

## CENTRAL DREDGING ASSOCIATION - UK SECTION

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 2005-6

#### Events and Activities 2005-2006

Last year's John Sargent Lecture, '*Nelson and the Painters*' was delivered by Pieter van der Merwe of the National Maritime Museum. The meeting was well attended and Pieter provided us with a fascinating insight into the manner in which Nelson projected his public image, illustrated by a wonderful collection of slides.

On the 28 June 2005 the CEDA hosted a meeting on *Dredged Material as a Resource* at the Institution of Civil Engineers. The meeting attracted a large audience who heard presentations by five UK and European experts on the use of dredged material. There followed an enthusiastic discussion about the problems of beneficial use in the UK. There was a broad consensus that:

- ❑ there is need for clear guidance on what is waste and when dredged material is not waste;
- ❑ to encourage exploration of alternatives it would be useful to undertake UK-focussed studies of:
  - the economics of the beneficial use of dredged material,
  - the current market demand and potential cross market developments (e.g. links with the aggregate, transport and building industries);
- ❑ it is necessary to increase the awareness of the general public and specific stakeholders concerning the value of dredged material and the potential benefits of re-use;
- ❑ establishing long-term regional partnerships, including port and local authorities, regulators and representatives of stakeholder groups, is likely to be the best way to facilitate greater use of dredged material.

The opinions expressed during the meeting led us to establish the *CEDA Liaison Group for the Promotion of the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material*. The inaugural meeting of the group was held at ICE on 19 January 2006 and was attended by representatives of DEFRA, the Environment Agency, CEFAS, English Nature, British Waterways and the ports and dredging industries, all of whom expressed support for the initiative. The CEDA initiative will focus on Regulation, Information, Education and Regionalisation with a view to facilitating the use of dredged material by establishing regional groups of stakeholders, guided by a national committee, who will take a long-term view of opportunities for dredged material use, including disposal options that have beneficial impacts on coastal and estuarine sediment balances. A scoping study has been initiated which will identify the regulatory issues that must be addressed in order to reduce the barriers to dredged material use, the structure of the regional groups and the guidance and information that they will need in order to function effectively.

A second half-day meeting was held on 17 October 2005. The topic was *Marine Cultural Heritage and Navigation Dredging*. Speakers from English Heritage, Wessex Archaeology and the Ports Industry set the scene for discussions. Questions relating to 'what is reasonable' in terms of the extent of investigation into the marine cultural heritage, the recovery of finds and the definition of 'what is significant' were explored, with a view to establishing the best way forward.

There were a number of outcomes from the meeting that are being taken forward. What was very clear was there is a lack of guidance available to Ports and Harbours - no Regulations or Code of Practice.

Port authorities need advice on what to ask for from Archaeological consultants/contractors and to have confidence that they are receiving value for money - there are too few archaeological advisors for the marine environment and limited understanding within the Ports community of archaeological risk management and the need for contingencies.

Guidelines on what should be done on discovery of archaeologically important material is not available. The assessment of significance (local or national) or indeed what should be considered significant is uncertain at the moment.

The themes from the CEDA conference were explored further in an MCA/NAS '*Unexpected Discoveries of Wrecks Workshop*'. The result of these meetings is that English Heritage will present a Ports Policy Paper on 9 March 2006 to the UKMPG/BPA environmental working group and this will be disseminated to all those who attended the CEDA meeting. The follow up from this will therefore be a Code of Practice jointly developed with CEDA/UKMPG/BPA, one that will hopefully be similar to that developed with BMAPA for the aggregates extraction industry.

Two site visits were held this year. The first, in September, was to Warrenpoint in Northern Ireland where visitors were able to view the deepening of the Old Town Dock by a large backhoe dredger operated by Westminster Dredging. The project had several interesting aspects including a wide range of materials to be dredged, a requirement for detailed environmental monitoring to protect the nearby Carlingford Lough mussel fishery and the implementation of a scheme to monitor and record items of potential archaeological value. The latter included an induction course for the dredging crew, a reporting and communication system with the marine archaeologist in charge and measures to re-programme the dredging works in the event of significant finds. Our thanks are extended to our hosts, Westminster Dredging and Warrenpoint Harbour Authority, and to Tony Bates and his colleague Martin Maloney for organising the visit.

The second visit, in February this year, was to Poole Harbour where Van Oord are currently deepening the port approaches and navigation channels. Approximately 2 million cubic metres of material is being dredged, 1.1 million cubic metres of which is being used to replenish beaches at Poole, Bournemouth and Swanage - a fine example of the beneficial use of material that CEDA is trying to encourage.

The visit was jointly organised by Paul Hesk of Van Oord and the ICE Maritime Group and was attended by over 60 delegates, a record for a CEDA site visit. Following a buffet lunch and short presentations by Van Oord, Poole Harbour Commissioners, the Borough of Poole and CEDA, delegates toured the works which are being undertaken using the trailing suction hopper dredgers Waterway, HAM 311 and Volvox Scaldia. Our thanks go to Van Oord and the Poole Harbour Commissioners for their hospitality and for a very interesting day, despite the unfavourable weather!

The work of the CEDA - PIANC Ports, Navigation and Dredging Sector Group has continued with meetings being held at approximately three-month intervals. The group was formed in January 2004 year following a one-day meeting entitled *Dredging: Emerging Environmental Issues* which was held at ICE in December 2003. In addition to CEDA and PIANC, the group includes representatives of the

majority of UK dredging, navigation and ports trade groups, and DEFRA, the Environment Agency, the Department for Transport and the Department for Trade and Industry. The Group's objective is to ensure that those responsible for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the UK recognise and address the concerns of our industries. As the group comprises so many members, the Departmental and Agency representatives have found it to be an efficient and effective forum for exchange of views and information with industry.

CEDA Dredging Days was held in Rotterdam on November 3-4 in conjunction with the Europort Maritime 2005 Exhibition. The theme was *Dredging: The Extremes*. As usual, it was a well organised, well attended and very convivial meeting.

### **Future Events**

It is too early to formally announce the programme of events for the coming year but it is expected to focus on site visits, probably in association with the ICE regional groups, and regional meetings based on the CEDA beneficial use initiative. We are also examining the possibility of organising a workshop devoted to the regulatory aspects of dredging and dredged material disposal.

### **Liaison with Kindred Organisations**

The Committee have continued to liaise with kindred organisations including the ICE Maritime Board (Tony Bates and Mike Costaras), the Federation of Dredging Contractors (Ron Gardner), the Dredging Liaison Group (Mike Costaras), the Defra Marine Licensing Group (Neville Burt) and, of course, the CEDA Main Board of which both Neville Burt and I are members. Neville continues to Chair the CEDA Environmental Steering Committee whose members include Lindsay Murray. Nick Smith is CEDA's representative in SedCom UK. CEDA continues with its official observer roles in the London and OSPAR Conventions.

### **Personnel**

Richard Clarke stepped down from the committee in November due to extensive travelling commitments. Nicola Meakins and Julian Bridgewater have retired in rotation. We thank them for their contributions to CEDA's efforts.

Anne-Marie Ferguson, who for many years was CEDA UK's Secretary and on whom we placed much reliance, left ICE in November last year. She contributed greatly to CEDA over the years and she will be missed. We thank her for her efforts and wish her the very best in her new career.

I thank all members of the Committee for their efforts during the last year. I also thank the Institution of Civil Engineers for their continued support of the UK Section of CEDA, and especially Marta Dziejdzicki and her colleagues in the ICE Water, Maritime and Energy Group.

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