

An aerial photograph of the Duluth-Superior Harbor area. In the foreground, there are several large, light-colored industrial buildings, likely grain elevators, situated along the waterfront. A large red ship is docked at a pier. The harbor water is a deep blue. In the background, the city of Duluth is visible, with a dense residential and commercial area extending up a hillside. The sky is clear and blue.

Duluth-Superior Harbor Planning: A Model for Stakeholder Collaboration

Ron Chicka

MIC Director

Metropolitan Interstate Council

WisDOT

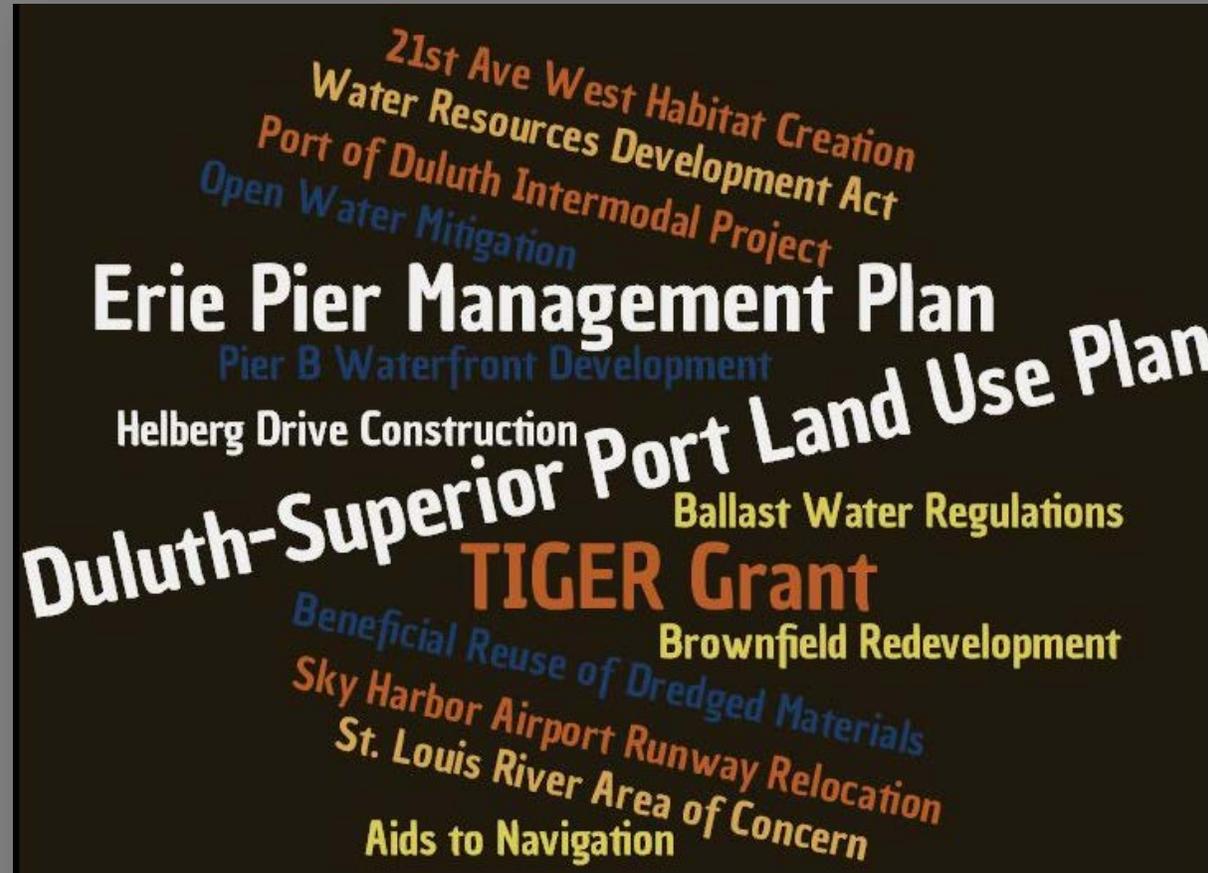
Railroads and Harbors Meeting

January 30, 2017

Harbor Technical Advisory Committee

*"Imagine...a
committee that
actually gets work
done"*

- Adolf Ojard,
Duluth Seaway Port Authority



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Overview

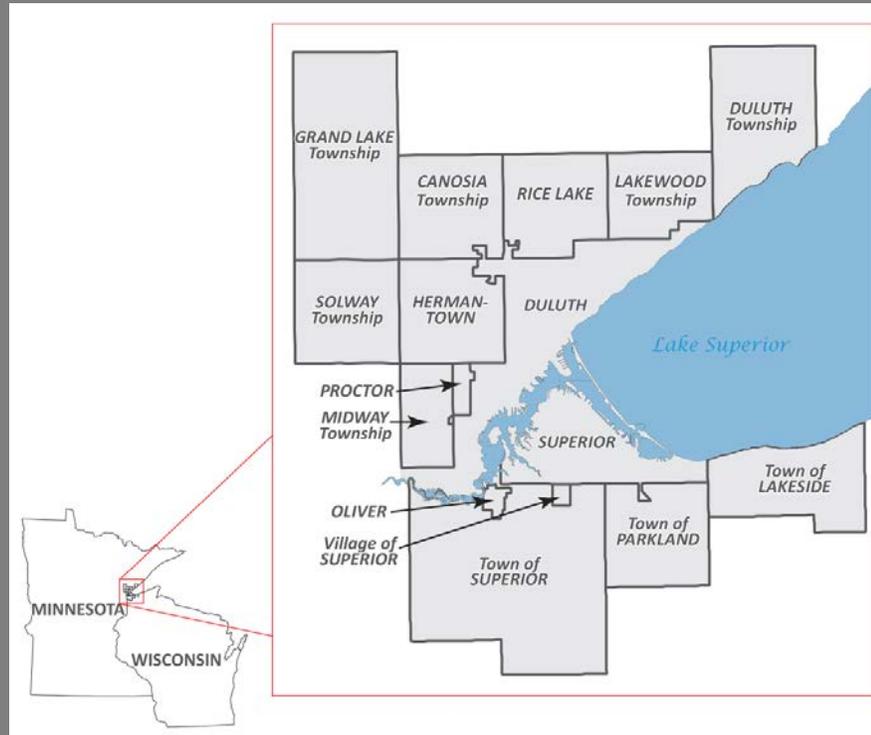
- HTAC stakeholders / issues
- How the HTAC functions
- Key accomplishments

