

**MCR Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Taskforce
Questions Re: Taskforce Operations**

The Regulatory Workgroup (i.e., Corps, EPA, OR DEQ, OR DLCD, and WA DOE – Water Quality & Coastal Zone) continues to be interested in your feedback regarding taskforce operations. A few individuals provided feedback on the first taskforce meeting, but we would greatly appreciate additional feedback from other participants. If you have input to share, then please complete the following questionnaire with responses directed to the Corps of Engineers. Alternatively, you can bring your completed questionnaire to the next taskforce meeting. Thank you for your time.

(1) Most feedback at the first taskforce meeting seemed to indicate a preference for more informal meetings. We would like to confirm that this is the preference of the overall taskforce. Should the overall format for taskforce meetings be:

- (a) less formal (e.g. roundtable), X
- (b) more formal, _____
- (c) continue as at the first meeting? _____

Please explain:

In the format of the last meeting, the group was not free to engage in open discussions. The process was somewhat stifling. And no one could see each other, so it was not supportive of useful discussions. A round table would be an improvement. If the plan is to get down to the business of developing our options for studying and managing the sites, we need to talk more openly and relaxed. The current format is too confrontational, even though that is not the intention. I appreciate the need to facilitate (control) the discussion so it stays on track, but a little less structure would be more productive.

(2) The Regulatory Workgroup will provide the agenda, overheads presented at the meeting and brief summary of the issues addressed. Some members expressed a concern about having formal meeting notes while others seemed to want more informal meetings all around. Please indicate your level of concern about having detailed meeting notes and share any additional ideas you might have on this subject.

I think its important to have documentation at the meetings. Not necessarily word-for-word, but a summary that focuses on specific issues raised by participants, decisions and agreements made and how each participant “votes” on a topic, etc. The meetings can be less formal, but the need for documentation is still necessary. Video taping meetings is done in other groups and is a logical way to track discussions, decisions , etc. if the need arises, and it will. The Corps could hire a temp for a day to record or video tape, much cheaper than a professional facilitator.

(3) The taskforce will meet at least annually. Additional meetings are expected, especially during the first year or two of this process. Please indicate how often you expect you could attend taskforce meetings given your individual situation:

- (a) No more than 2 per year, _____
- (b) 2-4 meetings per year, X
- (c) Other, Although, initially it may need to be more often than (b) to get things going. I may have difficulty attending more meetings, but could send a proxy, if the support is in place.

(4) We did not set a date for the next meeting of the taskforce. The Regulatory Workgroup is now proposing another taskforce meeting in early June so we can discuss primarily the 2000 dredging season (not discussed at the first meeting). If taskforce members would prefer to avoid travelling to Portland for this meeting, then we could distribute and discuss information regarding the 2000 dredging season via e-mail. Any comments or preferences regarding the proposal for a meeting in early June?

It really depends on the meeting content. If it does not involve new site designation stuff, I'd be willing to discuss it via email. We could sign up for a email chat room and have a live discussion, or a tele-conference. If a physical meeting is preferred by the group, I can attend. I am unavailable the week of June 12.

(5) At this time, the Regulatory Workgroup expects that most taskforce meetings will be held in Portland. However, the location of taskforce meetings could alternate if that best serves the taskforce membership. A few taskforce members seemed to be interested in having meetings outside of Portland. Please indicate your preference for taskforce meeting location:

(a) Portland, _____

(b) Other: (please specify below)

Portland or Astoria are probably the best choices. Portland is only slightly farther than Astoria for me, so I don't have a strong preference. I suggest choosing the location that requires the shortest travel distance for the most participants. I can't see dragging everyone from WA. to Newport, but I would be glad to book the room for it!

(6) The Regulatory Workgroup wants the taskforce members to be satisfied with how meetings are run and how agenda topics are selected. Would you like to see a taskforce representative selected to assist the Regulatory Workgroup with meeting procedures & agendas?

I'm not sure this is needed. I know DLCD has Oregon's and the resources best interest in mind. I'd prefer it if there wasn't the two-group separation in the first place. I'd like the RW to circulate agendas for review by all taskforce members.

Any volunteers? If the group decides they want this rep, then we should "vote" on who it will be. Sorry I cannot volunteer, I can't afford the time.

Comments?

(7) Some taskforce members expressed concerns about the balance of presentations to group discussions at the first taskforce meeting. Please indicate your preference for:

(a) more presentations? _____

Of what nature? Presentations from researchers or academics on related topics that will broaden our views on possible study or mngt. options and aid in decision making

(b) more time for open discussions? __X__

(c) other ideas??

(8) Would people prefer that we plan to order in lunches, i.e., either as a working lunch or just to shorten the time needed to get to, order, & eat lunch? (Please note that participants would

still have to pay for their own lunches. Financial resources are not available to provide paid lunches.)

(a) Yes, _____

(b) No, _____

I'd prefer to take a lunch break if we're to meet more than 3 hours.

(9) Any other questions or comments you would like to share regarding the taskforce?
In addition to providing the group with an agenda prior to the meetings, I'd like a preview of the material that will be presented or distributed at the meeting, particularly if it is new information or would likely raise issues among group participants. I think this would help us to make better use of our time in the meeting, because we would hopefully have a more educated discussion. If the RW is not comfortable disseminating their information before it is explained, then we should consider having a follow-up opportunity to discuss the presented material if questions arise later.

Thanks for requesting our input on these matters. I think it was a good idea. Surveys may prove useful for other topics too.