

**ERDC Environmental Laboratory (EL) researchers collaborate with USACE Great Lakes Districts (Detroit, Chicago, Buffalo) at the Great Lakes Dredging Team Annual Meeting presenting DOER and EWN software, tools and Beneficial Use capabilities**

*Impact Statement: ERDC Environmental Laboratory (EL) researchers provide leadership, presentations, and participation in a panel discussion at the Detroit District (LRE)-hosted Great Lakes Dredging Team Annual Meeting at the Soo Locks, Michigan, showcasing technical support for Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (BUDM) to USACE Great Lakes Districts and State partners and stakeholders. The meeting provided a great opportunity to speak openly with partners and stakeholders to find common solutions for dredged material management challenges across the Great Lakes region.*

The Great Lakes Dredging Team (GLDT) provides a forum for the exchange of information regarding best practices, lessons learned, innovative solutions, and sustainable approaches to dredging and dredge material management throughout the Great Lakes region. (<https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Great-Lakes-Information/Great-Lakes-Dredging-Team/>) USACE Detroit District (LRE) hosted this year's GLDT Annual Meeting in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. Dr. Karen Keil and Dr. Jen Miller (both of ERDC Environmental Laboratory (ERDC-EL)) provide leadership to the GLDT, along with State co-chairs Dan Breneman (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) and Dr. Scudder Mackey (Ohio Department of Natural Resources). Dr. Keil serves as the federal co-chair of the GLDT. Dr. Miller serves as the federal co-chair of the team's technical committee which held a break-out session during the annual meeting to discuss several topics including obstacles to the beneficial uses of dredged material.

The outreach committee, co-chaired by Jim Luke (LRE outreach specialist) and Jim Killian (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources [DNR]) also met to discuss team communication strategies. Dr. Keil gave a brief overview of work which ERDC does to support dredged material management in the Great Lakes (Figure 1), as well as a more in-depth presentation regarding the recently published *Great Lakes Beneficial Use Testing Manual* (ERDC EL/TR 22-9). Dr. Miller gave a presentation *Application of Existing Tools to Systematically Identify Nearshore Placement Sites for Beneficial Use of Navigation Sediments in Lake Michigan*. Dr. Paul Schroeder and Susan Bailey (both of ERDC-EL) participated in a panel discussion *What cooperative efforts would be needed to demonstrate or develop pilot projects for beneficially using fine grained dredged material?*.



Figure 1. Dr. Karen Keil (ERDC-EL) giving an overview of ERDC efforts which support innovative dredged material management to the GLDT meeting attendees. (Photo credit Carrie Fox, LRE public affairs officer - PAO)

There were over 40 meeting attendees, representing the three Great Lakes Districts (Buffalo - LRB, Chicago - LRC, and Detroit - LRE), the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD), the US Coast Guard (USCG), five of the eight Great Lakes States (Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin), Great Lakes port authorities, academia (Minnesota Sea Grant), and industry (dredging and shipping representatives). State and federal agency representatives provided updates to the group on their dredging and dredged material management projects. The USACE Great Lakes Navigation Program Manager Marie Strum, LRE Chief of Operations, provided an update on the 2023 navigation budget. In addition, Joshua Feldman, LRB Chief of Programs, Planning, and Project Management gave a presentation titled *Achieving the USACE's "70% beneficial use by 2030" goal: Opportunities for cost sharing*. Finally, Esther Johnson provided a deep dive into a nearby dredged material management project presentation, *Dredged Material Preliminary Assessment process: St Marys River as a case study*. The meeting culminated in a tour of the Soo Locks, in which a second Poe-sized lock is being constructed.

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