

ACCORD WEDA Wrap-up

A special open session was held at the WEDA XXIV and Texas A&M's 36th Annual Dredging Seminar - July 6-9th, 2004 in Orlando, FL at which Neville Burt of HR Wallingford presented The Advice and Consultation Committee on Resuspension due to Dredging's (ACCORD) draft charter for input from government agencies, ports and harbors, dredging contractors, consulting engineers, and academia. The need for participation by these parties in ACCORD was then presented, followed by the solicitation of feedback from the audience.

ACCORD was formed by representatives from HR Wallingford, Dredging Research Limited (both of the UK), the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), the Rijkswaterstaat (Netherlands), and the Dutch consortium of dredging contractors (VBKO) with the main goal of supporting research to develop the ability to predict resuspension from all the major dredge types and specialty dredges used for contaminated sediment cleanup.

Three possible ACCORD functions were discussed, along with the respective estimated funding that each level would require.

The first possible function of ACCORD is to be an information clearinghouse. A website containing sampling protocols, the ACCORD *Research Framework*, and past papers and presentations would be constructed and managed. New papers and presentations would be supported, annual meetings organized, and software disseminated. Updates on dredging-resuspension monitoring activities would also be provided.

An enhanced second level of ACCORD function was then presented. In addition to information distribution, the organization would also oversee updating monitoring protocols as new information becomes available, actively work with other government agencies/private groups to develop guidance and regulations, work with monitoring organizations to recommend improvements, and identify collaborators.

The third level for ACCORD discussed added the role of performing technical review of proposals and the distribution of funds for research.

The establishment of a steering committee and advisory committee for ACCORD was presented, along with proposed meeting schedules. The meeting concluded with an informal show of hands regarding the usefulness of ACCORD and the probable participation of attendees' organizations. An overwhelming majority of the audience responded affirmatively that ACCORD should exist. Representatives from approximately seven organizations indicated that participation and collaboration are probable. Two specific opportunities for monitoring and sampling were extended following the meeting. ACCORD is therefore moving forward with website development and follow-up communication with interested parties from the WEDA meeting.