

Erie Pier Management Plan Committee Meeting Summary

Thursday, September 24, 2020 from 10 AM - Noon

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

PARTICIPANTS:

Brett Ballavance (Wenck)	Anna Hess (MN DNR)
Dan Breneman (MN PCA)	Jim Killian (WI DNR)
Ron Chicka (MIC)	Ted Smith (Marine Tech)
Ellen Cooney (WI DNR)	Jeff Stollenwerk (Duluth Seaway Port Authority)
John Downing (MN Sea Grant)	Mike Wenzholz (MIC) - facilitator
Patty Fowler (MN DNR)	

PURPOSE: Second meeting of the Erie Pier Management Plan (EPMP) Committee. The focus of the meeting is to discuss the first two draft chapters and provide an update to the next steps.

AGENDA:

1. **Introductions/ agenda review**
2. **Summary review of the draft Background chapter**
 - Questions or comments?
3. **Summary review of the draft Beneficial Reuse chapter**
 - Questions or comments?
4. **Wrap-up**, Next steps and identify future work and topics of the Committee

HANDOUTS: *Draft Chapter - Background*
Draft Chapter – Beneficial Reuse
Draft EPMP Chapter List / General Table of Contents

SUMMARY:

Introductions/Agenda Review

- Mike thanked everyone for participating and apologized for sending the draft chapters out late. He thought he had sent them last week.
- Mike gave a brief overview of the rewriting the EPMP and shared the purpose of this Committee meeting.
- Everyone participating introduced themselves.

Summary review of the Draft Background Chapter

- Mike summarized key sections of the chapter, and highlighted trends in the data.
- DB asked what the average cost per cubic yard of material is per year? TS agreed this was a good way to summarize costs. Mike did not know the answer, but will ask the US Army Corps of Engineers if they have this information.
- TS and DB asked if the costs included the operation costs at Erie Pier, or if they were the dredging contract work only? Mike was not sure, but will ask the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) if they have this information. Some that commented believed the costs do not include the operation costs of Erie Pier.
- PF asked if there is a long-term vision and maintenance strategy for beach nourishment – beyond just when Lake Superior water levels are higher than average? Is there an estimate for consistent volume to be used on an annual basis? The only answer to this was that it should be a discussion between numerous partners, primarily the City of Duluth and USACE.

Summary Review of the Draft Beneficial Reuse Chapter

- Jeff reminded the group of the goal and purpose of the EPMP:
 - To help all partners work together
 - To promote marketability of dredged material products and use of Erie Pier
- Jeff said key issues are finding viable uses for “fines”, subsidizing these uses as necessary, and increasing and improving access to materials at Erie Pier. There are no problems with finding uses for “coarse” materials.
- Jeff summarized key sections of the chapter.
- DB likes the approach drafted.
- BB asked if there is a “case specific permit” approach identified that would allow use as a general permit for quick application for similar type uses. Jeff believes this is not necessary at this point in time, but it can be considered in the future if needed.

Wrap-Up

- Mike said the Committee has until October 2 to send comments on the draft Background and Beneficial Reuse chapters discussed today.
- Mike reiterated the goal is to complete the re-write of the EPMP in 2020.
- Jeff will continue to be the primary author. He may ask others who previously offered to help write on a “as needed” basis.
- Jeff will continue to draft chapters. He is currently working on Permitting and Water Level chapters, which he anticipates will be completed by October 16. Material Acceptance and Data Management chapters are to follow.
- Mike asked if the approach used for this meeting (sending out draft chapters for review and then having a meeting to discuss and ask questions as a Committee was preferred over simply having all review via email? All responses were to have a short meeting to discuss after every 2-3 chapters drafted. Thus, Mike said to plan on the next Committee meeting being in the second half of October.

The meeting ended at 11:19 AM.