ERDC EL
Moderator: Courtney Chambers
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Demarys Acevedo-Mackey: All right, so good afternoon everybody, I'm very glad you were able to join us this afternoon. We are very excited about showing you the new tools we have developed for you to use that are related to thin-layer placement. So, Dr. Trudy Estes and I have been developing this tool over the past 18 months. So Ms. (Kadija Copley) from the (wildfire) group is my co-presenter today. She joined our team this year to enhance the user experience of the map portal tool. So this slide here presents the agenda so you can get an idea of the structure of our presentation so let's start talking about thin-layer placement.

So what is thin-layer placement? When you look in the literature people use different terms when they talk about thin-layer placement. Some examples are thin-Layer (deposition) and (implementation). So basically our definition for thin-layer placement is it broadly (compares) the (purple fluid) placement of sentiment or dredge material in a manner that produces a specific disposal layer thickness that is needed for either a functional or ecological benefit.

So, in thin-layer placement projects, disposal layer thickness typically ranges from a few centimeters to a fraction of a meter depending on the functional objectives of the project. So, this means that we cannot define thin-layer placement projects by thickness. So in this case we're not talking about several meters as we do in (disposal). So here I'm providing a few examples of how (unintelligible) this term is in terms of thickness of the thin layer.

So, from here let's move to the project need. So thin-layer placement has become more common this day because of the potential (unintelligible) to

conventional disposal or placement methods because basically using a Thin-Layer can minimize the impact due to thick layer (deposition) that we may have on the environment and the ecosystem.

So the issue that we have is that there's not enough information out there in the case studies that are available are not well documented. So there's very little or no technical guidance for different project phases. So we know that there are multiple knowledge gaps in this area, hence we understand that there is a need for having an accessible consolidated leading information resource for thin-layer placement that could be used for different project phases such as planning, designing, construction and monitoring projects that are related to thin-layer placement in a more informed fashion.

So, to solve this issue we did two different tools that will be demonstrated today. One of them is a thin layer placement Web site and the other one is GIS-based map portal. So the Web site includes, in essence, resources and case studies that are related to thin-layer placement and then on the other hand the map portal provides means for users to make case studies, resources and other tools that may be useful to practitioners out there. So the map portal provides geographically a (unintelligible) information so you'll basically see different case studies and the status of the projects themselves, different project phases. So let's talk a little bit about the objectives of this project. So, basically these tools will move the practice of thin-layer placement of dredge material from art to science by consolidating all available resources to a publically accessible platform that is supported by a map-based database for collection of case studies and supporting data.

So basically this Web site will facilitate planning and design and other efforts related to your project. It will broaden the exchange of information between the private and public sector. This is available to everybody out there. So,

ultimately this will provide the basis for development of formalized guidance for the practice of thin-layer placement. So the whole idea is to facilitate the use of thin-layer placement by (shared information), collaborating globally and also capturing both domestics and international case studies on construction practices, design tools, cost estimating tools and lessons learned. So in essence we can learn from each other.

So then some of the secondary objectives are shown here but the map portal we're expecting that it will provide a vehicle for collection of case studies worldwide. So this map portal, again, will be available to everybody as well. So one of the main goals we had this year was for this tool was to create a product that is engaging for the users and so we can get as much participation and collaboration as possible.

So we will like for you to help us continue developing (this site) and adding information there. So you can do this by signing in for a list server or submitting case studies in the map portal. So one of the features of the database is that it is compatible with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers data integration initiative, hence the information that is entered here can be used on other platforms that have already been developed by the Corp of Engineers.

So from here we're going to move onto the Web site. So, this slide here shows the direct address for the new thin-layer placement Web site so you can access this slide by putting this link in your browser and then you can also access the thin-layer placement Web site by clicking on the (two-step) located in the engineering (with nature) Web site.

So basically when you click there something like this is shown on the top of the page. So, from here I'll go onto the site demonstration and I wanted to mention that at the end of the slides, once we post them online you're going to

have some references, reference slides that basically have the, you know, main points that I will be discussing with the demonstration.

So, this is the Welcome page right here. So this page basically synthesizes the purpose of the site and the content that we are presenting. We will be featuring new resources and case studies and events in the (Web's new session) of the main page. There are multiple tabs on top of the site of the main pain that will help you navigate to our Web site. So as you can see we can have - we have pages for resources, case studies, gallery, points of contact and a list server. So today I will focus my discussion in the resources and case studies pages since these are the main parts of the Web site and content that meet the information that is relevant to case studies.

