



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Deborah Flack, President

*(Excerpted/abridged from previously-distributed
FSBPA BeachWatch Member documents)*

At least it is over for now—officially a few days late, May 8, with passage of the \$82.4 billion Conference Report on SB 2500 (the FY 2017/18 budget). This session will be remembered by the exceptionally, perhaps historically, low number of bills passed. Thankfully, it is not FSBPA's role to dissect the inner workings of the 2017 Legislative Session.

Looking for a positive note, in the closing minutes of session, Senator Jack Latvala (Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee) ended his budget presentation by recognizing the precedent and importance of one of his top priorities— \$50 million for statewide beach and inlet management projects to preserve our beaches and protect Florida's brand, and noted that he was "particularly appreciative".

Continued on next page

Inside this Edition

**60th Annual Conference
September 27-29, 2017**



**Westin Fort Lauderdale
Beach Resort**

....Page 11

**USACE
Jacksonville District
Federal Project Status
Updates - May 2017**

....Page 12

**FDEP Division of Water
Resource Management
Agency Updates**

....Page 17

**Blind Pass -
Inlet Management Plan**

....Page 18

“The communities up and down our Atlantic and Gulf coasts that depend so much on the beaches to keep tourists coming to Florida really appreciate that and I’m glad we were able to do it.”

Even more unexpected, just before adjourning sine die, President Negrón recognized Senator Latvala for his efforts as the Senate Appropriations Chair and closed by thanking him for securing increased beach funding.

It was an encouraging conclusion to a most challenging session. And unfortunately, there really is very little time for reflection or to recharge given September committee meetings and “Early Session” in January and February, ending March 9, 2018.

SB 1590 (Latvala) and HB 1213 (Peters): Coastal Management

“Beaches 2017 and Beyond” focused on increased statewide beach funding, but also had a substantive component as well.

It is important for assessing results to revisit session objectives one more time. Since Senator Latvala’s conference address this past September, the Association’s 2017 legislative priorities remained virtually unchanged, with the exception of extending efforts to assist local governments with Hurricane Matthew and Hermine storm damage recovery needs and funding. The advocacy message was clear and well-received— Florida’s beaches are losing ground, and the cost of doing nothing is too great! The overriding goal was to support increased annual state funding to preserve our beaches and protect Florida’s brand. This translated into replacing the 1998 documentary stamp tax allocation of \$30M, rescinded as part of Amendment 1, with a minimum of \$50M annually from predictable funding source(s).

With the overriding goal of increased beach funding, came the commitment to revisiting project ranking criteria to ensure funding is used for projects in greatest need and to better capture the economic and storm damage reduction benefits of each individual project. This session’s beach initiative also addressed the need to amend Chapter 161, adding transparency and accountability provisions for the use of appropriated state funds, refocusing attention and funding emphasis on effective sand management at our inlets, and directing DEP to develop a new three-year work plan for beach repair as part of their existing comprehensive planning responsibilities.

In response, SB 1590 and HB 1213, by Senator Latvala and Representative Kathleen Peters, both Pinellas beach champions, with Representative George Moraitis as Prime co-sponsor (Broward) were filed. It is difficult to separate the appropriations process from this substantive legislation, but

important to continue to recognize that SB 1590 included a stand-alone final section which called for a \$50 million or 7% allocation of the Amendment 1 trust funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund). The House bill did not. We always knew the final resolution would have to occur in the budget negotiations, at least for this session.

The short story is this legislation did not pass but was in play to the very end. There are a number of reasons as to why, but one thing is certain it had nothing to do with the content of the bill or its lack of widespread member support.

SB 1590 went through three Senate committees without a single negative comment or vote, and enjoyed tremendous expressed support from individual local governments and other coalition interests. It passed the Senate unanimously, relatively early with considerable favorable floor debate, and was sent to the House.

HB 1213 went through the substantive and appropriations committees with positive comments from lawmakers, and not a single question or negative vote. We knew at some point, because of the role and interest of the Senate Sponsor, that this legislation may be part of final negotiations with the House. SB 1590 died in House messages after it was not heard, despite being available for the final three Government Accountability Committee meetings. Be assured, not for a lack of trying by our sponsors or supporters.

