

Community Involvement in Beneficial Uses Planning for Chambers County

Getting to the Heart of the Issue

Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Workshop

Linda Shead

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What's the problem?

Economic, Safety, and Recreational losses are occurring from inadequately maintained channel depths in the five navigation channels in Chambers County.



Easy Access



Clear passage



Safe Boats



With all things

What's not working well for the channels?

- Don't know the usage
- Treat channels individually
- Benefit/cost not working in the Corps process
- Small projects overwhelmed by Federal channel process
- Small projects take too long in the regulatory process
- Local landowner issues

What opportunities have been missed for Chambers channels?

- Private funding for shorter timing
- Public/private partnerships
- Marine Highway designation (\$\$)
- Focus on high spots instead of whole channels
- Beneficial uses at GBF property at Oak Island
- Include federal /state agencies for funding partners
- Proactive early on public outreach
- Capitalize on oyster benefits

So, where did these ideas come from?

FOR CHAMBERS COUNTY:

Dredging / Beneficial Uses Workshop

Thursday, August 30, 2012
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
FWS Chenier Plain
Visitor Center
4017 FM 563
Anahuac

This workshop is being presented in cooperation with the Chambers County Greenprint Project of Texas Coastal Partners and with the Chambers Recovery Team. Funding is provided by a grant to Texas Coastal Partners from the Coastal Coordination Council pursuant to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant award.

TO RSVP FOR LUNCH,
OR FOR MORE
INFORMATION:

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You are cordially invited to a free workshop on maintenance dredging, with the beneficial uses of dredge material, for Chambers County channels—Anahuac, Cedar, Double, Liberty, Smith Point.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!

- Current Issues for Chambers County Channels
- Corps and Congressional Processes for Dredging
- Examples of Beneficial Use Projects
- Dredge Material Management Plans
- Marine Highway Designations
- Design and Permitting of Beneficial Use Projects
- Strategy Alternatives for Chambers County Channels

- From a workshop in Chambers County on 8/29/2012, with...
- Purposes to address the pressing channel issues in the County, while also introducing the concepts of beneficial uses.

Why this subject at a BU workshop?

- **Because community involvement can be the Achilles heel or the saving grace for beneficial uses projects.**
- **Because community involvement stems from recognizing and addressing community needs.**
- **Because community involvement is tricky, and must be carefully considered in order to be successful.**

Achilles Heel...?

The Bayport Channel BU plan was abandoned after suffering from major public outcry.



Yet, local support abounds elsewhere...

Working with POAs
and local communities



1/26

Isla del Sol



16/26

USFWS slides



Why the difference?

I would argue that it's a function of how the decisions are arrived at and who's involved...



VS.



VS.



Positive Group Process

- **Collaboration** = a way of working together that respects differences while working toward common goals that are more likely to be achieved together than working alone.
- **Consensus** = a way of making decisions that results in general agreement with a sense of group solidarity.

Defining Participants

- Collaboration and consensus are more likely to be successful when all stakeholders are involved in the process.
- A stakeholder is any person, group, or organization... with an interest or concern in, or who can affect or be affected by... the actions, objectives, or policies that are the outcomes of the process.

So, who participated in the Chambers County workshop?

- **Channel Users**

- Industrial – Peninsula
- Recreational – TMCA
- Seafood Industry – Jeri's
- Educational – Waterborne

- **Regulatory Agency**

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- **Channel Sponsors**

- Cedar Bayou Nav. District
- Chambers-Liberty Counties Nav. District

- **Beneficial Use Projects**

- Engineers – G&B
- Nonprofit – GBF
- Agency – FWS Coastal Program

Attendees:

- Channel sponsors
- County elected officials
- County government staff
- Environment/Education organizations
- Engineers
- Biologists
- Recreational boaters
- Federal regulatory agencies
- Fishing industry
- Heavy industry
- Petrochemical industry
- Federal resource agencies
- State resource agencies

What was the effect of such diverse and widespread involvement?

- Common themes emerged across different channels and very different user groups.
- Smaller entities recognized the potential for strength in unity.
- Agencies heard some of the additional hurdles faced by these user groups – beyond just \$\$\$.
- Beneficial uses was recognized as a (non-traditional and) potentially useful tool to meet local needs.

What are the strategies for future action in Chambers County?

- Look for local – *i.e.*, non-federal – partners.
- Determine beneficial-use placement areas.
- Identify and address channel hot spots.
- Coordinate locally for a regional plan, with public participation from the larger community.
- Develop a federal program for regionalization of smaller channels.
- Establish a clearinghouse and regular meetings.
- And more...

With the right approach, BU projects can benefit all user groups





Thank you!