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC)



- Federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Duluth-Superior area

MIC Planning Area



620 sq. miles / Population 150,000

- MPOs exist across the US for urban areas with population >50,000
- Goal of the MIC's cooperative planning process is to encourage local transportation policies and projects that will enhance livability and optimize the movement of people and goods

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Policy Board

Mayors, City Councilors, County Commissioners, Township Board Members, Citizens

Staff

Director, 3 Planners, GIS Specialist, Planning Communications Coordinator, Administrative Assistant, Intern

Advisory Committees

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC)

HTAC

Mission

- Provide sound planning and management recommendations to the MIC
- Promote the harbor's economic and environmental importance to the region
- **Provide a forum for harbor related issues**



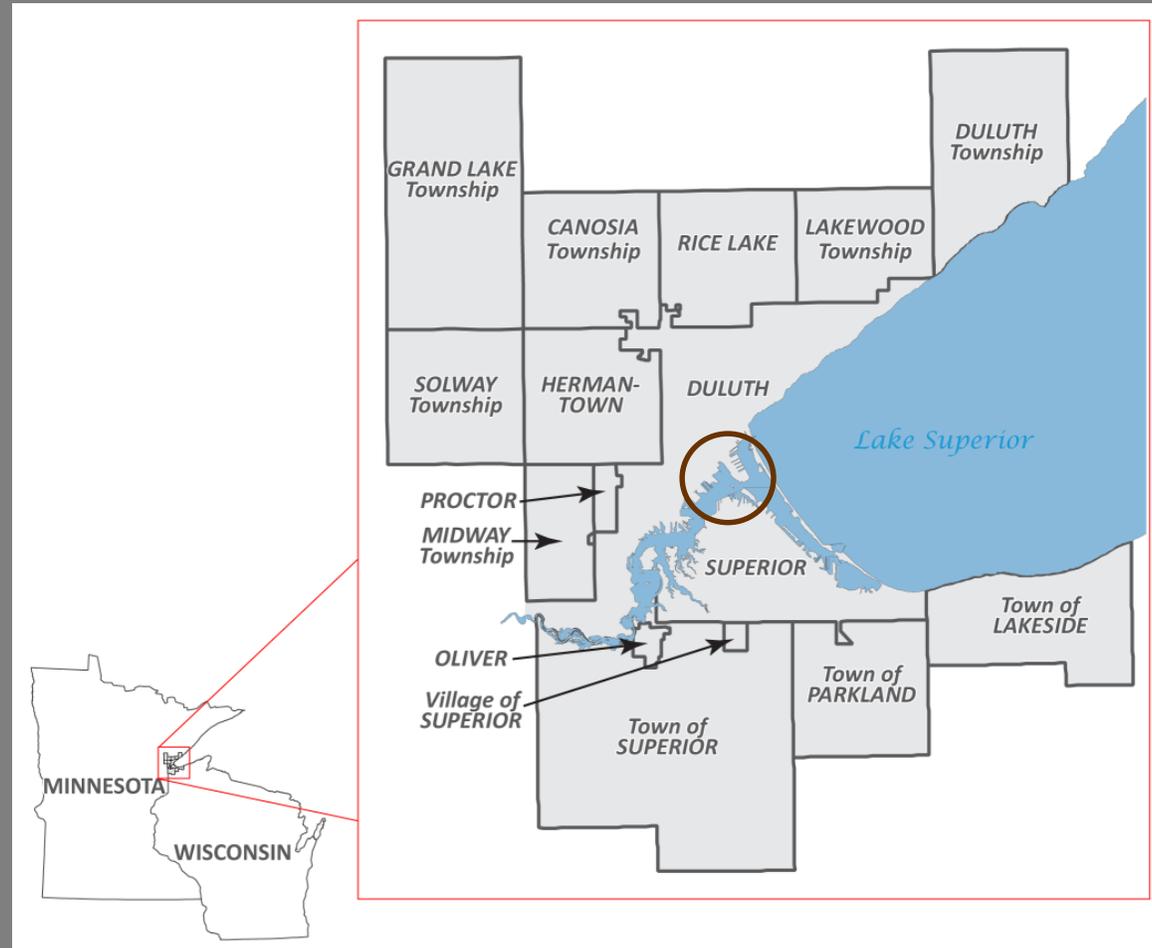
HTAC Sponsorship

- **MPO resources** provide a neutral setting for multiple stakeholders to address port- and harbor- related issues
- Annual budget: **\$50,000**