It was never going to be easy. This bill is, and will continue to be, the right thing to do to reassure decision-makers responsible for allocating limited state funds that the best and most needed projects receive funding annually, and that the state is a responsive and dependable partner with local government. Senator Latvala has already stated he will again file this bill for 2018. I can't imagine the sponsors will be amenable to any major changes next year since its content was embraced by key members, strongly supported by FSBPA member governments and other coastal interests—the real question is what can change the outcome.

Appropriations

The Governor's budget recommendation gave Florida's beaches a most encouraging start for the 2017 Session. He recommended \$50 million for the traditional beach program, doubling recent years, and further provided a separate recommendation for storm damage beach recovery activities associated with the 2016 Hurricanes of \$61.2 million. The only concern was his traditional program funding recommendation was all non-recurring General Revenue with the exception of the \$10 million in recurring trust funds (LATF), secured in the General Appropriations Act of 2016/17 that became part of the base budget.



Next Page

By the Week of April 9, the House budget (HB 5001) that was passed had changed the base beach budget allocation of \$10M in LATF recurring to non-recurring and added \$20M in non-recurring General Revenue. The Senate Budget that passed the same week was the gold standard. \$50M for traditional statewide beach and inlet projects, all recurring LATF. What was especially troubling was with the \$2 billion dollar plus difference in SB 2500 and HB 5001, we knew the Senate had the difficult job of making significant funding cuts when budget conference allocations were finally made two weeks later.

When **all** Ag & Natural Resources Conference Subcommittee issues were bumped to the Appropriations Chairs (Senator Latvala and Representative Trujillo), the only pass for Natural Resources was on Wednesday May 3, just 2 days before the scheduled end of session, we finally had the answers.

The Conference Report on SB 2500 that made it through the process includes unprecedented state cost-sharing for the traditional beach program (without reappropriating existing dollars or including storm damage recovery funding). **It represents our longstanding whisper number of \$50M. It is a big deal—our mutual # 1 goal for a number of years.** At the end of a most difficult process, the House agreed to the level of beach funding that was in the Senate budget since mid-April as well as suggested/revised Senate proviso. Perhaps, even more reason to celebrate \$30M of the \$50 million is **recurring** LATF, and will (or should) be in the base budget going forward. Proviso recognized the priority order of DEP Beach Management Funding Assistance Program's program lists including significant funding for inlet projects, state match for all post-construction monitoring projects, and substantial beach project funding, leaving by far the smallest funding backlog in recent program history.

While providing adequate discretion for DEP to fund projects in the 2017/18 LGFR, there is a basic framework for the use of the \$50M.

- **It funds top 3 inlet projects** based on amount of inlet funding requested as a percentage of the statewide funding requests, reducing local funding requests proportionately making available almost \$16M for inlet management.
- **It funds all post construction monitoring requests for beach and inlet projects.** The maximum allowed state share for inlet project monitoring is reduced to be comparable to beach projects. Total available approximately \$1.75M
- **All remaining funds for beach restoration/nourishment projects = over \$32M**
Provides dollars for priority projects 1 through 12, and of course agency discretion to continue down the list as a result of cost adjustments/slippage or other considerations. (Finally got to 4 projects requesting reimbursement for long enough!)

Next Page

Beach Recovery from 2016 Hurricanes

Assisting our member governments, even the new ones, in responding to storm damages, especially from Matthew, and in communities with no or limited exposure to the state's beach management program, wasn't a part of FSBPA's 2017 advocacy agenda when presented early last fall, but that changed quickly. I hope our efforts were evident, although the results very mixed.

Initially when I, on behalf of FSBPA, previewed the storm damages from Hurricane Matthew at the first meeting of the Senate Appropriations Committee in December, with DEP highlighting their preliminary Dec. 13 Damage Assessment Report from 2016 Hurricanes, it appeared we were on the road, albeit long, to a comprehensive strategy for the recovery of impacted beaches. The DEP report carried a generous \$77M price tag, FSBPA member government input closely agreed with that number although there were major distinctions in how we got there. The Governor embraced it with an emergency allocation of \$15.8M, and all remaining funding was included in his 2017/18 budget recommendation, separate and apart from traditional program funding.

