

Great Lakes Navigation Stakeholder Meeting

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US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG



Meeting Agenda

Welcome; Introductory Remarks

**Mike O'Bryan
Jim Weakley**

Great Lakes Navigation Program

- Funding status
- Recent Trends and Issues
- FY13 Great Lakes Navigation Program
- Soo Locks Reliability

Mike O'Bryan

Stakeholder Discussion/Feedback

Jim Weakley/All

Closing Comments

All



FY13 Corps Funding Status

- Congress has not passed an Energy & Water appropriations bill for FY13.
- The Corps is operating under a Continuing Resolution Authority (CRA), with funding levels no greater than FY12.
- CRA funding generally follows FY13 President's Budget. Projects that did not receive funding in FY12 are not eligible for funding under the CRA.
- It is possible that we will have a year-long CRA in FY13.



FY 13 President's Budget Great Lakes Navigation

\$85.9M Great Lakes Navigation Operations & Maintenance

Key Items in FY13 President's Budget

\$31.0M in Dredging (15 projects - 2.4M cubic yards)

\$12.0M in Dredged Material Management

\$3.1M in Soo Asset Renewal



FY 13 President's Budget Dredging Projects

Duluth-Superior
Green Bay
Calumet
Indiana Harbor
Holland
Grand Haven
Muskegon
Manistee

Saginaw River
Detroit River
Toledo
Sandusky
Cleveland
Ashtabula
Conneaut



Harbors Affected by Hurricane Sandy

Burns Waterway
Waukegan
Michigan City
St. Joseph
Muskegon
Holland

Cleveland
Lorain

- President signed Sandy Supplemental on January 29. Included \$821M for dredging and repair needs nationwide due to Sandy. Funds have not been allocated by HQ yet to specific projects.
- Great Lakes Districts have submitted our needs.