HTAC Members Stakeholders

Government



HTAC Members

Stakeholders

Government

Local

- Cities of Duluth & Superior
- St. Louis & Douglas Counties

State

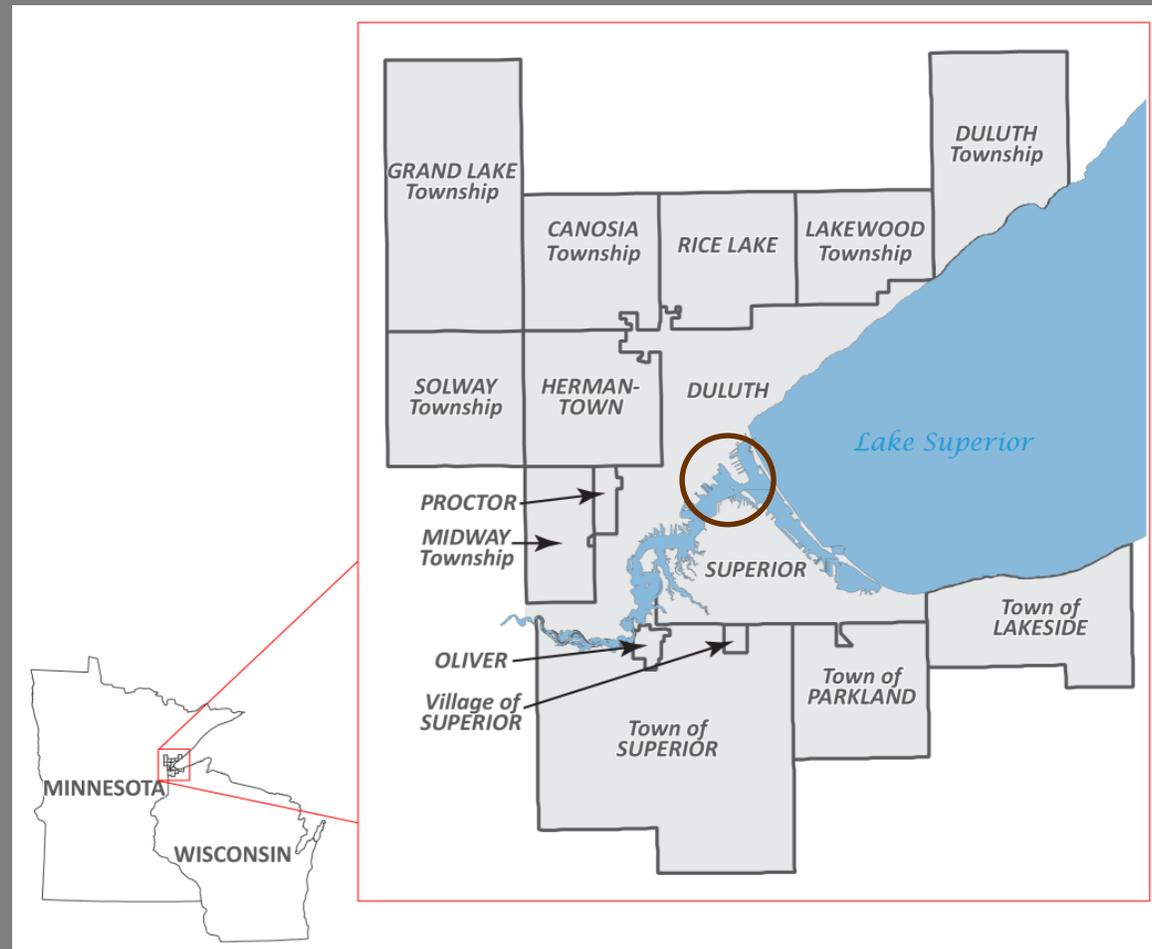
- MnDOT, WisDOT

Regional

- Duluth Seaway Port Authority
- WLSSD

Federal

- US Coast Guard
- US Army Corps of Engineers

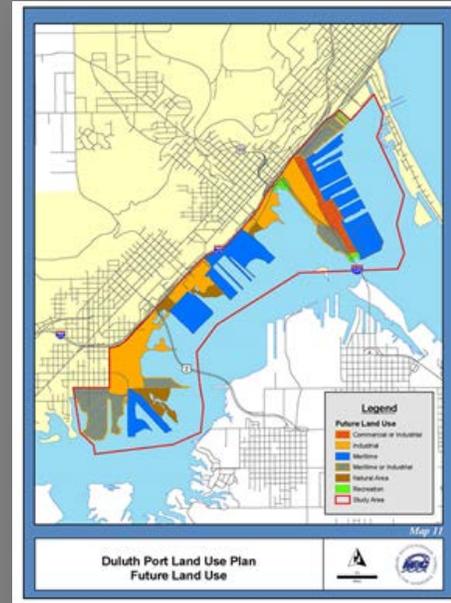


HTAC Members Stakeholders

Government

Issues

- Land use and zoning
- Economic development
- Port security
- Inter-agency coordination
- Stakeholder participation



HTAC Members

Stakeholders

Harbor/Estuary



HTAC Members Stakeholders

Harbor/Estuary

- Naturally sheltered bay (Park Point is world's longest freshwater sandbar)
- 12,000 acre St. Louis River estuary—a rich ecosystem with significant fish and wildlife habitat
- Recreational uses include fishing, birding, hiking, sailing, kayaking, canoeing