It was the intent of DEP to refine and update their preliminary report before session began, thus providing a more exact budget request, project descriptions and of course refined individual project cost estimates for legislative consideration. Clearly, December estimates were very preliminary and did not have the benefit of final surveys, identified sand sources and project details/costs. Pointing fingers or offering numerous reasons why this did not occur serves no purpose. The result was throughout the session and even now, we were unable to improve the foundation to identify specific project funding needs. Florida's federally-authorized projects performed so well, the Corps response has been limited and slow to be formalized. Most of our state/local beach nourishment projects impacted by Hermine and Matthew and perhaps eligible for FEMA Cat G still wait that determination. The most severe and costly damage was in counties or major segments of counties not part of the statewide program. This presented an entirely new set of challenges—the information available really wasn't or still isn't adequate to identify project specific funding needs.

The Senate, taking the initiative, included \$50 million in non-recurring GR in a separate specific appropriation item for storm recovery in its budget passed in Week 6. The House budget had nothing, nor was the storm damage to Florida's beaches part of either substantive or appropriations committee deliberations. Proviso that accompanied the Senate's \$50M was liberal, inclusive and allowed the department discretion in funding projects as long as referenced in the DEP's December report. It is important to note this storm-related budget item was separate and apart from the traditional beach program, specifically for storm damage recovery only, and required a 50% match.

Going into Conference with no funding in the House budget and \$50M in the Senate wasn't encouraging. Not unexpectedly, since the Senate had to make significant budget cuts based on Conference allocations, everyone should have expected this GR allocation to suffer, perhaps

splitting the difference at best. It was less, \$18M. It really didn't matter, the House never countered, and the second Senate offer was just \$4M. After being bumped to the full committee chairs, House and Senate members in the most severely impacted areas were successful getting \$13.3M in the Chairs single offer. Proviso was modified, providing obviously a very short list of priorities and giving the Department the ability to strategically use any remaining funds in the Governor's previous emergency funding for dune repair.

This definitely doesn't leave the department in an enviable position given the continuing funding needs of communities to repair storm-damaged beaches and dunes. However, keep in mind when and if the FEMA Cat G worksheets are finalized those existing beach nourishment projects referenced in the December report, will be eligible for reimbursement of the 12.5% state cost share, or in the case of federally-authorized projects any CG state match. Now impacted local communities need to be concerned regarding the accelerated LGFR application process for FY 18/19 given early session in 2018.

GOING FORWARD

We have time to appreciate that **beaches were a winner** (and too many natural resources programs were not). \$30 million in recurring trust funding (LATF) is a monumental accomplishment. FY 2017/18 funding emphasis on inlet management projects, specifically major construction projects, unprecedented. And while substantive bills (SB 1590 and HB 1213) did not pass, we have evidence in the final projects funded their intent was advanced, and the integrity of the selection process preserved. This success is clearly and obviously linked to the commitment of Senator Latvala but he was not alone, enjoying the widespread support of his Senate colleagues, and Representatives Peters, Moraitis, and other House members behind the scenes.

Progress was clearly made this session! But our work is not done. Legislation must be revisited. The statutory provisions of SB 1590, especially the section crafted to S. 375.041, F.S, providing recurring LATF of \$50 million annually will ensure the maintenance of Florida's beaches for decades to come.

In the weeks ahead FSBPA, through the Board of Directors and staff, will begin to develop a framework for what we hope and intend will be the anticipated "beyond" of this year's highly successful Beaches 2017 and Beyond Initiative.

FSBPA BeachWatch 2017 Session Bill Summary (5/17/17)

(Diana Ferguson, Legislative Services, Rutledge-Ecenia)

Land Acquisition Trust Fund

Everglades - [SB 10](#) by Senator Bradley was signed into law on May 9. This legislation authorizes options for additional water storage south of Lake Okeechobee to reduce the damaging discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries. The bill provides a total appropriation of \$33M for FY17/18 to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to implement the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Project. Additionally, beginning in FY18/19, and each fiscal year thereafter, the sum of \$62M is available for the EAA reservoir project and is authorized to be used for debt service payments on up to \$800M in Florida Forever bonds. The bill also appropriates \$30M for FY17/18 in nonrecurring General Revenue to the Water Resource Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund for the purpose of providing a loan to implement Phase I of the C-51 Reservoir Project. Additionally, \$1M is provided to the SFWMD to negotiate Phase II of the project.