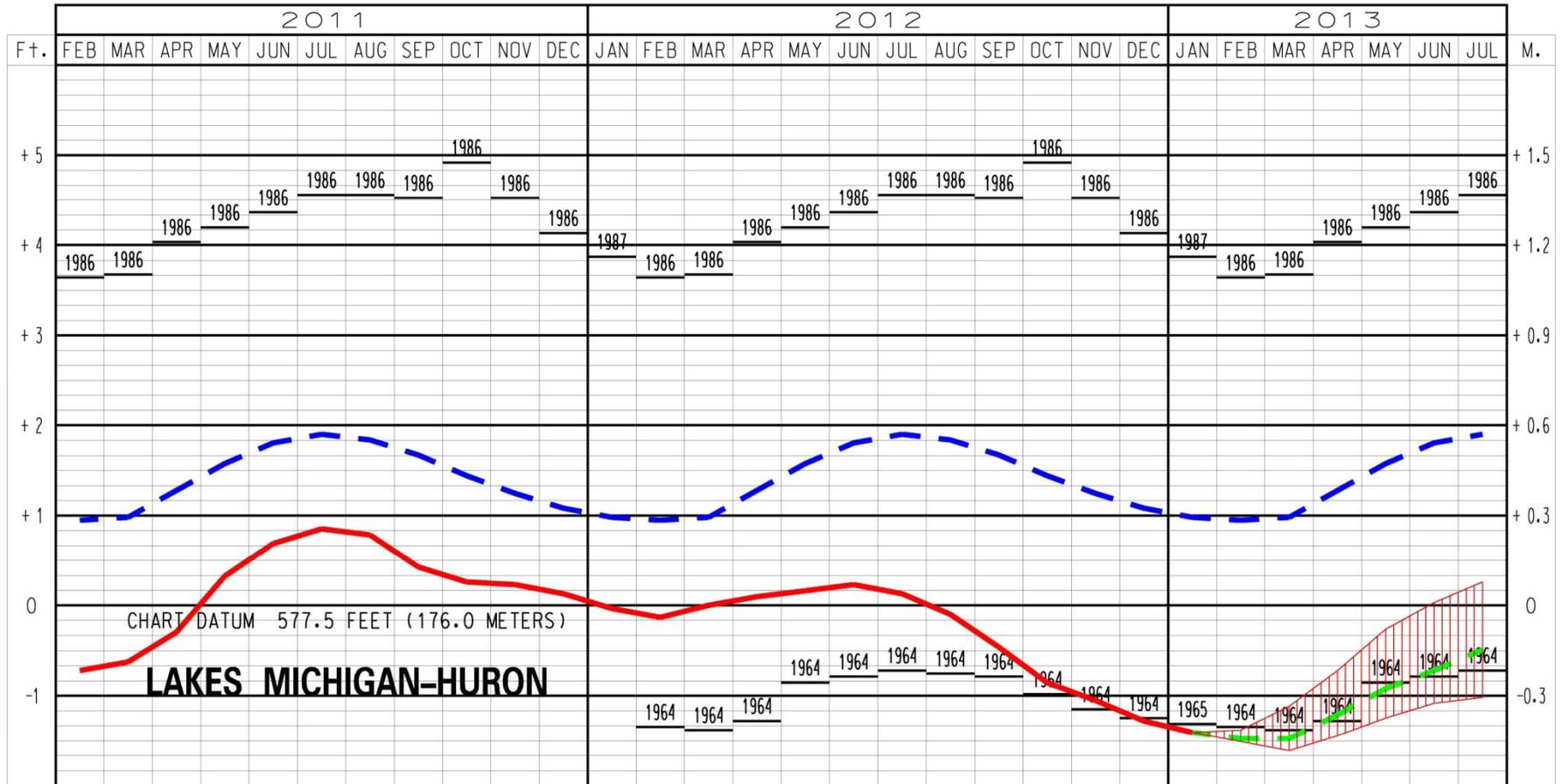


Water Levels on Great Lakes

- All the Great Lakes are below their long term averages. Lake Michigan-Huron set new monthly record low levels in December and January and an all-time low in January.
- Levels on Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron have been below average for over 14 years, the longest stretch in their recorded histories.
- Lake Erie has dropped two feet in the past year and had no seasonal rise in 2012 - first time the lake had no seasonal rise.
- The most probable forecast shows Lake Michigan-Huron setting new record lows again in February and March, and remaining near record low levels from April – July and most likely well beyond that.
- Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron are expected to be 12 and 18 inches below chart datum, respectively, at the open of the 2013 navigation season in March.



LAKES MICHIGAN-HURON WATER LEVELS - FEBRUARY 2013

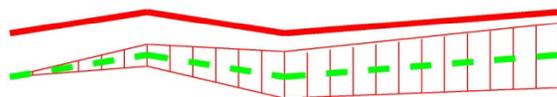


LEGEND

LAKE LEVELS

RECORDED

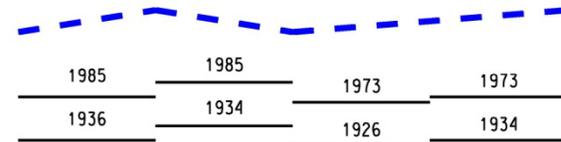
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AVERAGE **

