

OVERVIEW
LESSONS LEARNED FROM DREDGING CONTRACT
A snapshot of what worked and what did not

Dredging beyond the LOD/ Dredging deeper than specifications:

- **What worked:** The notification chain and resolution process:
 - ✓ Within hours the client, the contractor, the agencies, and the ECM were notified and the operation was determined to be back in compliance.
 - ✓ Within two days the extent of the issue was characterized, measures to prevent the problem were in place or being implemented, and the team was set on course towards resolution.
- **What did not:** Weeks Marine did not clearly understand the intent or the implications associated with the “Limit of Disturbance”. Nor did the Project or the agencies clearly understand how Weeks Marine would not impact beyond the LOD. This disconnect led to the violation and noncompliance.
- **The Lesson:** For this exercise, simple demarcation of the LOD and increased surveys to verify depth of dredging was the solution. The EI Team was reinforced through this issue that open communication and a thorough understanding of the contractor’s methods is paramount.

Discovery of Submerged Barge in Construction Channel:

- **What did not work:** A 70-foot by 20-foot sunken deck barge was positioned half within the construction channel to be dredged and half across the LOD.
- **What worked:** Proactive stance of Project and contractor:
 - Delineation of the extent and positioning of the barge;
 - Creation of a plan including best-case and worst-case scenarios;
 - Meeting with agencies prior to activity to gain consensus.
- **The Lesson:** No matter how extensive and thorough the planning, permitting, and design process, the EI Team is prepared to encounter the unknown and/or the unexpected as part of the construction process and react accordingly to quickly resolve issues.

Transport of Dredged Material:

- **What did not work:** Barge covers that were required by the VADEQ permit proved to be a time constraint and a safety hazard. This resulted because the contractor elected to use barges that fully contained all dredged material with sufficient freeboard that precluded spillage. The operation was time critical due to the Feb 15 deadline.
- **What worked:** Coordinating with the VADEQ to alter the permit condition, relaxing the requirement for barge covers.
- **The lesson:** The EI team can work with the contractors to increase production.