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