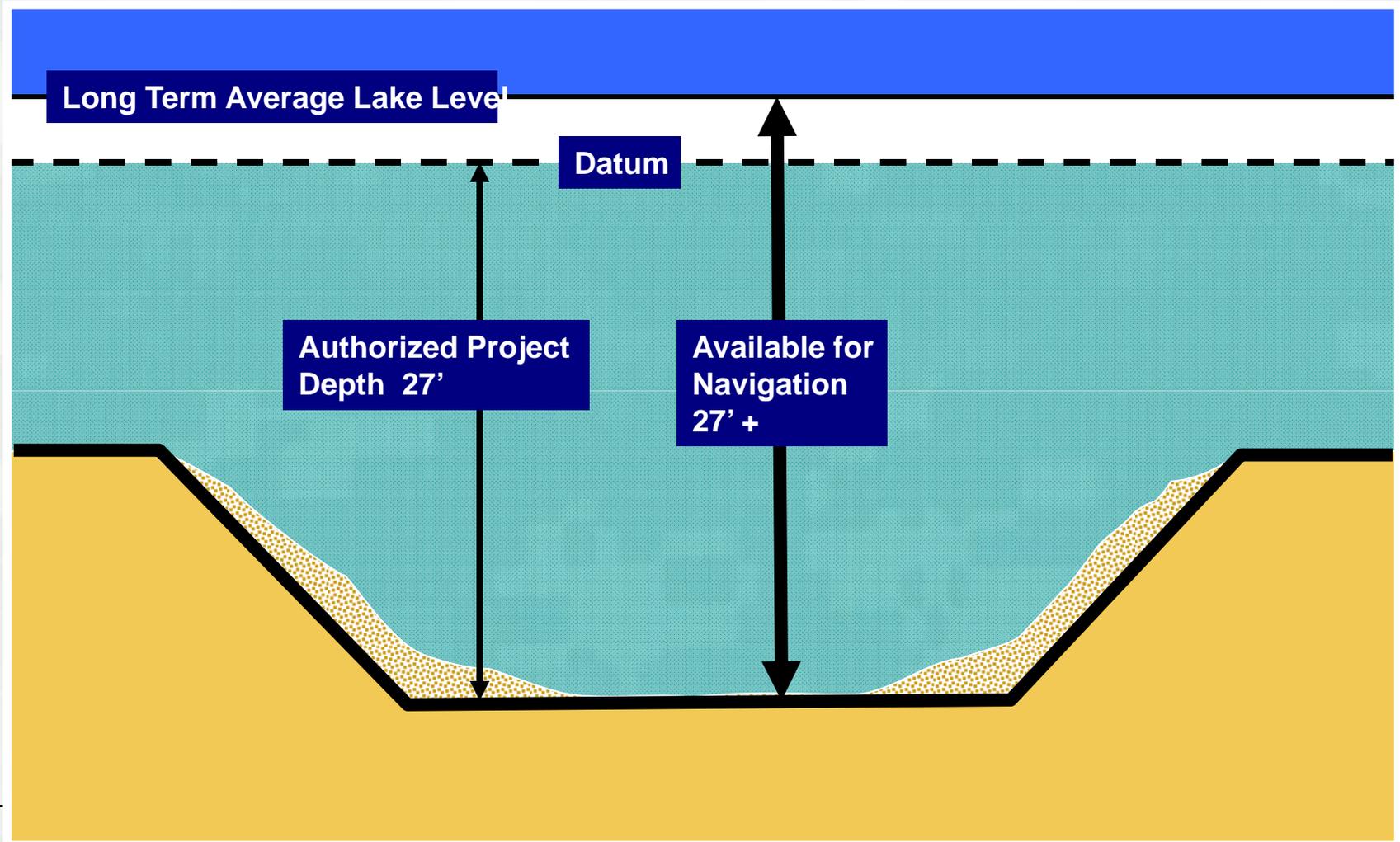
MAXIMUM **

MINIMUM **

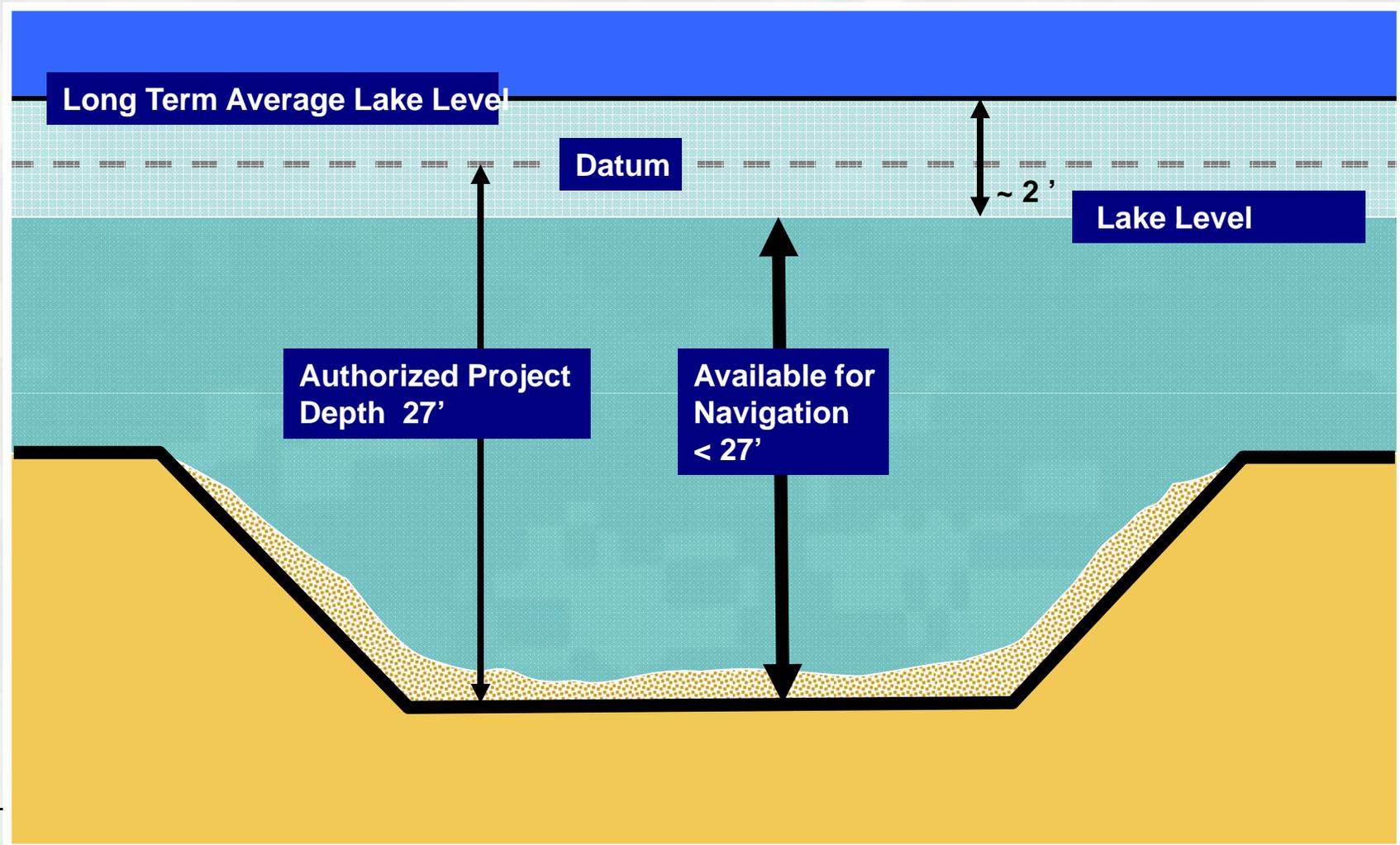


** Average, Maximum and Minimum for period 1918-2011

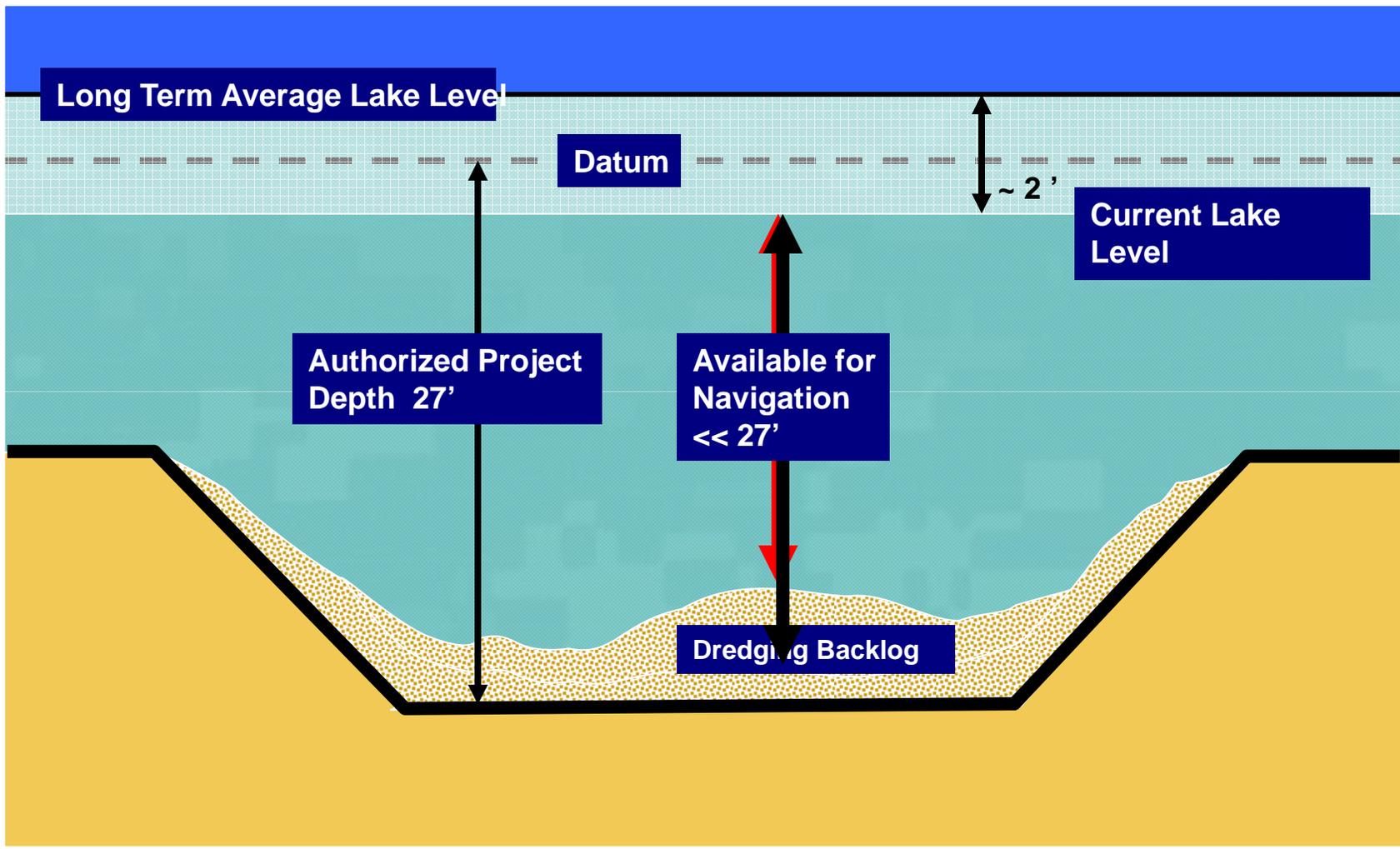
Historical Water Levels “Normal” Conditions



Conditions: 1999 to present Water Level Below Datum



Current Condition Below Datum w/Dredging Backlog



WRDA 2000 Section 343 Authority

- The Corps has the authority to dredge below project depths under certain circumstances
- WRDA 2000 Section 343:
 - (b) Dredging Levels.--In operating and maintaining Federal channels and harbors of, and the connecting channels between, the Great Lakes, the Secretary shall conduct such dredging as is necessary to ensure minimal operation depths consistent with the original authorized depths of the channels and harbors when water levels in the Great Lakes are, or are forecast to be, below the International Great Lakes Datum of 1985.
- This provides authority; O&M funding for the additional dredging would also be needed



