

# **Determining the Base Plan (Federal Standard)**

**&**

## **USACE Cost-Sharing Policy for Beneficial Use of Dredged Material**

# US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Navigation Mission: “To provide safe, reliable, efficient and environmentally sustainable waterborne transportation systems (channels, harbors & waterways) for movement of commerce, national security needs and recreation.”

- Nation’s largest dredger
- Issue dredged material disposal permits; reviewed by U.S. EPA

# Dredged Material Management Options

- **Open Water Placement**
  - Discharged directly to the lake
  
- **Beach Nourishment/Near Shore Placement**
  - Placed directly onto a beach or into the shallow water
  - Typically discharged by pipeline
  - Typically fine sand

# Dredged Material Management Options

- **Upland Placement/Beneficial Use**

- Includes brownfield sites, farm fields, construction sites, reclaimed mines

- **Confined Disposal Facilities (CDFs)**

- Diked structures built for long-term disposal
- Currently 4 active CDFs in Ohio (Toledo, Huron, Lorain & Cleveland)

# Federal Standard/Base Plan

Management option identified by USACE as:

- Least-costly
- Feasible and with sound engineering
- Environmentally acceptable

# Cost Sharing

- USACE dredging budget limited to the Federal Standard
- Additional costs come from other sources
- Certain beneficial uses may be partially funded with other USACE authorities

# Cost Sharing

## Example A:

- Testing and evaluation indicates dredged material is suitable for open water placement at a site near the harbor (\$6/CY)
- The State wants dredged material placed on a beach a few miles away (\$9/CY)
- The State would be responsible for difference in costs for transporting dredged material the extra distance (\$3/CY)

# Cost Sharing

## Example B:

- Testing and evaluation indicates dredged material is suitable for open water placement at a site near the harbor (\$6/CY)
- The City wants to use dredged material as cover on a brownfield site near the harbor (\$12/CY)
- The City provides temporary holding area for dredged material near harbor and transportation to brownfield site and would be responsible for difference in costs (\$6/CY)

# Beneficial Use Projects Benefiting the Environment

- Known as Section 204 projects
- Non-federal partner required to provide:
  - All lands, easements, rights-of-way
  - 35% of costs above the Base Plan
  - Operation and maintenance of completed project

(Sec 204, WRDA 1992, as amended)

# Beneficial Use Projects Benefiting the Environment

- Value of lands, easements and rights-of-way at Section 204 projects can count toward the non-federal cost-share
- Public lands with high market value may have reduced non-federal cash requirements

# Cost Sharing

## Example C:

- Testing and evaluation indicates dredged material is suitable for open water placement (\$2M)
- Locals want to use material for habitat restoration project (\$5M)
- Locals and USACE execute cost sharing agreement for 204 project. **Locals pay 35% of costs over Base Plan** ( $[(\$5M - \$2M) \times .35] = \$1M$ )

# Making BU Happen

- USACE policies on beneficial use nuanced
- Need to work with USACE to determine what costs they may be willing to cover

For example, consider the transportation of dredged material to beneficial use sites:

- If newly dredged material is placed at a holding area provided by a local partner for gradual distribution to beneficial use sites, the transportation costs are non-federal.
- However, if the dredged material is taken directly to a site for beneficial use, USACE may agree to pay for transportation costs if the distance to the placement site is “reasonable.”

# Making BU Happen

- Some existing confined disposal facilities may be “mined” for material suitable for some beneficial uses.
- USACE policy interprets the mining of dredged material from a CDF as a means of increasing CDF capacity and equivalent to building a new facility.
- USACE can cost-share excavation and transport of dredged material from existing CDFs using same formula as new CDF construction.

# Making BU Happen

- This is your opportunity!
- It is an untapped resource:
  - ready to help the environment
  - ready for someone to own it
- Be first