HTAC Members

Stakeholders

Harbor/Estuary Reps

- MnDNR, WisDNR
- MPCA

- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

- MN and WI Sea Grant

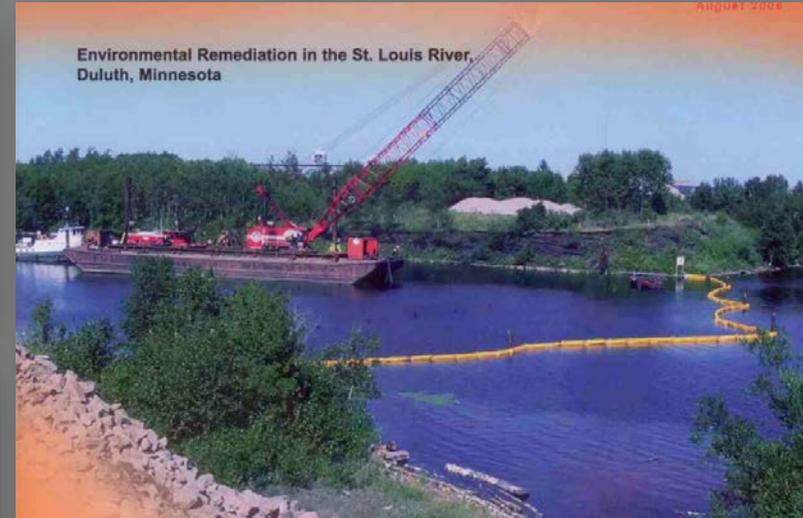
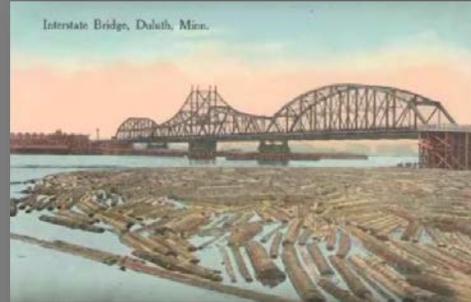
- St. Louis River Alliance
- Save Lake Superior Assoc.
- Izaak Walton League



HTAC Members Stakeholders

Harbor/Estuary Issues

- Environmental remediation
- Habitat restoration
- Legacy contamination
- Invasive species
- Public trust doctrine



HTAC Members Stakeholders

Port



HTAC Members Stakeholders

Port

- Largest Great Lakes port by tonnage – 45 million tons of cargo/year
- ≈1,000 vessel visits annually
- \$2 billion in multimodal freight moved
- Regional economic driver, supports over 11,000 jobs and \$546 million in annual wages (2011)



HTAC Members Stakeholders

Port Representatives

- Shipping/docks
- Cargo/warehousing
- Dredging
- Pilot & harbor services
- Marinas
- Iron ore
- Grain
- Coal



HTAC Members Stakeholders

Port Issues

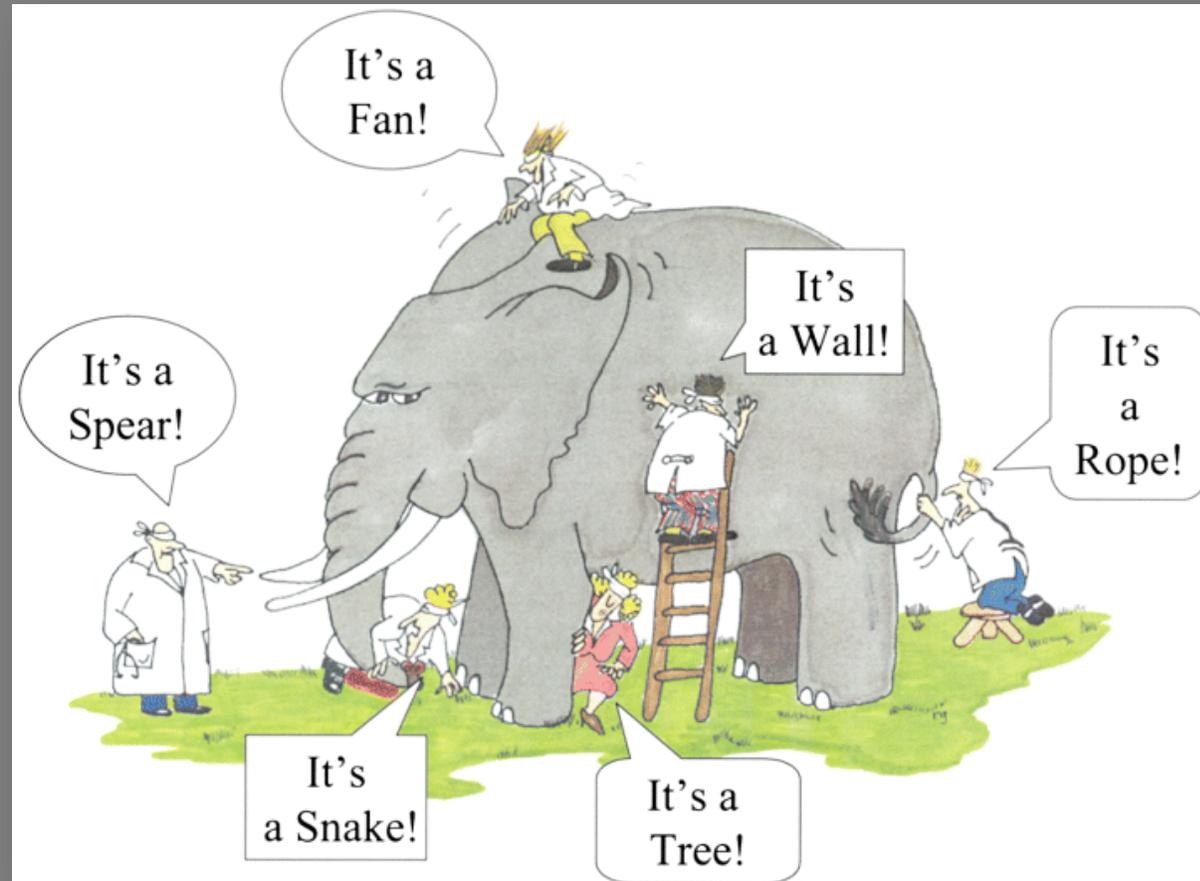
- Compatible land uses
- Economic development
- Dredging / Maintaining shipping channels
- Regulatory requirements