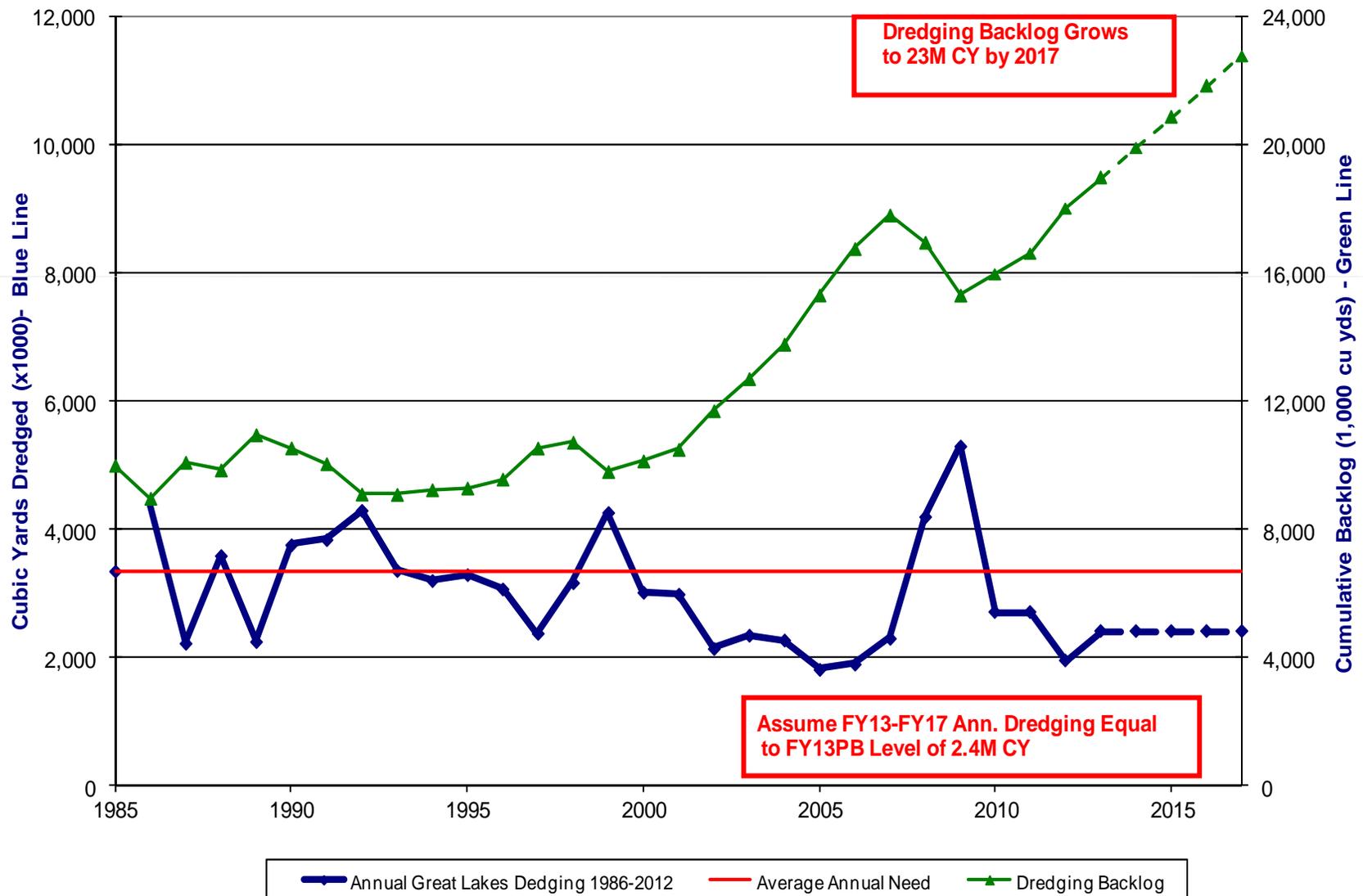
Great Lakes Projects Requiring Dredging due to Water Levels Below Low Water Datum (LWD)