So if you go to the resources page this is how it displays and here we have included around 200 resources that are relevant to thin-layer placement. So at this point you can only search by relevance if you type a term in this box here. But in the future we will include filtering capabilities so you can sort and filter by other things such as offer year project type.

So this tool that has been incorporated here not only searches the database but it also searches the rest of the Web site so it can search some of the content that we have within the case studies and other portions of the page. So in addition to this, you can also do a quick search and take a look at all of the resources related to planning, regulatory design, construction monitoring and cost aspects if you click in these categories right here. So just as an example, let's click on the planning page. This shows all of the resources that are related to planning.

So, I'm going to go back quickly to the resources page because I want to search for one resource so you can have an idea about the type of information

we have included in this Web site. So I hit search and all of the papers that have those terms, or resources, will come up. So if you click on the resource up here, you can see the content that we have for each resource that has been posted here.

So one of the issues we had while we were searching he literature was that there is very limited information on this topic and this is why we're doing this. So, that's why we have included resources that are associated with other practices that may be applicable to thin-layer placement. So, for the resources we have included a brief summary that explains the relevance of the resource to thin-layer placement.

For example, this resource that I'm showing right there is related to (unintelligible) engineering but it includes information that may be relevant to baseline assessments, engineering procedures related to hydrology and geotechnical aspects, monitoring strategies and contract and consideration. So here in the summary we synthesize that.

So down here we have provided you with a little bit more guidance and we show the location within the document where relevant information, sorry, for thin-layer placement is available. We have also provided a link for access in the resource down here so it's available to you and you can have quick access.

So here's - we have key (warrants) and then tell you what this project - I'm sorry, what this resource includes information on for example, planning, monitoring, different construction. So if we go back to the resources page at the bottom of the page here we will include new events that are associated with thin-layer placement such as workshops and presentations or new tools that have been provided to us by the users. So, this is where we will publish the presentation slides and the transcript when it becomes available. So, from

here almost to the case studies tab, so it takes a minute to load up. I'm sorry about the delay and there's a little bit of a lag.

So in this page we have included 21 case studies that are related to thin-layer placement. Some of these projects are well documented and others are not very well documented. So, you know, for projects with limited documentation we have included a short project description and a project gallery. This is an example of a project that has - for which we have limited information.

So for projects that aren't well documented, and I'm going to use (unintelligible) as an example, we have included more information such as the project location, the year and the project type. So, if you go down here you can access the - have access to the fact sheet that is associated with the site. So, like I mentioned before, this is - a fact sheet has been developed for cases that are well documented.

When we have a link here that will be (ready) in the future to the map portal application which is under development right now. So this will basically take you to the project resources that are available through that app. So, I'm going to go quickly and access a fact sheet so you can see what it looks like. So in essence we have consolidated the most relevant project information in a few pages just to facilitate dissemination of the project information. So this is only a few pages and we have included information related to the project background, description, main (climates), references. So, basically at this point what we can do for the projects is either you send me the project information and I prepare the fact sheet for your project or I can send you the fact sheet template and we will include your project in the Web site to facilitate collaboration and sharing information amongst practitioners.

So if your project is already here, everything I have included here is based on what I found on the literature so if your project is here you can contact me so we can edit the information contained in the fact sheet if necessary. So we will add the main logos of the main agencies of the - agencies associated with this project along with your contact information if you provide me that. So, you will expect to have more extensive project information in the map portal.

So, going back quickly and just to summarize what we spoke about. Now, if you look at the case studies you can hit the back to top button and it will take you back to the top rather than having to scroll up. So both the resources and case study pages will continue to grow as new information and tools are collected from the literature and submitted by the users. So I mean, we are asking you to submit information you have that is relevant to thin-layer placement so we can have a more robust product.

So if you click on the list servers tab you can fill in this information and down here and provide a brief summary on what type of information you have. So, with this server you can make contributions and also receive the most up-to-date information. So I'm going to create a list of people who have signed up and provide a newsletter every quarter so you can see what is going on and what is new on the thin-layer placement area. So, from this point I'm going to let (Kadija) present the map based (portal) tool. This tool is under development right now so the product will be ready within the next few months so we're looking forward to having your contributions right there. So you can access that in the future by clicking on the map based (portal). So, (Kadija) you have presentation rights now.

Courtney Chambers: Just a reminder (Kadija), you'll need to select Star 6.

