Craig Vogt (Craig Vogt Inc. USA, Chairman of the WODA and WEDA Environment Commissions) represented WODA at the meetings of the Scientific Group of the London Convention and London Protocol in the USA, 26-30 May 2014. The meeting agenda addressed the following general topics:

- Waste Assessment Guidelines
- Marine Geoengineering
- CO2 Sequestration in Sub-Seabed Geological Formations
- Review and Improvement of Reporting of Dumping Activities
- Technical Cooperation and Assistance
- Monitoring and Assessment of the Marine Environment
- Coastal Management Issues
- Habitat Modification and Enhancement
- Matters Related to Radioactivity
- Guidelines, Bibliographies, and Information Exchange
- Review of the Joint Work Program
- Other business, announcements

Presentations directly related to dredging and marine construction include:

- Proposal to establish a correspondence group to review existing action lists and levels for assessment of dredged material
- Spain: Finalization of the new Spanish guidelines for the management of dredged material and its relocation in waters of the maritime-terrestrial public domain
- United States: River island building using engineering with nature principles
- United States: Informing environmental windows using effects data
- United States: Experience with practical implementation of all “Specific Guidelines” – Demonstration of toxicity reduction and identification evaluation methods specific to dredged material evaluations
- United States: Experience with practical implementation of all “Specific Guidelines” – Novel methods to enhance usable information while reducing the cost of evaluation marine sediments
- United States: An overview of engineering with nature action projects
- United Kingdom: Extraction of bioavailable contaminants from marine sediments: An approach to reducing toxicity using adsorbent parcels
• United Kingdom: Setting limits for acceptable change in sediment particle size composition following marine aggregate dredging
• United Kingdom: Setting limits for acceptable change in sediment particle size composition: testing a new approach to managing marine aggregate dredging
• United States: Long-term monitoring of the San Francisco deep ocean disposal site
• WODA: WODA Principles of Sustainable Dredging
• WODA: Technical Guidance on Underwater Sound
• IUCN: Underwater Noise from Anthropogenic Sources
• WODA: CEDA Information paper on Ecosystem Services

WODA participated in the following Work Groups:
1. Action Lists and Action Levels for Dredged Material—this effort is assembling action lists and action levels from around the world.
2. Barriers to Compliance
3. Low Technology and Low Cost Monitoring Guidance
4. Matters related to Radioactive Waste
5. Lessons Learned from Assessment of 40 years of Reporting of Dumping Activities

WODA (Craig Vogt) presented three Power Point presentations:
1. WODA Technical Guidance on Underwater Sound (thanks to Frank Thomsen, DHI, Denmark, Chair of the WODA Expert Group on Underwater Sound, for the PPT)
2. CEDA Information Paper on Ecosystem Services
3. WODA Principles of Sustainable Dredging

The presentations were well received. Underwater sound was noted by delegates to be an emerging issue worthwhile of additional work. Delegates and their colleagues at home were invited to the Iceland Workshop, and Frank Thomsen’s contact information was provided for more information.

A good discussion of the Principles of Sustainable Dredging ensued after the presentation. Questions were raised regarding who was involved in development? Why weren’t the words “minimize environmental impacts” included in the Principles? Why didn’t the Principles focus more on prevention of contamination of sediments? It was also suggested that the 1998 Environmental Policy remain on the website instead of being replaced by the Principles. I did respond to each of the questions. No follow-up action needed.

In the final agenda item, WODA announced that the next World Dredging Congress (WODCON) would be hosted by WEDA and held June 13-17 June 2016, that all delegates and colleagues at home were invited, and that more information would be available at next year’s SG meeting.

The traditional “Science Day” took place on 29th May. In view of the many tasks assigned to the Scientific Group, the “Science Day” this year was limited to a half day. The subject was “Coastal
Resilience: The role of habitat loss, alteration and restoration”. Andy Birchenough (CEFAS, UK, member of the CEDA Environment Commission), who was part of the UK delegation gave a presentation on behalf of WODA entitled: “WODA Experience with Coastal Resilience”.

The presentations mentioned can be downloaded from the same web page as this report).

Summary

Last fall, the Meeting of the Parties adopted the updated and revised Waste Assessment Guidelines for Dredged Material. That was a significant effort. Efforts on now focused upon information exchange and reporting on experiences with dredged material management. No actions for follow-up, except for placing the announcement of the Iceland Workshop on the CEDA and WODA websites.

WODA stands for Word Organisation of Dredging Associations. WODA is composed of three sister though independent professional associations: the Western Dredging Association (WEDA) serving the Americas, the Central Dredging Association (CEDA) serving Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, and the Eastern Dredging Association (EADA) serving the Asian and Pacific region. www.woda.org