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Stakeholders

- Public Interest
- Private Business
- Multimodal Freight
- Habitat Preservation & Restoration
- Regulatory Oversight–Maritime
- Regulatory Oversight–Environmental
- Infrastructure Investments
- Scientific Research
- Economic Development
- Tourism / Recreation
- Environmental Remediation
- Legislative Initiatives
- Citizen Advocacy



Parable of the Blind Men and the Elephant

HTAC

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The “Elephant”

HTAC

How and Why it Works

Internal Leaders and Champions

- Foster respectful tone and constructive dialogue
- Seek solutions and encourage productive actions
- Reinforce the value of the group externally



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How and Why it Works

Internal Leaders and Champions

One-Stop Shop

- Port Security Updates
- Waterfront Development Proposals
- Environmental Remediation and Restoration Initiatives



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How and Why it Works

Internal Leaders and
Champions

One-Stop Shop

External Sponsor (MPO)



Mandate

The MPO has the **mission**, the **budget** and the **staffing** to support ongoing stakeholder involvement

Neutral Party

Non-political – yet can bring elected officials to the table to directly hear their concerns

Planning & Administration

- Manage membership and maintain mailing lists
- Organize meetings, develop and distribute agendas
- Take meeting summaries
- Bring issues and Resolutions forward to the Board
- Develop and send related correspondence
- Post information online

HTAC

How and Why it Works

Internal Leaders and
Champions

One-Stop Shop

External Sponsor (MPO)

Member-Driven Topics

Agenda

- 1) Sky Harbor Airport Runway Relocation
- 2) Invasive Species Update: Phragmites
- 3) Grant Support for All-Hazard Fire Department Vessel
- 4) MN Bonding Proposal to Address ADC Contaminated Sediments
- 5) Proposed Regulations: Ballast Water and Great Lakes Crude Oil Transport

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Administrative

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- **Organize meetings, develop and distribute agendas**
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HTAC

How and Why it Works

Internal Leaders and
Champions

One-Stop Shop

External Sponsor (MPO)

Member-Driven Topics

**Member-Driven Working
Groups**



HTAC Subcommittees

- Subcommittees are formed and retired as needed.
- Working groups include members AND non-members with technical expertise on the issue.
- Subcommittee reports are included in each quarterly HTAC agenda.

Current Subcommittees Include:

- Dredging
- Port Land Use Plan - Implementation
- Great Lakes Ports Advocacy
- Open Water Mitigation

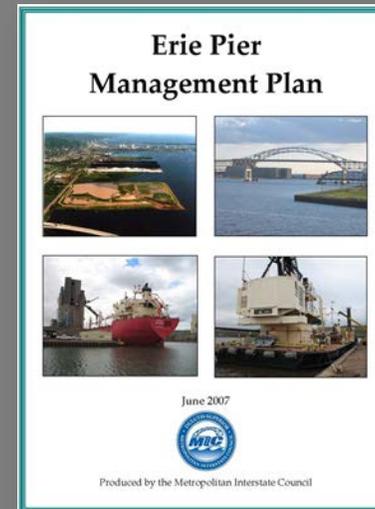
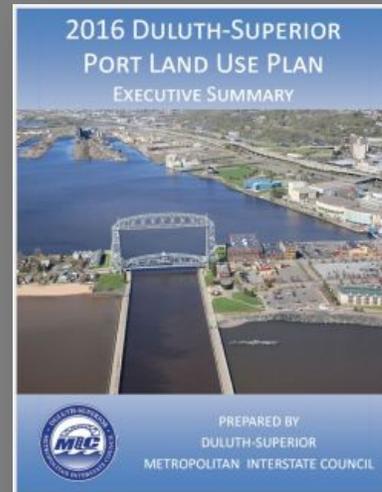
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Key Accomplishments

- **Duluth-Superior Port Land Use Plan**
- **Erie Pier Management Plan**
- **Beneficial Reuse of Dredge Materials in Habitat Restoration Projects**

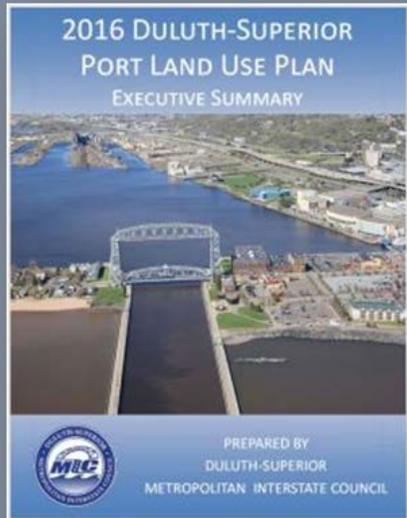
Each project:

