for project management, serves as the Detroit District Quality Champion



word “best” with “better”? Doing so would leave open the door for finding the next improvement to a process, since being *best* is almost always the ultimate goal. What is left to accomplish if the “best” is already

Commander's Column, Continued from Page 2

nourishment projects and re-use of a significant amount of dredged material through the hydraulic sorting operations. However, it is nearing capacity and without a solution there will be a direct impact to dredging in the federal navigation channels.

Working with a number of partners and in concurrence with the St. Louis River Area of Concern Remedial Action Plan, we reached an agreement to execute a three-year pilot project to demonstrate how dredged material can be re-used in an environmentally beneficial way. This year approximately 115,000 cubic yards of material will be dredged and placed in the 21st Avenue West embayment.

Placement of dredged material in the embayment will reduce water depths and is expected to promote the establishment of vegetation in support of aquatic habitat.

Monitoring of changes in water depths throughout the embayment and the effects of dredged material placement on habitat restoration will be performed by the Detroit District, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the University of Minnesota-Duluth, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. I am confident that at the end of the 3-year pilot, this will be hailed as a great success. I believe it will open the door for in-water/near shore placement of dredged material at numerous locations throughout the harbor, thus providing a solution for the capacity issues at Erie Pier.

This is just another example of the incredible work done by the Detroit District and serves to highlight one of the many ways Detroit District plays a critical role in the Great Lakes. Thank you all!

Retiree Peterson enjoys art, canines and volunteering

Former Regulatory staff member Nancy Peterson really enjoys retirement. She is free to indulge her passion for art, spend summers with her husband on Beaver Island in Lake Michigan, and volunteer at the Humane Society.

Peterson worked in the Compliance and Enforcement Branch of the Regulatory Office, retiring in September 2005. It was a work assignment that first sent her to Beaver Island, located 32 miles west of Charlevoix, in 1990. She was enamored of the island's natural beauty, tranquility and



Nancy Peterson and her husband, Cary Johnson, spend time on Beaver Island with their dog, Niko.

friendly residents.

Peterson and her husband, Cary Johnson, a retired University of Michigan professor, bought an old hunting cabin on the island in the early 1990s, using it as a modest base for their hiking and camping adventures. In 2003,

seeking an upgrade from their rudimentary accommodations they built a home on the island. Since then, they stay on Beaver Island June through October of each year. During her time up north,

Peterson creates beaded jewelry, selling it on consignment at a local shop. Her island home is equipped with a studio that features tools,



Peterson's creation "bogbeads."

equipment and a kiln. A natural gas torch is used to melt glass rods, which are hardened overnight in the digitally-

controlled kiln. She meets weekly with other art aficionados to have coffee, compare creations and exchange ideas.

While Peterson and her husband are in Ann Arbor (November through May), she volunteers at the Humane Society of Huron Valley. "I try to facilitate people finding their dog," she said. "It's pretty satisfying."

She enjoys walking her three-year-old female dog Niko, an 85-pound Chesapeake Bay Retriever named after a wooden steam ship that sank near the Beaver Island archipelago in 1924. And wouldn't you know it, "She loves to go to Beaver Island and swim," Peterson said.

For more information about Peterson's handiwork visit, <http://www.beaverislandjewelry.com/>



Egg Lake, one of Peterson's inspirational places. You can appreciate the color palette and feel of the place as captured by the artist on the bead above.

GLMRIS study released – team hosting public meetings

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality held public meetings in Ann Arbor and Traverse City in Michigan to discuss and to allow for public comment on the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study, GLMRIS, Report that was submitted to Congress Jan. 6. The report presents a range of options and technologies available to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species, ANS, such as Asian carp, between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins through aquatic connections. For additional information about the study and to make comments: www.glmris.ans.gov



U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (Mich-D) speaks to GLMRIS panel members including: ASA-CW, Jo-Ellen Darcy, Great Lakes and Ohio River, Division Commander, Brig. Gen. Margaret Burcham, and White House Council on Environmental Quality Representative, John Goss at the GLMRIS public scoping meeting held in Ann Arbor, Mich. Photo by Sarah D. Gross, Chicago District

Employees of the Quarter

Fourth Quarter 2013



Dan Carlson
Duluth
Area Office



Corey Weston
Duluth
Area Office

Dan Carlson and Corey Weston are awarded the Employee(s) of the Quarter Award for their performance of duties in an exceptional manner as Project Engineer / QA Representatives in the Duluth Area Office. Both have exceeded expectations in the performance of their work duties such that Omaha District (NWO) would like to consider the Duluth Area Office as a potential source in providing “Work for Others” support on similar future NWO construction projects.



Esther Johnson
Great Lakes Office of
Hydraulics and Hydrology

Esther Johnson is awarded the Employee of the Quarter Award for her performance of duties in an exceptional manner as a hydraulic engineer in the Great Lakes Hydraulics and Hydrology Office. When requested to complete modeling efforts for the high profile and technically challenging Frankenmuth Dam Fish Passage project, she went above and beyond to ensure timely, accurate hydraulic analyses were completed for the team.



Bridget Rohn
Environmental
Analysis Branch

Bridget G. Rohn is awarded the Employee of the Quarter Award for her performance of duties in an exceptional manner as Project Management Specialist in the Progs. & Proj. Mgmt. Office. She provided outstanding P2 support to the project managers during a time of reduced staffing in the office, while also providing program support for the GLRI program, and continuing to provide critical environmental support for the Frankenmuth Dam Fish Passage project.

CORPS SPEAKS

Several Detroit District employees spoke Oct. 30 at the annual Lake Winnebago Regulation Strategy Meeting in Appleton, Wis. Approximately 50 people were in attendance and much of the discussion concerned the future regulation strategies of Lake Winnebago. Those speaking were Missy Kropfreiter, Keith Kompoltowicz, Mike O’Bryan and Jim Bonetti of the Fox River Sub Office.

On Nov. 1, Kompoltowicz participated in the 6th Annual Fresh Water Summit at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City, Mich. He was part of a panel discussion on low Great Lakes water levels. Approximately 200 people were in attendance; many had questions about forecasted water

levels for 2014, the impacts of low water levels and the other water level-related topics.

Kompoltowicz also took part in a Nov. 20 webinar media briefing regarding Great Lakes water levels and their ramifications. He joined scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at NOAA’s Silver Spring, Md., headquarters.

Jim Selegean delivered lectures Sept. 25-26 on “Monitoring Wisconsin Streams for Sediment” during a Great Lakes Commission, GLC, meeting at the University of Wisconsin’s Green Bay campus. His lectures covered topics including sediment and river features, surveying basics, maps and documentation. Sediment is a leading source of pollution to

waterways, according to the GLC, and affects water quality, aquatic habitat, recreational opportunities and aesthetic conditions.