(Kadija Copley): Okay, let me know if you can hear me.

Courtney Chambers: We do, thanks.

(Kadija Copley):   Good afternoon everyone, thank you Demarys. What I'll be speaking and
presenting on primarily is the map portal which is the main repository for
submitted case studies. We are very contentious in terms of how we wanted to
design the features that were going to be included in the map portal and the
main concentration was the user-centric design. We wanted something that
was intuitive, easy to use, we wanted to compel a high level of engagement
and most of all make sure that we were effectively capturing information
related to the case studies as well an important consideration was making sure
that the platform would be open to a broad community of practitioners and, as
well, would invite visitors as well as those actively looking to contribute to
our knowledge-based repository.

The main way that we achieved that was really designing an interface that was
intuitive and easy to navigate. The case studies represent a lot of information
and we want to make sure that we're getting comprehensive information into
the system but in a way that is easy to users.

The second was having multiple log-in options that spoke to the diversity
within the community of TLP practitioners and so we now offer LinkedIn
credentials or an email log-in in terms of the ability to access the site and
create a profile. With the log-in of your LinkedIn information you're able to
pull information into your personal profile that will be populated to the site
and then if you would like to be available to other members of the CLT
community. And the main goal here is to establish a very strong TLP
professional community in terms of the resources that are not only available
on the site but those that we hope to be able to share and disseminate as
Demarys recently spoke to.

In terms of functionality we wanted to make sure that we access a data rich site. The primary way that we accomplished that was the ability to draw (polygons) versus setting a point for your TLP projects. A lot of the mapping tools that are available through (RTIS) offer a number of different libraries that you can access in terms of functionality. With this one, you can have unlimited data points for your (plot) area versus setting a point and all of that will be captured to your case study.

The second is story maps and with story maps you have more of a visual record as well as a data rich record of the various case studies that are entered into the system. So with this you are allowed to enter rich media in the form of photos, video links, documents, reports and all of this will be saved to your case study.

And lastly, we have the import and export of data and this is the really compelling and important feature in terms of if you have data that's already saved in a certain format, for example a (ESB) file or an Excel file you can make that available either to one of the team members or yourself with the creation of an account, would be able to import that data simply by uploading it to the site.

The rows in your data sheet would essentially create new case studies and all of the information would be populated and we thought that this was very important simply because, again, the amount of information that's included in these case studies, a lot of it is both scientific as well as qualitative and we want to make sure that we're providing a diversity of tools in terms of the ability to input the information.

With that, just a visual reference here. The TLP map portal is soon to be launched but we wanted to show a few screenshots just to give a peak into what it's going to look like. When you log into the TLP map portal you'll immediately be presented with two different screens and this is really the primary options that you have on the Web site in terms of activity. One is to view the various case studies that are already entered into the Web site using the story maps (RTIS) platform and then the second is to create your own case study. And so what you see here is the generic case study form. I know this is small but at the top here you just have a generic overview.

We just want to capture the very high level information before we jump you into kind of the breadth of the larger case study form and that's because we understand that - especially we (loaded) all of these case studies into the system, that's definitely going to be a process and we want to give the users time to do that but it's easy to get a case study just created by providing some really high level details mapping your location and then just saving that. And what that would do is create that record and then allow you to come back into that case study upon entering your profile dashboard.

In terms of the information that's being captured by the TLP map portal, it's fairly comprehensive as Demarys recently just looked through very quickly one of the new - one of the write-ups on a case study. There are several components that we wanted to be able to capture and we did well to organize them in a way that would be intuitive to those who are in this practice area.

So we've organized each section of the long form into accordions that can contract and expand so that you can see all of the various sections of the different form but as well be easily able to navigate them. The second reason why we did it like this is because if you want to export this information in the way of Excel document or in the way of a PDF, this format is actually very

good for printing and as well being able to create a document that can be shared online and these are the various sections that we've included in the online map portal.

Next, how do we create a case study? And, again, this is very simple, we wanted to make this process as intuitive as possible and really make sure there was no bottlenecks or administrative barriers for people who wanted to immediately get started and so as I said, it begins simply with create an account. You can either use your LinkedIn credentials or professional email. After you create the account, you'd be prompted to create a new case study which will take you to the form on the right. The two components that are essential for creating a new case study, again, are simply high level professional information as well as the location mapping of the case study which is one of two ways captured. You can either enter the data if you have it or you can simply draw it on the map using the polygon tools and that information will be saved, those measurements will be saved and then you'll submit the form and then that will take you then to the long form.