- Was developed with inter-agency coordination
- Leverages multiple funding sources
- Encourages public-private partnerships
- Spurs new possibilities



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Duluth-Superior Port Land Use Plan



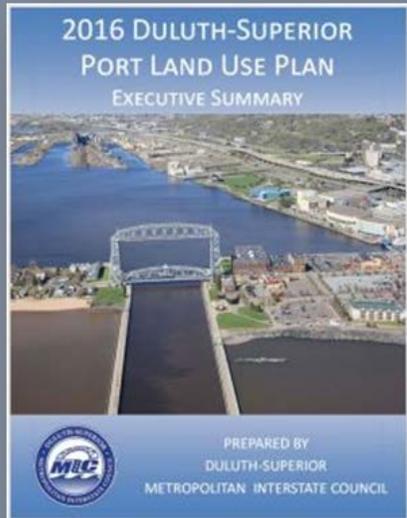
- A guide for public and private development of lands and properties along the 'working waterfront' of the Duluth-Superior Port.



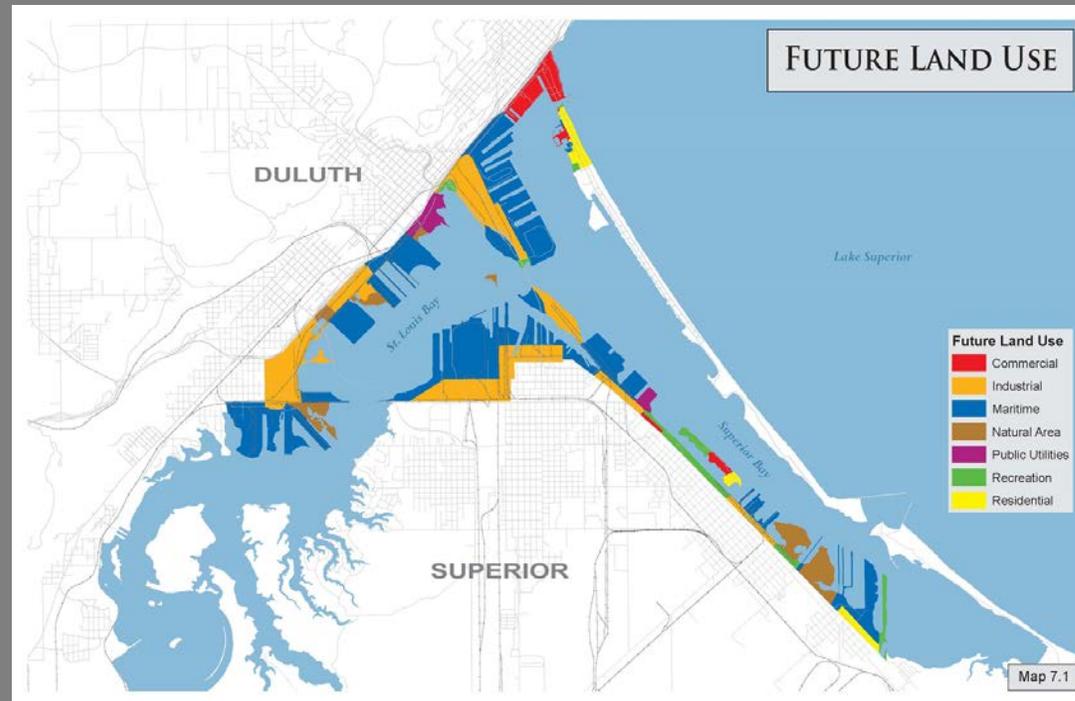
- Positions the community to leverage its transportation assets and geographic location to take advantage of projected increases in freight movements.

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Duluth-Superior Port Land Use Plan

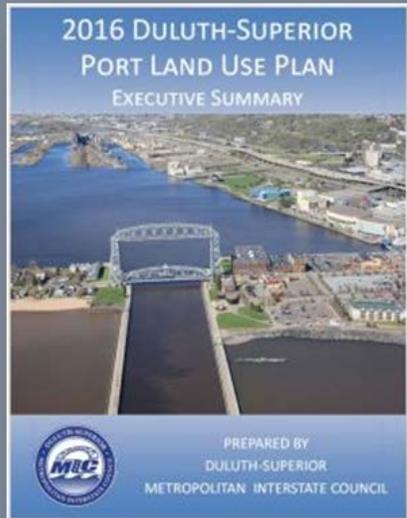


- A key objective is to protect and enhance the utility of the federally designated shipping channel and to give priority to compatible land uses that provide access to the channel and support future maritime development.



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Duluth-Superior Port Land Use Plan



- Lands that aren't waterfront properties but that have potential for multi-modal transportation uses (i.e., road and rail access) should be maintained as industrial lands.
- Goal is to incorporate recommendations into the Comprehensive Plans of both Duluth, MN and Superior, WI