St. Johns River – As filed, [SB 234](#) by Senator Bradley and [HB 847](#) by Representative Payne would have set aside \$35M in Land Acquisition Trust Funds (LATF) annually for restoration of the St. Johns River and its tributaries or the Keystone Heights Lake Region. SB 234 passed the Senate at \$20M. HB 847 did not receive a hearing and died in its first committee.

Septic Tanks - [HB 551](#) by Representative Stone and [SB 874](#) by Senator Young would have set aside \$20M in LATF dollars annually to retrofit septic tanks or connect homes to central sewer in the Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries. HB 551 did not receive a hearing and died in its first committee. SB 874 died in its second of three committees.

Water Infrastructure - [HB 663](#) by Representative Peters and [SB 1082](#) by Senator Brandes would have set aside \$100M in LATF dollars annually for water infrastructure spending for certain projects that are part of an approved recovery and prevention strategy, regional water supply plan, basin management action plan, or provide an environmental benefit based on criteria in the bills. Neither bill received a hearing.

Indian River Lagoon - [SB 982](#) by Senator Mayfield and [HB 1033](#) by Representative Altman would have set aside \$30M in LATF dollars annually for restoration of the Indian River Lagoon. SB 982 died in its second of three committees. HB 1033 did not receive a hearing.

Deepwater Horizon

[HB 7077](#) by the House Select Committee on Triumph Gulf Coast and Representative Trumbull, relating to the Gulf Coast Economic Corridor, has passed both chambers and goes next to the Governor for final action. The Senate companion was SB 364 by Senator Gainer. The bills began very far apart, but many of the provisions of SB 364 ended up in the final version of HB 7077 that passed.

This legislation establishes a mechanism for 75 percent of the settlement funds received by the state, pursuant to Florida's claims for economic damages caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, to be appropriated to Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. (Triumph). The bill also amends provisions related to the operation of Triumph and does the following:

- Requires 75 percent of the settlement funds currently held in General Revenue to be immediately transferred to the trust account established by Triumph, and 40 percent of those funds must be allocated by Triumph to awards within each of the disproportionately affected counties, so that projects and programs within each county are awarded at least 5 percent of the allocated funds;
- Requires 75 percent of the subsequent settlement payments to be transferred to the Triumph Gulf Coast TF and released to the trust account established by Triumph within 30 days of the transfer, and 32 percent of those funds must be allocated by Triumph to awards within each of the disproportionately affected counties, so that projects and programs within each county are awarded at least five percent of the allocated funds;
- Provides that the board of county commissioners of each disproportionately affected county must solicit other elected local government boards for projects and programs within their county;
- Requires each board of county commissioners to provide Triumph with a list of proposed projects and programs within their county, including those submitted by other local governing boards, and those recommended by the board of county commissioners;
- Adds two members to the board of directors of Triumph, with the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives each appointing an individual from one of the lesser populated counties within the disproportionately affected counties;
- Provides that Triumph may invest surplus funds in the Local Government Surplus Funds TF, and requires the interest earned net of fees to be transferred monthly into the Triumph Gulf Coast TF;
- Limits the allowable cost of administrative fees to 0.75 percent of the funds available for use by Triumph;
- Limits the annual salary of any employee or contracted staff of Triumph to \$130,000, and provides that associated benefits may not exceed 35 percent of the salary;

- Requires Triumph board members appointed on or after July 1, 2017, to refrain from having any direct interest in awards made by Triumph for a duration of 6 years after serving on the board of directors;
- Requires Triumph to publish on a website its intent to approve an award and a project summary at least 14 calendar days prior to approving an award;
- Clarifies awards may be made for ad valorem tax rate reduction and public infrastructure projects for construction, expansion, or maintenance;
- Amends the types of projects that are eligible for award funding and the factors for prioritizing the projects; and
- Provides that an award may supplement but not supplant existing funding sources. For FY17/18, the bill transfers approximately \$300 million in GR to the Triumph Gulf Coast TF and releases those funds to Triumph.