Once you enter the long form, you can actually assign contributors to your case study and this is because we recognize that many of these case studies reflect larger teams that may include not only scientists and researchers but also partnering institutions and different agencies. We want to make sure that as we build out this repository as a resource, all of these individuals are able to have a relationship with their data or their projects and so we can assign editors and then authors to each case study and what this allows us to do is have multiple contributors who are helping to make sure that all of these case studies are being completed and kept up to date and, as well, making sure that anyone who wants to access information for a case study that they may have a relationship with can do so through the map portal and it's not bottlenecked or relegated to just one user.

After you begin inputting your information, that case study record will be saved into our database and it will be made available to the TLP team who will begin to review it. And this review process is really for a number of reasons; one, we really want to safeguard in terms of the type of information that's being input making sure that there's a clear standard in benchmark related to a lot of the scientific measures and qualitative measures that are indicated throughout the case study form. And second, we want to catch duplicates. We want to catch anything that would produce any type of issue on the backend in terms of there being a lot of people in this practice area and the potential to have some overlap in terms of the different type of case studies that are entered.

Once your case study is approved, it will be published and then available on the actual system meaning that you'll be able to view it both on the map and then also within our directory of information. We also wanted to make sure that this platform was serving as a community, not just a tool that you can come and interact with. So in terms of creating more of a user engagement, we have the improved interactive map but as well was have user profiles, again, that are created largely through your LinkedIn profile connection. We have a case study directory as you see on the right which allows you to not only see the case studies on the map but be able to click into one of them in a separate directory that allows you to pull up greater information related to each one of them. And then next we have a case study profile page and, again, that's a repository for rich media, documents, photographs, video links, authors, editors, that's where you can really see just all of the meta information and different information that we have related to any case study that's entered into our system.

And what that leaves us with is an opportunity to create a media library across these different case studies. As Demarys spoke to, this is the practice area that doesn't have a lot of resources readily available; whether it's pictures, video or reports we want to make sure that we're doing our best to aggregate all of this information and make it available to the online community.

Next we have how to get answers related to any of the questions that you might have while navigating the system. We've taken a lot of time to provide guidance text that would allow you to quickly and intuitively understand each section. Of course there could be some ambiguity and so for that reason around certain elements whether it be a scientific element or qualitative element, we have form tool tips. These form tool tips essentially give you a little bit of greater insight into what that particular (venue) should be or what we're thinking about just to make sure that it's very clear.

And lastly we have the online FAQ section and this FAQ section is comprised of questions that the team has been asked over the duration of the project and of course as well will likely include feedback from different users of the site as we they navigate it and come across different questions that we want to make available to the broader audience of users as far as those answers.

Let me just turn to - (sights) towards the future. This is a tool that we definitely think will be a very strong resource in terms of the information but then also the community that's built around it in terms of establishing a knowledge base. We hope to add more dynamic and interactive features such as the Web site forum, as Demarys spoke to a regular TLP newsletter that will be sent out and the ability to have a growing list of subscribers for that newsletter either through the LISTSERV or through the creation of user accounts for the map portal.

In addition, as we continue to build a large repository of both case studies and resources, search tools, filtering tools, become increasingly important. We want to make sure that users are able to find information in various ways either by keywords, categories, etc., and so we'll be looking to build out some of those tools. Additionally, as I mentioned, each case study, as we're getting more of these populated to the site, represents a wealth of information. We want to make sure that as much of this is publically available as possible and we're encouraging those who are entering case studies to do that by highlighting and really spotlighting the work that they're doing but we'll seek to have enhanced case study changes. And as well, overall, just continued resources, photos, different case studies and reports will continue to be added on a regular basis.

We really want to begin to be a formal practice area resource for the TLP community in the form of either the map tools or the front-end Web site that includes various types of resources. So, in terms of how you can contribute to this site, I think that should be clear but, you know, at the top level this is really not just the data entry of putting your case study into the map portal but as well providing insight into the design, construction, models and methodologies related to the case study. This is as useful as the scientific data in terms of the practitioners who will be visiting our site and the type of insights that we want to gather from our community. We want to make sure that we are connecting with those who are most interested in receiving this information so please do sign up for the LISTSERV and as well if you do have case studies and you may not have the time to upload them as Demarys spoke to, you can reach out to the team. We have a couple of different tools that we can leverage to make this more a more efficient process as well and are available to actually enter the case studies as well as additional resources.