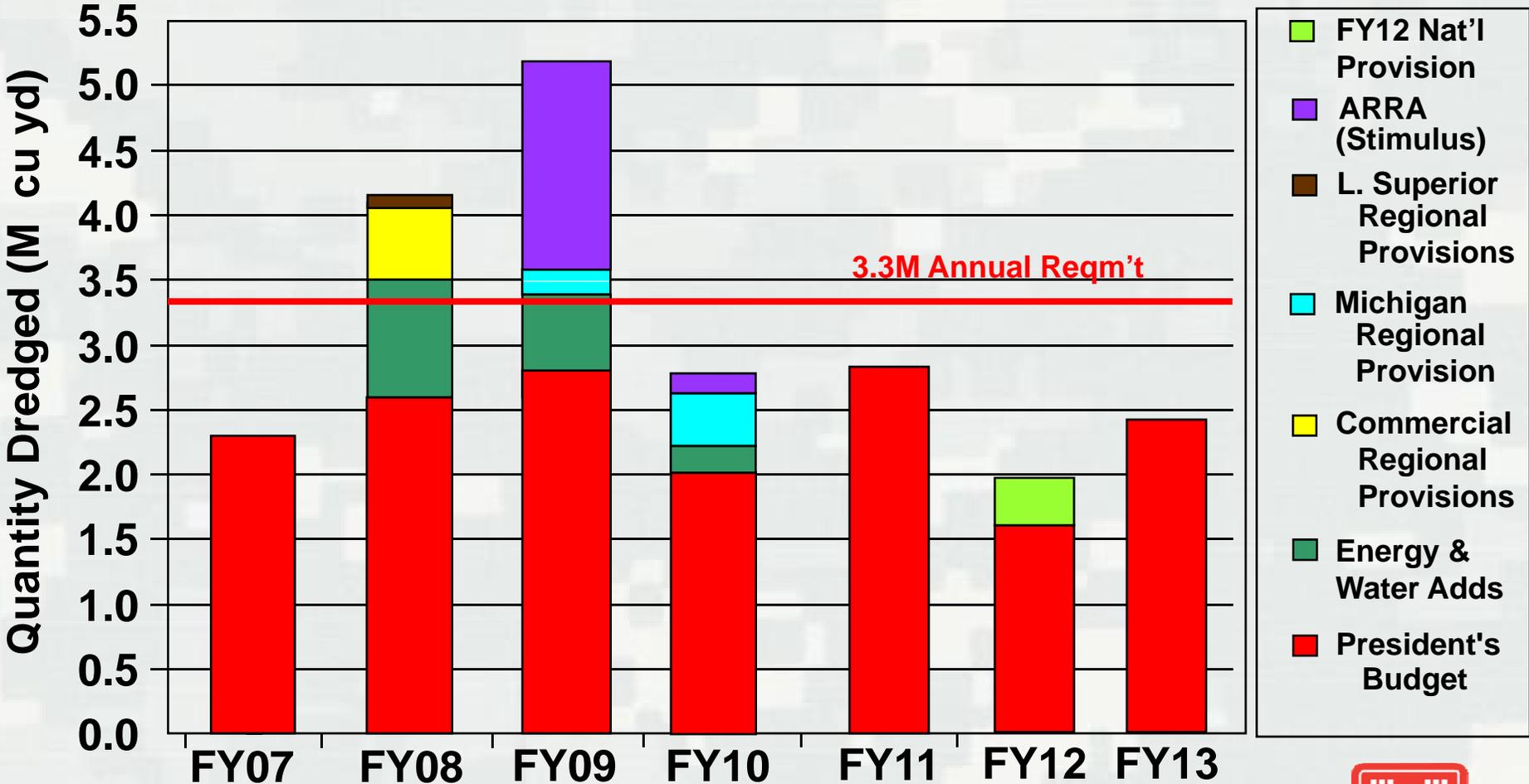
- Commercial
- Recreational
- In need of dredging/deepening due to water levels below LWD



