

# Low Use Navigation Pilot Program

**WEDA Eastern Chapter Annual Meeting  
12 October 2011**

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**BUILDING STRONG**



## Background of Low Use Pilot Program

- Funded as an O&M Remaining Item in the Energy and Water Appropriation in FY10 and FY11
- FY10 - \$1.4M provided
  - ▶ Identify potential Federal channel and harbor projects with low levels of commercial traffic and non-Federal sponsors able to partner with us
- FY11 - \$1.5M provided
  - ▶ Verify potential projects and sponsors and develop partnerships to dredge these low use channels and harbors

### **Purpose of Low Use Pilot Program:**

- Find alternate, non-traditional ways to accomplish maintenance of low-use (<1M tons of annual commerce) harbors and waterways
- The appropriation was to be used for projects on the Atlantic Coast and Chesapeake Bay



## Background of Low Use Pilot Program

What is the return to the Nation from the investments required to operate and maintain these Low Use projects?

- US Coast Guard Search and Rescue Operations
- Serve as critical harbors of refuge
- Support of commercial fishing
- Public transportation
- Energy supply
- Subsistence harbors
- A vital economic engine to local economies



## Background of Low Use Pilot Program

What is the return to the Nation from the investments required to operate and maintain these Low Use projects?

- Dredging cycle vs. efficiency of dredging
- Healthy BCR's
- Good examples of systems approach/regional sediment management
- Economical



## Low Use Navigation Pilot Program

### How can we use this program to develop methods to maintain these projects?

- Provide a variety of technical knowledge of dredging to the sponsors
- Sediment testing, placement site sizing and identification, dredged material placement alternatives
- Streamline environmental/Corps Regulatory permit processes
- Contract development and administration
- Development of plans and specifications
- Educating sponsors on how to obtain non-traditional funding from non-Corps sources.
- The non-Federal partner is expected to pay for the dredging.
- The Pilot Program will conclude with a brief report on the effort for each project.



## Challenges for Low Use Projects

- FY12 CW program limited to \$4.5B
- OMB Memo M-10-19: 5% cut in FY 12, 3-year freeze, cut deficit in half
- OMB Memo M-10-20: Identify Low-Priority Agency Programs, cut by 50%
- Low Commercial Use Navigation projects identified by ASA, cut 50% from \$140 M in FY11 to \$70 M in FY12
- Cuts will have significant adverse impacts on Low Use projects and the ability for stakeholders using them. Also the potential adverse effects on US Coast Guard search and rescue mission, life safety, energy supplies, etc.



## Low Use Pilot Program Milestones

- Project and Sponsor identified 
- Project Management Plans submitted 
- Funding to Districts Received 
- Activities underway 
- Prepare report to document findings of the Pilot Project



## Pilot Program Projects



- Chester River, MD (NAB)
- Wethersfield Cove, CT (NAE) **"NEW"**
- Housatonic River, CT (NAE)
- Horn Harbor, VA (NAO)
- Queens Creek, VA (NAO)
- NJIWW, Beach Haven (NAP)
- NJIWW, Broad Thorofare/Malibu Beach (NAP)



## Scope of Work For Projects In Pilot Program

- Hydrographic Surveys of channel
- Topographic Surveys of placement sites
- Development of Sediment Sampling Plans
- Collection and analysis of sediment and benthic samples as required to support design and permit requirements
- Analysis and design of potential dredging and placement locations (modeling)
- Coordinate project alternatives and environmental permit requirements, including Corps Regulatory Program



## Low Use Navigation Pilot Program

### Milestones Completed in FY11

- Develop sediment sampling plans ✓
- Perform hydrographic surveys ✓
- Collect vibracore samples ✓
- Sediment sample analyses ✓
- Topographic surveys of placement site ✓
- Initiate permit coordination ✓



# Status As of October 2011

Project	District	Survey	Sediment Sampling	Sampling Analysis & Report	Identify Placement Site	Evaluate Dredging/ Placement Site	Apply for Env Permits	Plans & Specs, Cost Est., Final rept.
Chester River, MD	NAB	Jul 11	Aug 11	Underway	Oct 11	Oct 11	Jan 12	Apr 11
Wethersfield Cove, CT	NAE	Aug 11	Sep 11	Oct 11	Nov 11	Nov 11	Apr 12	Apr 12
Housatonic Creek, CT	NAE	Nov 11 (Part 2)	Aug 11	Aug 11	Underway	Nov 11	Mar 12	Feb 12
Horn Harbor, VA	NAO	Aug 11	Aug 11	Underway	Underway	Oct 11	Dec 11	Feb 12
Queens Creek, VA	NAO	Aug 11	Aug 11	Underway	Underway	Oct 11	Dec 11	Feb 12
NJIWW, Beach Thoro	NAP	Done	Jul 11	Aug 11	Underway	Oct 11	Nov 11	Dec 11
NJIWW, Beach Haven	NAP	Done	Jul 11	Aug 11	Underway	Oct 11	Dec 11	Dec 11

## Low Use Navigation Pilot Program

### A Closer Look At the On-going Effort

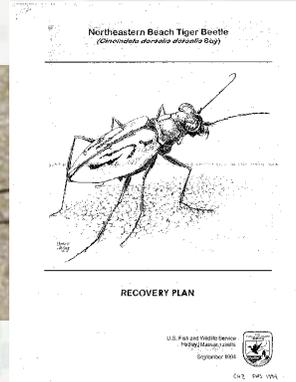


- The limiting factor is 
- Communication is key to avoid delays
- Previous partnerships
- Some unique and innovative proposals



# Low Use Navigation Pilot Program

## A Closer Look At the On-going Effort



Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle Restoration



# Way Ahead



How can we best leverage the valuable Low Use projects we have?

We need to develop a risk based approach for Low Use Projects SEPARATE from High Use Projects, for an  to  Comparison.

Continue to educate sponsors/stakeholders and public on HMTF.

Prioritize Low Use projects when additional monies become available

Communication Plan:

Assist the sponsors through the process – we can't do it all within our budget; we can no longer dredge all of our low use channels 

# QUESTIONS?



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