We hope that as soon as the map portal is ready we'll have a number of you sign up for it to provide some feedback and hopefully see this as a very informative and utility driven resource. So with that I just want to open up for questions and I want to thank everyone for the time in terms of listening to this presentation and, of course, turn it over to Demarys and the team.

Courtney Chambers: Great, thank you. At this time, I'll open the line up.

Demarys Acevedo-Mackey: Thank you for joining our Webinar today, we're glad to see the list of participants growing as we were speaking. So, we are hoping you find this information useful and we can continue to work in the future on expanding the Web site and adding more case studies and resources and tools that are related to thin-layer placement. So, now if you have any questions please go ahead and proceed as Courtney indicated at the beginning of the talk.

Courtney Chambers: All right, well I'll give you a few more minutes to think of any questions or if there's any features that you were, would like to hear more about on the Web site, please ask them. But I do want to remind you that if you'd like a professional development credit, I need to have your full name and affiliation in the chat box please in order to get that to you. So please do that as we're wrapping up the meeting.

And are there any other questions? All right, well thank you all so much for taking the time to join us and to learn about this new resource available for thin-layer placement community. Demarys do you have any closing comments before we wrap up?

Demarys Acevedo-Mackey: Was someone trying to ask a question?

Man 1:   I was trying to figure out how to put the information in to get the credit? But then I thought it said to put chat. So, that's probably what it is and I don't know how to do it.

Courtney Chambers: No, that's okay. Yes, is this - well, let me walk you through it. The chat box isn't already opened on the lower right-hand corner of your screen. You'll notice that above the participant list there are a couple of other menu options for the Web meeting and the next to participant is a chat, a little chat icon, and if you'll select that it will open up this messenger feature in the lower right-hand corner of your screen. And once you do that you should be able to type in a message and select a recipient.

Man 1:   Okay, but I guess I wasn't sure how - do I send it to Courtney Chambers?

Courtney Chambers: Yes.

Man 1:   Oh, okay. I see. I'm sorry to bother.

Demarys Acevedo-Mackey: Oh no, that's fine. So, are there any questions? Any clarification on any of the products or tools we've developed?

Trudy Estes: If I may, this is Trudy Estes. I'm just curious, do any of the participants have projects that they'd be willing to upload to the site and if they anticipate using it in that way? If you feel like providing us some feedback now while we're in session or via email, either one would be fine, but any suggestions or concerns that you have about that we would really like for the information to be shared as (fully) as possible and we know that there are some confidentiality issues with certain aspects of some projects and so that's an issue that we'll need to get our hands around as we go forward but definitely interested in knowing

which ones of you we might be interested in terms of having case studies that you'd be willing to upload to the site.

Courtney Chambers: Anybody want to volunteer their project as a case study?

Demarys Acevedo-Mackey: I wanted to add something under those lines. Since - we will enhance the search tool in the future. We would like to provide you with filtering capabilities so if there's anything that you could think of that may help you enhance the search, please let me know but we have thought about including project type information, (offers), type of water body we're dealing with and things under those lines. So, you know, sometimes when you go out there fishing for, looking for, information it's hard. So if there's anything we could incorporate to facilitate this tool and enhance them, let us know.

Courtney Chambers: Okay. Thank you Demarys and I assume - we're back to entering case studies. They could share as little or as much as they would like to, correct? I mean, even a little bit of information about a project site would be beneficial, is that correct?

Demarys Acevedo-Mackey: Yes, that's correct. Even if - it can be sharing data to just sharing a short project description, design tools that they have used. So, even something short and synthesized will be useful for us and of course we need to get your permission before we publish this so we will have discussion under those lines. So anything will be helpful to allow this product to grow and be helpful for everybody out there.

Courtney Chambers: You've done a great job of making it a very user friendly tool so I do want to encourage all of our participants to go just look around on the Web site a little bit, explore some of those features and if you have comments they're in

the process of continually developing and improving the process so please provide your feedback.

All right, well if there's no further questions, we'll wrap up for the day. Demarys and (Kadija), thank you all very much for sharing and teaching us about this new resource. And participants, please be watching for upcoming notices on additional DOTS Webinars. Those announcements are sent from Cynthia Banks, she's the DOTS Program Manager. And we'll look forward to learning with you all again soon. Have a wonderful afternoon.

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