Backlog Growth Under Constrained Dredging Funding 2013-2017



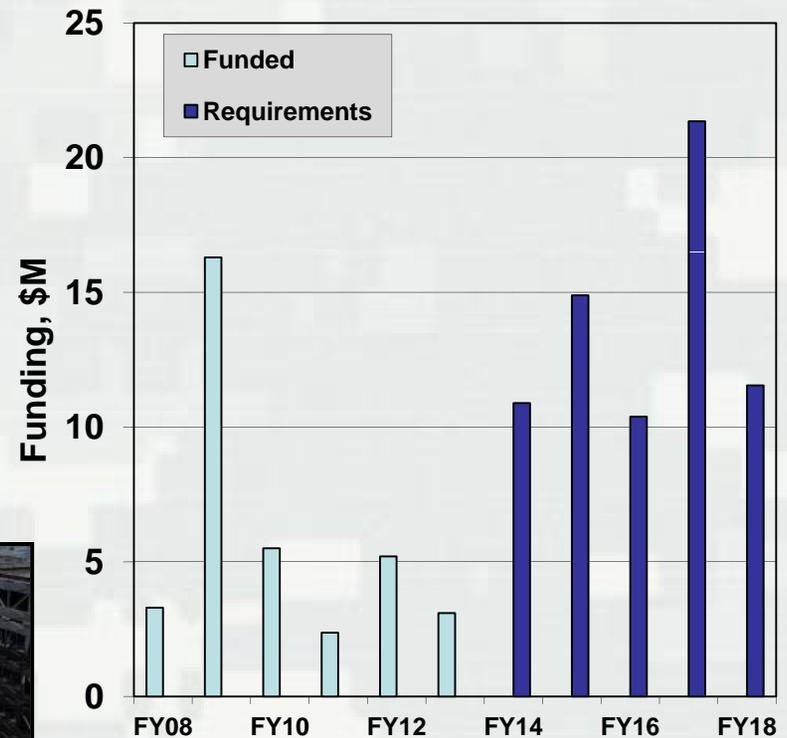
Dredging Funding Trends 2007 - 2013



Soo Locks Asset Renewal Long-Term Plan

Asset Renewal Plan will maximize reliability and reduce risk through 2035

- \$35.9M funded to date through FY13
 - New hydraulics, stop logs, utilities
 - Crib Dam construction
 - Compressed Air System
 - Mac Lock modernization design
- Remaining funding required \$69 million over 5 years
 - Poe and Davis Pump Well Valves
 - Poe Electrical Rehabilitation
 - MacArthur Interlocks and Controls Upgrade



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New Replacement Lock



- WRDA 2007: Construction at 100% federal expense
- Inconsistent with Administration policy due to BCR of 0.73
- Currently conducting a partial benefits reanalysis to determine if some benefit categories were not captured or if insufficient information was used. If there is a large enough increase in benefits, a BCR revisit may be in order.



Extension of Shipping Season

- In May 2012, LCA requested an extension to the opening and closing dates of up to 10 days each.
- In Nov 2012, Corps began a process to determine the potential costs associated with the changes in a fixed operation season as well as any detrimental impacts to operations.
- Letters were sent to our four partners, USCG, MDNR, MDEQ, USFWS for comments.
 - USCG - Expansion increases risk of vessel damage. Further concerns with service life extension project (SLEP) maintenance for USCG 140's from 2014-2020. Recommendation-streamline process for industry making one time extension requests.
 - MDEQ/MDNR – Need to discuss in more detail the long-term impacts and what criteria would be required to determine the new operating schedule. Recommend science based decision tool that would facilitate an annual determination of the opening and closing dates.
 - USFWS – would like to meet to discuss in greater detail; no immediate concerns.
 - USACE- Verifying costs of extended season navigation
- USACE will meet with the four partners to discuss the way forward.



Key Great Lakes Contacts

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www.lre.usace.army.mil/greatlakes/navigation



Questions?