[HB 7079](#) by the House Select Committee on Triumph Gulf Coast and Representative Trumbull has passed both chambers and goes next to the Governor for final action. This legislation creates the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund within the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). The trust fund is established as a depository for the settlement funds received by the state for the economic damages caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and transferred pursuant to s. 288.8013, F.S.

Economic Development

[HB 7005](#) by the House Careers and Competition Subcommittee and Representative Renner passed the House but died in Senate messages. This bill would have eliminated Enterprise Florida. [HB 9](#) by Representative Renner also passed the House and died in Senate messages. This bill would have preserved Visit Florida as an entity but moved it under the DEO. It also would have, among other provisions, tightened Visit Florida's current matching requirements. Enterprise Florida was funded at \$16M, while Visit Florida received \$25M. Budget conforming language contains new restrictions on travel and salaries for Visit Florida employees.

Marine Turtle Protection

[HB 1031](#) by Representative Altman has passed both chambers and goes next to the Governor for final action. This bill adds the existing crime of possession of any marine turtle species or hatchling, or parts thereof, or nests to the statutory list of third degree felonies for the purpose of increasing sentencing points for a conviction of this offense.

Coral Reefs

[HB 1143](#) by Representative Jacobs and [SB 1624](#) by Senator Farmer would have established the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Protection Area. HB 1143 passed the House but died in Senate messages. SB 1624 died in its second of three committees.

Sea Level Rise and Flooding

[HB 181](#) by Representative Jacobs has passed both chambers and goes next to the Governor for final action. This bill creates an interagency workgroup to share information, coordinate efforts, and collaborate on initiatives relating to natural hazards.

[HB 813](#) by Representative Lee has passed both chambers and goes next to the Governor for final action. This legislation extends to October 1, 2025, existing law that allows insurers offering private market flood insurance under s. 627.715, F.S., to make rate filings that are not required to be reviewed by the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) before implementation of the rate (“file and use” review) or shortly after implementation of the rate (“use and file” review). The bill generally applies s. 627.715, F.S., to excess flood insurance.

Excess coverage is exempted from the requirement of s. 627.715(1), F.S., to offer flood insurance on a standard, preferred, customized, flexible, or supplemental basis. Until July 1, 2019, or upon the OIR commissioner determining there is an adequate admitted market, the bill allows flood policies to be placed with a surplus lines insurer without the agent first receiving one declination from an admitted insurer. If there are fewer than three admitted insurers after July 1, 2019, the number of declinations shall equal the number of authorized insurers providing flood coverage.

The bill increases the interval for the Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology to revise the criteria used in calculating flood loss projection models to 4 years. Lastly, the bill requires an insured currently covered under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to sign an acknowledgement before being placed with a private insurer informing them of the risk of being charged a higher rate should they choose to return to the NFIP at a later date.

[SB 112](#) by Senator Brandes and [HB 613](#) by Representative Ahern would have authorized the Division of Emergency Management to administer a matching grant program for local governments to implement flood hazard risk reduction policies and projects. Neither bill received a hearing.

[HB 639](#) by Representative Shaw and [SB 728](#) by Senator Rouson would have revised limitations on emergency assessments for coastal and other property insurance accounts. Neither bill received a hearing.

Announcing - 2017 Annual Conference September 27-29 ♦ Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort

- ♦ Call For Abstracts
(Limited Availability)
- ♦ Award Nominations
- ♦ Registration is open



In recognition of 60 successful years, FSBPA is planning an incredible diamond anniversary conference program that reflects on advancements in beach management over the last decade and looks forward to what is in store for the next ten-year horizon. This includes revisiting in the 2018 Legislative Session the statutory framework and provision of funding of \$50 million annually for years to come.

You can expect panel discussions that focus on significant changes and advancements in areas of engineering / design, construction, and monitoring of beach and inlet management projects, and discussion on the lessons learned following the 2016 hurricane season. Abstracts for projects complementing one of these areas may be considered for inclusion in the program, but space is limited. If you would like to present at the 60th Annual Conference, please call Jackie at 850.906.9227 to discuss your proposal or submit an abstract for consideration at mail@fsbpa.com by June 26th.

The Diamond Anniversary celebration will continue into the awards banquet with special award categories offered to recognize exceptional achievements. Nominations must be received by July 31st.

