



Managing Sediments in the Watershed: Bringing Dredged Material and Watershed Managers Together

August 29-31, 2006,
Portland, OR.

Breakout Session 6-4 Report out:

Where do we need to go?

What are benefits of coordination?

- Efficiency and effectiveness
 - Lower costs and shared resources
 - Conservation of resources (more efficient, more opportunities, more data sources)
 - Eliminate duplication of efforts
 - Improves communication
 - Better ability to plan and manage
- Broader focus on sustainability and a focus on longer term solutions
 - Reduction of dredging need (amount to be dredged, frequency, costs)
 - More beneficial use and cleaner dredged material
 - Quandary on amount needed – BU vs. reduction of amount to dredge
- Different groups bring more perspectives, trust and talents; shared knowledge
 - Jointly engaging stakeholders
 - Consistent message on tradeoffs
 - Shared burden in building political support
 - Increased ownership of solution

What are challenges for coordinating?

- Program specific limitations (e.g., cost-share, navigation benefits)
- Lack of federal to federal agency coordination
- MOUs/MOAs need to be backed up by regulatory changes
- Need real examples of benefits (make less theoretical)
- Technology issues need to be improved
- Need for shared vision and goal
- Understanding the controls/stressor on system/watershed
- Important to establish ownership, get people involved
- Funding as a program rather than a project
 - Performance measurements – how to show progress
- Return on the investment of knowledge (long-term)
- Proper management of sediment may incur more dredging as more sediment comes into the system

What needs to be coordinated?

- National and regional policies, plans, and goals
 - Integrate agency policies
- Flexible funding across agencies to address those goals including MOA s to facilitate funding
- Funding with non-profit groups, reduce redundancies
- Focus should be on local watershed driven
- Data and tools
- Stakeholder, more local communications with Congress and education
- Coordinating regional dredged material, sediment, and watershed plans and goals

Who needs to coordinate

- **EVERYBODY!!!!!!!!!!!!**
 - Non-traditional partners (e.g., ag interests, business interests)
 - Tribes
 - Think about who's not there
- **BE the one to invite folks in**

What are the steps to initiate and improve coordination?

- NDT/RDTs need to be coordinating with regional watershed groups (implementers)
- Coordinators for specific issues and opportunities
- Rethinking project benefits, justifications, and methodologies by policy makers and economists
- Educating ourselves, all involved on different aspects (including natural processes and different entities involved)
- Should be an advocate for each stakeholder to promote buy in (Be IN) across the board (i.e., champion for issues and groups) –
 - identify right coordinating mechanism
 - WE are the advocates for looking up and downstream
- Participation, communication, and collaboration
- Start small? Show early successes
- In coordinating/communicating group establish common set of agreed upon points, disagreed upon points, and charter/vision
- Get info on website for public info and get public meetings, face to face meetings (agency people meeting with counterparts on regional scale)
- Reach out to relevant watershed groups when working on a project, get to know and establish relationships with watershed groups
- Be instigator of building relationships

In the elevator...

- Sediment is a resource
 - What about contaminated sediment?
- Understanding watershed connection, look beyond upstream/downstream/your spot on the stream
- Watershediment
- What is your agency's role in the watershed
- Harbors may or may not be the best place to capture sediments
- Think downstream, act upstream