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Erie Pier Management Plan

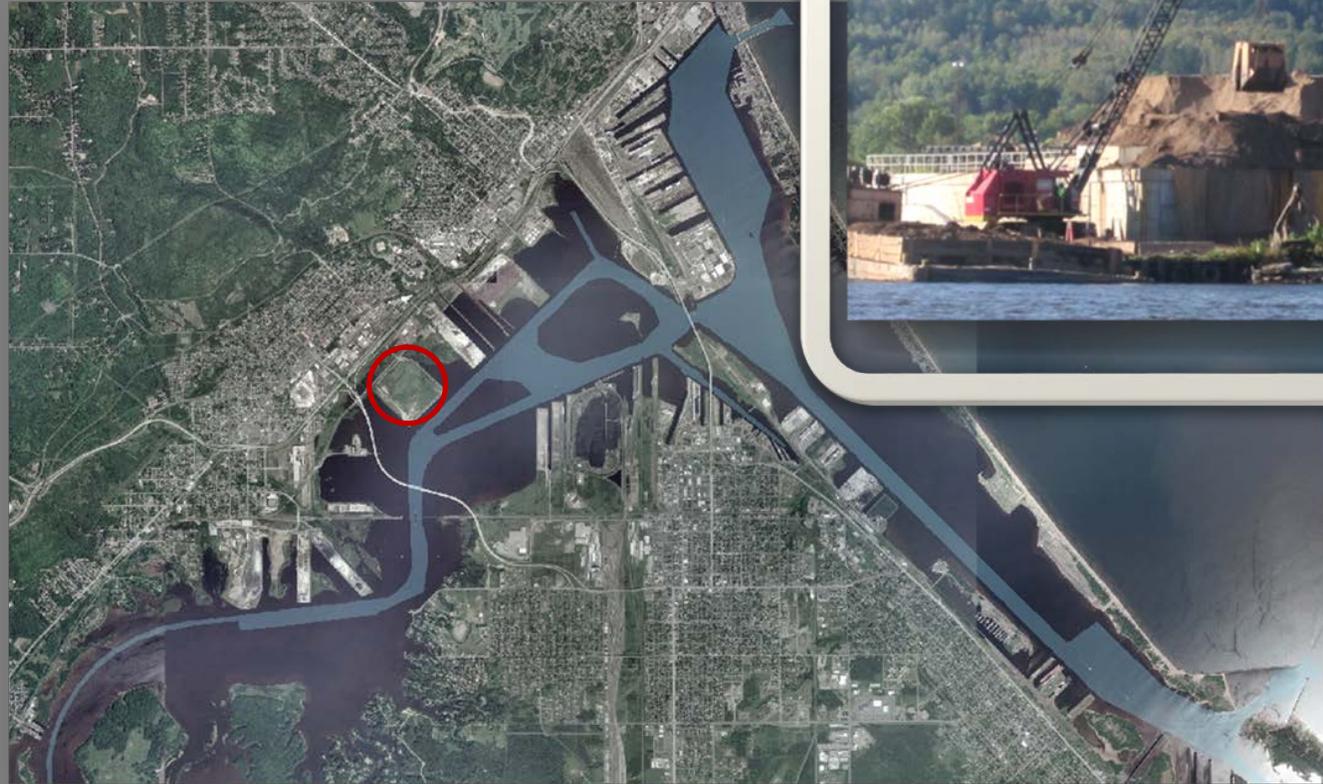
Erie Pier Management Plan



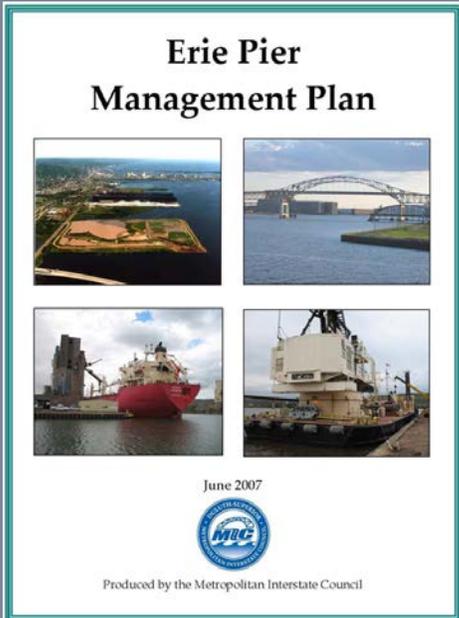
June 2007



Produced by the Metropolitan Interstate Council



HTAC Erie Pier Management Plan



New Paradigm for Dredged Material Management

BEFORE
2003 Confined Disposal Facility



AFTER
2010 Processing and Reuse Facility

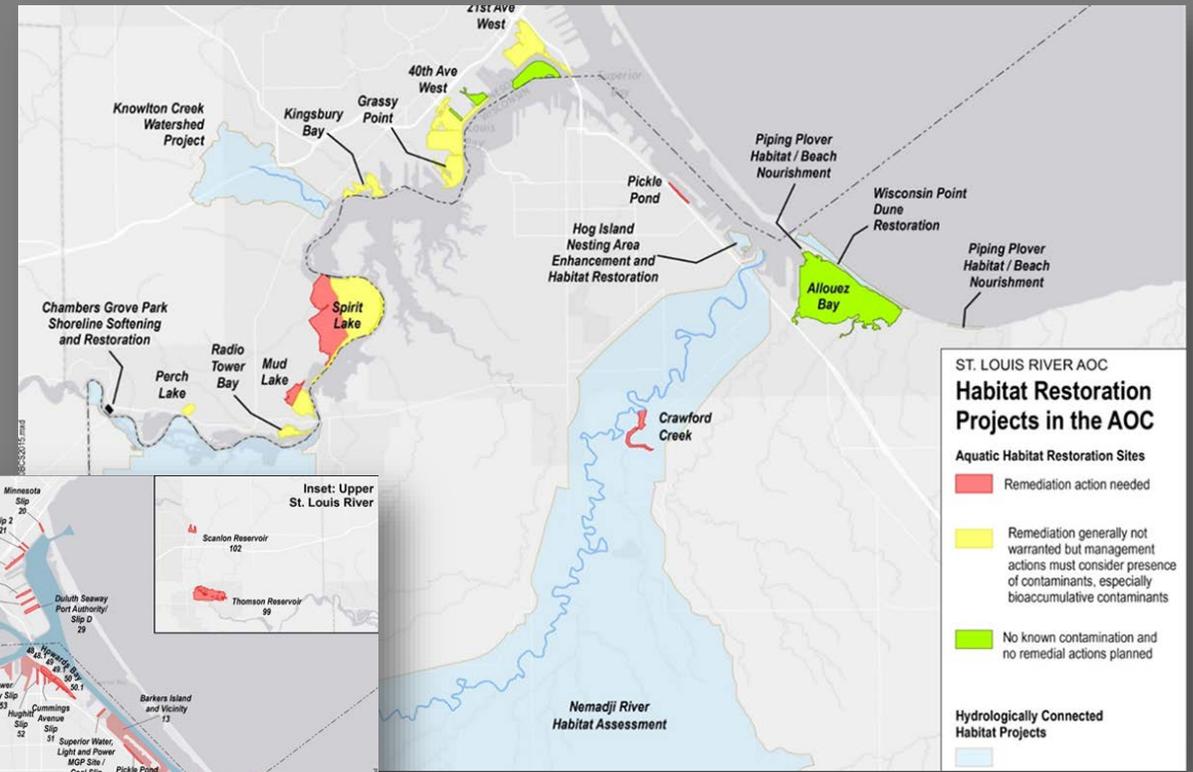
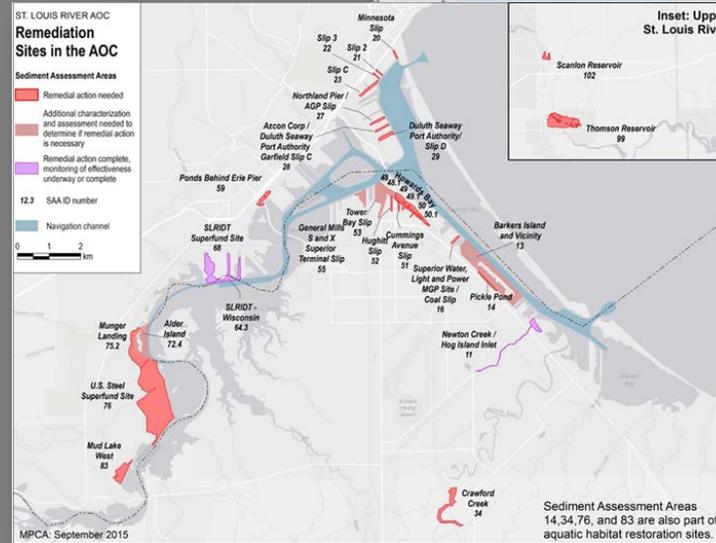


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Beneficial Reuse of Dredge Materials in Habitat Restoration

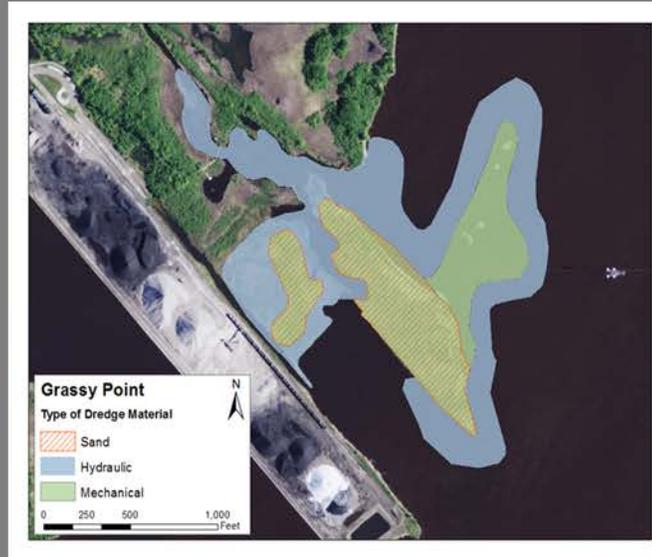
