

NEWS: What They're Saying about Environmentally-friendly Dredging of the Toledo Harbor

Today Governor John R. Kasich joined local and federal officials to celebrate the environmentally-friendly dredging of the Toledo Harbor by signing a proclamation of collaboration between the state, city of Toledo, and the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority. Ohio EPA has identified \$10 million dollars of funding from Governor Kasich's capital budget to promote alternative beneficial uses for Toledo Harbor dredge materials. This is what officials are saying:

Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority (Paul Toth, President and CEO)

"We are very grateful for the State's leadership and commitment in finding alternatives to open lake disposal for materials dredged from Toledo Harbor. Over the past several years, the community has been working hard on the development of the Toledo Harbor Sediment Management and Use Plan. With the support of the State of Ohio and the financial resources that have been dedicated for the first phases of plan implementation, we are more optimistic than ever that that we can finally begin to reduce the amount of material that is deposited into Lake Erie each year.

"Today's visit by Governor Kasich sets the stage for the future of responsible and beneficial dredged material management practices in Toledo Harbor. These projects will advance the Management and Use Plan by utilizing material for agricultural field improvements, engineered soils, and wetland restoration. We believe that through the research, design and implementation of these concurrent beneficial use projects a Dredge Material Center of Innovation will be born that will attract future academic, financial, and entrepreneurial interest leading to even more opportunities and options for beneficial use."

City of Toledo (D. Michael Collins)

"More than 10 years ago, Ohio EPA stated that the sheer volume of sediments placed into open waters impacts lake ecology by reducing water clarity for an extended time. This is not just a critical issue to our environment and to recreation, but to our financial resources as a city. Additional costs are incurred by Toledo as far as additional chemicals needed when algae blooms impact our water supply."

Ohio Environmental Council (Jack Shaner, Deputy Director, Senior Director of Legislative & Public Affairs)

"I credit Governor Kasich and his administration for engineering this promising strategy, which has environmental and economic 'win-win' stamped all over it."

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Lt. Col. Karl D. Jansen, Buffalo District Commander)

"The Corps of Engineers is committed to keeping Toledo Harbor open, and fully supports beneficial use of dredged material. We look forward to working with this partnership to achieve the goals of the demonstration project."