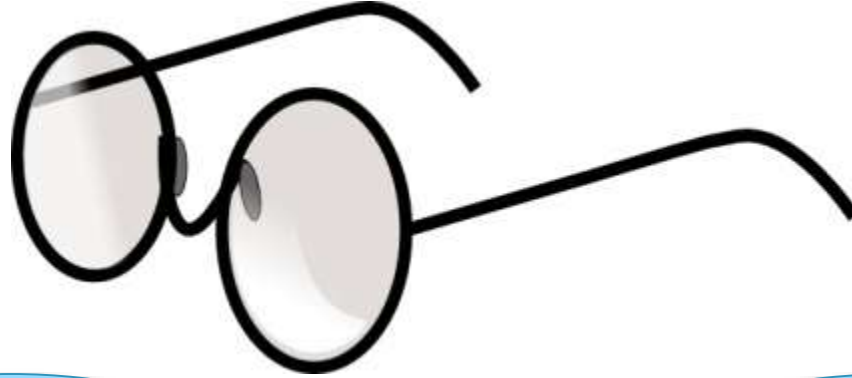


# **Quality Partnership Initiative Overview for PDASA(CW) Ryan Fisher**

**September 27, 2018**

# AAPA's View of the Corps



**CHANNEL  
DREDGING**

**PLANNING  
STUDIES**

**REGULATORY**

# QPI Origination and Key Events

- **2002 – Corps Reorganization and Reform Proposals; change/improvement concern**
- **2004 – QPI agreements signed between AAPA/ASA and AAPA/Corps**
- **2010 – Corps listening session on nav issues**
- **2011 – ASA and Corps leaders meet on Port issues; commit to address issues**
- **2012 – QPI Workshop to organize issues and Port/Corps action teams; QPI Report Issued, 25 Recommendations**
- **2013 – Corps Civil Works Transformation**
- **2014 – WRRDA enacted**

# QPI Memorandum of Understanding

Excerpt from 2004 AAPA/ASA(CW) MOU:

“The shared principles expressed below are intended to create a high trust culture between our organizations, where we work seamlessly, exchange information freely, and spend the public’s money wisely.”

AAPA members are public ports and cost sharing non-Federal project sponsors

# **QPI Baltimore Meeting February 2011**

- **Attended by ASA Darcy and MG Grisoli**
- **Resulted in a list of items of concern to progress project delivery**
- **Committed to a follow up meeting to address issues**
- **Workgroups identified as Authorities, Communications & Collaboration, DDNPCX, Funding, Permits, and Reduction of Study Time**

# **QPI Workshop Bradenton, FL January 2012**

- **USACE and AAPA reaffirmed Partnering Agreement**
- **Three workgroups established:**
  - **Authorities**
  - **Project Delivery**
  - **Communication & Collaboration**
- **Recommendations Report with 25 actions issued in November 2012**
- **MG Walsh instituted quarterly conference calls to get the “partners perspective” on how Corps was progressing**

# Results

- **Corps Civil Works transformation and SMART Planning addressed several QPI issues**
- **Congress passed Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, addressing a number of the Authorities workgroup issues**
- **Joint AAPA/Corps webinars on technical topics**
- **Communications & Collaboration team addressed every issue on its list**
- **Corps navigation program funding has increased, especially maintenance dredging through the focus on Harbor Maintenance Tax funding**

# Successes

- **3-year Feasibility Studies**
- **Project Sponsor inclusion on Product Delivery Team**
- **Improved sharing of data with Sponsor - funding and schedule**
- **Clarification and streamlining acceptance of sponsor funds**
- **Use of model agreements and delegated approvals**
- **Ability to contribute funds for dedicated regulatory permit evaluations**
- **17 of 25 QPI Recommendations completed**



# QPI Actions Identified in 2016

	<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	<b>TEAM</b>
1	Beneficial uses of dredged material and the Federal Standard	PD
2	Utility relocations and Project Partnership Agreements	A
3	Dredged Material Management Plans (DMMP) streamline process	PD
4	Contributed Funds – pursue annual Congressional report rather than pre-acceptance notice	PD
5	Improve NEPA coordination of Sections 404 and 408	PD

# QPI Actions Identified in 2016

	ACTION ITEM	TEAM
6	Sponsor funding for Corps combined Regulatory and Section 408 (Engineering) analysis.	PD
7	Stakeholder engagement checklist – identify best practices	CC
8	Dredged material placement area tipping fees – construction cost versus market value	A
9	Pursue Section 408 guidance specific for Navigation	PD
10	Sponsor notification of when new guidance issued	CC

# QPI Actions Identified in 2016

	ACTION ITEM	TEAM
11	Clearly establish when Federal assumption of maintenance occurs on non-Federal navigation channel improvement	PD
12	Establish process for disposal of real estate easements no longer needed for the project	PD
13	Notify interested parties when new policy is issued	CC
14	Clarify role non-Federal sponsor's role on release of Real Estate easements	PD

# On The Horizon...

- **Dredging permit streamlining – 1 Federal Decision**
- **Managing annual and supplemental dredging efforts**
- **Planning studies – future ship sizes**
- **Project sponsor role in Corps policy and WRDA Implementation Guidance development – Fast Track & Prioritize**
  - Direct Corps provide technical assistance when requested for sponsor-led navigation channel improvement studies
- **Navigation asset condition reports**
- **Corps reorganization study**

# Summary

- **AAPA supports ASA James views on ‘turning dirt’**
- **Definite trend of improvement in working relationships**
- **Look forward to working with ASA and Corps leadership on navigation issues**
- **Global trade is the key to U.S. economic growth. Corps nav program is safe and efficient freight movement.**



**Thanks for all you do!**