St. Louis River Area of Concern Implementation Framework: Roadmap to Delisting (Remedial Action Plan Update)

July 15, 2013



HTAC

Beneficial Reuse of Dredge Materials in Habitat Restoration



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Beneficial Reuse of Dredge Materials in Habitat Restoration



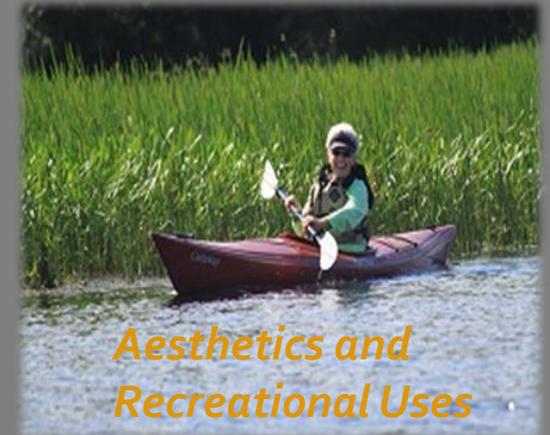
*Meeting population targets for
Walleye and Musky*



*Over 160
acres of
wild rice
seeded in
2015*



Sturgeon natural reproduction



*Aesthetics and
Recreational Uses*



Comments? Questions?

**Duluth-Superior
Harbor Technical
Advisory Committee:**

**A Model for
Successful
Stakeholder
Planning and
Coordination**