

A scenic view of the Delaware Estuary with blue water, white-capped waves, and green forested hills in the background under a clear sky.

Delaware Estuary Regional Sediment Management Plan: An Introduction

Purpose: Provide the audience with a better understanding of the RSMP structure and technical basis

Regional Sediment Management in the Delaware Estuary Workshop | March 30, 2010

Problem Statement

- Dredging impacts and dredged material management require improvement (incl Beneficial use opportunities)
- No regional-scale data management system
- No regional-scale policy and regulatory processes system

The need for RSM

- RSM is a “system-based approach” that seeks to address and solve a variety of sediment management challenges that are traditionally addressed in isolation and to design sustainable solutions that fit within the context of a regional strategy.

2006 White Paper Cornerstones

- Regional Sediment Management
- Regional Dredging Team
- Beneficial Use Opportunities

Document Portal on USACE
Philadelphia District RSM Website

RSM Workgroup

- Planning
- Address agency, interest group and public objectives
- Design solutions that fit within the context of a regional strategy
- Develop RSMP

RDT

- Operations
- Dredging methods and projections
- Dredged material management

Background

- WRDA 1996 Section 516: Regional Sediment Management; O&M appropriation
- Two-year effort commencing September, 2009
- USACE is Current Chair
- Similar concerns nationwide



RSMP Goal

- Comprehensive **long-term master plan** to address the economic and ecological benefits and long-term needs of sediment quality, sediment quantity, dredging, and restoration/beneficial use in the Delaware Estuary
- Develop **regionally-targeted goals and objectives** towards consistent and fair consideration of Delaware Estuary RSM opportunities
- Develop recommendations and guidelines for the development of **new policies, procedures and management practices**
- Develop an **implementation strategy/action agenda** that leverages RSM with regulatory guidelines and directs authority for improved RSM consideration

RSMP Gameplan/ Accomplishments

● Year 1

- Teambuilding and meeting
- Identify agency objectives/considerations
- Develop an understanding of Delaware Estuary sediment-related issues and processes
- RSM Statement and Workgroup Charge
- Define the Region
- Benchmark other RSMP efforts
- Annotated Bibliography
- Inventory ongoing sediment management activities
- Develop regional data sharing capability/analytical tools
- Commence White Papers and introductory chapters
- Outreach

● Year 2

- Consider and evaluate alternative RSM Plans in the RSMP
- Identify Implementation Costs and Funding Sources
- Write White Papers and RSMP
- Technical and Policy Support Review
- Plan review, approval and publication

Advisory Partners

- **Technical and Policy Partners**

- Technical: STAC of PDE
- Policy Support/Input: PDE/DRBC
- Ongoing coordination
- Annual review

- **Advisory Committee**

- Senior Partner Team
- Approval and adoption

- **Target Audience**

- Who will use it?
 - Corps – enhance dredging program
 - Regulatory agencies - enhance permitting standards
 - State RSM Advocates – basis for implementation
- How will it be used?
 - Implementation guidelines and recommendations for alternative RSM plans

RSM Plan Outline

● Outline Components

- Introduction
- Approach to RSM
- Delaware Estuary Background
 - Regulatory Processes
- Sediment Processes, Conditions, Uses
 - Dynamics Principles
 - Dredging Needs and Approaches
 - Economics
- Sediment Management Plan
 - Objectives/Goals/Vision
 - Data Gaps
 - Implementation/Action Plan
- Conclusions/Next Steps/Recommendations
 - Estimated Costs
 - Economic Benefits
 - Funding of Plan Actions
 - Monitoring
 - Regulatory/Program Recommendations

● White Papers

- Sediment Quantity
- Sediment Quality
- Dredging
- Beneficial Use/Restoration

RSM Benefits

- *Cost savings*
 - reduction in dredging quantities and improved management/beneficial uses
 - Savings to the business-line universe
- *Improved habitat abundance*
- *Shared regional-scale data management systems, models and other scientific tools*
- *Improved relationships between agencies and the public*
 - opportunities for collaboration and pooled resources
 - enhanced collaboration on regulations

Implementation Plan

- Develop and disseminate the RSMP
- Adopt the vision, objectives and recommended actions
- Select both regional and individual project RSM strategies for development
- Collaborate with RDT to facilitate DMM and BU opportunities
- Support the RSMP technical, policy and research objectives
- Craft metrics for assessing progress



Outreach

- Educate Chains of Command, Congress, the public about RSM benefits
- Collaborate and maintain robust public involvement
- Identify and empower RSM Advocates at the State level in each State



Action Items

- **Policy/Regulation**

- Apply RSMP recommendations to recraft policy and regulations to
 - Improve dredging operations
 - Improve dredged material management
 - Enhance the 'federal standard' (environmentally suitable and economically viable)
- Strengthen regional coordination and consistency (dredging windows, beneficial use opportunities, identification of upland placement sites, sedimentation control, etc).

- **Funding/Appropriations**

- Restructure appropriation process to facilitate RSM to consider the business line universe
- Calculation of new Benefit/Cost Ratio to consider all business line benefits
- Establish long-term funding mechanism for projects and for local/regional administrative funding

RSM Implementation Requirements

- Technical basis development – RSMP
- Understanding and acceptance - Outreach
- Policy/Regulation/Permitting enhancement
- Appropriation process/Funding modification



Supporting Efforts

- Regional Sediment Budget
- Disposal Area Characterization
- Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Study
- GIS



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