

NEWS

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Maryland Port Administration Receives National Award for Community Involvement Dredge Material Management

Baltimore, MD (January 20, 2005) -- Demonstrating Governor Ehrlich's commitment to improving the Chesapeake Bay and public inclusion in the process, the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) announced today that it has won a national award for its efforts in including Maryland citizens in the planning process for dredged material placement.

The 2004 American Association of Port Authorities' (AAPA) award for Community/Public Involvement category was awarded to the MPA's Harbor Development Department for its formation of the Harbor Team in early Spring 2003. This team was comprised of community organizations as well as individuals representing Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Anne Arundel County.

"This national recognition touches on Governor Ehrlich's commitment to commerce, environment and public education of the benefits of dredging. Dredging ensures the continuous flow of commerce essential to the State's economic growth. We are proud to use the dredged materials that preserve the health of the Bay, while including the public in the process through educational and planning means," said Department of Transportation Secretary Robert L. Flanagan.

Based on previous interactions with industry and community groups, MPA hired the EcoLogix Group in late 2002 to facilitate the process of community outreach and community input. After the Harbor Team presented its recommendations, the MPA engineers began the task of refining the concepts.

"The only way new projects for the harbor could happen when needed was by encouraging concerned citizens to be part of the process," said James J. White, Executive Director of the MPA. "The new approach resulted in a positive collaboration between our agency and members of the public."

The Harbor Team's recommendations offered further study of three specific sites: Masonville, BP Fairfield and Sparrow's Point, and for an innovative reuse of dredged materials as well. Community enhancements are also included as part of the scope of this project.

Harbor Team Recipients of the AAPA award

Francis Taylor
Gloria Nelson
Courtney Speed

H. Edward Parker
Thomas Kroen
Scott Raymond



Lester Ettinger, Ph. D.
Captain Mark Adams
Phillip Lee, P. E.
Stephen Dyer
Gene Eng
Betty Dixon
Ed Garcia
Carol Eshelman
Jack Anderson
David Carroll

Glenn Page
Karen Hilton, AICP
Rick Wolfe
Edie Schuman
Bob Abate
Carolyn Jones
Mike MacIntyre
Larisa Salamacha
Alice Mason

Nearly 300 years old, Maryland's Port of Baltimore has consistently remained one of the top U.S. ports for several reasons. Located more than 150 miles inland, Baltimore is the closest U.S. Atlantic seaport to major mid-west destinations and manufacturing centers. Nestled in the heart of the fourth largest and second wealthiest consumer market in the nation, Baltimore is a prime distribution location. The public terminals of Maryland's Port of Baltimore recently surpassed a brand new milestone... seven million tons of general cargo for 2003.

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