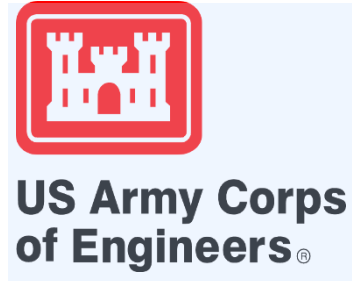
We hope you will plan to attend this memorable event. Registration and hotel reservations are open. Early registration ends on August 31st.



[Back to Main Page](#)

USACE Jacksonville District

Federal Project Status Updates - May 2017



By Gabriel Todaro
Intern, EN-WC
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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FEASIBILITY STUDIES:

- **Flagler County**

No new updates at this time. The Chief of Engineer's Report was signed by Lieutenant General Thomas Bostick on December 23, 2014. With this signing, the USACE is certifying that the beach and dune project is environmentally sound and economically beneficial to the nation. The report was transmitted to Congress by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) and was authorized in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016. The non-federal sponsor and the USACE plan to execute a contributed funds design agreement in early March 2017.

- **St. Johns County**

The St. Johns County feasibility study includes beach and dune nourishment within the Vilano Beach reach and a small portion of the South Ponte Vedra Beach reach. The design includes construction of a 60 foot equilibrated berm extension from the +8.0 foot 1988 North Atlantic Vertical Datum (NAVD88) contour between the reference monuments R103.5 and R116.5 along 2.6 miles of shoreline. The project template will include a dune feature varying in height between +14.0 to +20.0 feet NAVD88, reflecting the average 2015 dune position. One thousand foot tapers will extend from the northern and southern ends of the berm extension, connecting the extension to the existing shoreline. The addition of tapers results in sand placement from R102.5 to R117.5 along 3 miles of shoreline. The St. Augustine Inlet system will be the sand source for the Recommended Plan. The next milestone is the Civil Works Review Board (CWRB) which is scheduled for March 2017. The purpose of the CWRB is to determine that the final decision and NEPA documents, and the proposed Report of the Chief of Engineers are ready to release for State and Agency (S&A) Review. The CWRB was held on 31 March 2017 with unanimous approval. The Final Chiefs Report is scheduled to be signed in May 2017.

- **St. Lucie County**

Re-scoping efforts were completed in FY2014 to modify the scope of the study to WRRDA 2014 USACE SMART Planning 3x3x3 standards. Vertical team concurrence that the St. Lucie feasibility study is in compliance with SMART planning was received on October 21, 2014. The team presented the focused array of alternatives at the Alternatives Milestone Meeting (AMM) in June 2015 and the Tentatively Selected Plan at the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) Milestone Meeting in April 2016. The draft report was then released to the agencies and the public for comment. The next milestone is the Agency Decision Milestone (ADM) in which the USACE vertical team endorses the recommended plan. The ADM occurred in November 2016. The CWRB scheduled for July 2017.

Next Page

OTHER MAJOR PLANNING REPORTS:

- **Brevard County North & South Reach**

A Project Information Report (PIR) is underway for the North and South Reaches of Brevard County, FL.

- **Broward County Shore Protection Project - Segment III**

Broward County submitted a letter of interest in March 2016 to request extension of the Federal project an additional 15 years. Broward County is under procurement to obtain an A/E to initiate the LRR for Segment III. Additionally a PIR is underway for the Segments II and III.

- **Ft. Pierce Shore Protection Project**

Limited activities related to the 11th renourishment will begin in October 2016. The 11th renourishment in FY 2016 is dependent on work plan funding. A Project Initiation Report (PIR) in response to Hurricane Matthew is underway.

- **Jupiter/Carlin Shore Protection Project**

Palm Beach County has submitted a draft Section 934 report and NEPA document for the Jupiter/Carlin Segment to extend Federal participation for the next renourishment and out to 50 years of Federal participation. Following review of the data and report, revisions were recommended to the Beach-fx model. Having received Federal funds for Palm Beach County projects, the model revisions and completion of the 934 report are being conducted at the Jacksonville District. The Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) Milestone Meeting was held in January 2017; the report was released to the public in March 2017. Additionally a PIR is being prepared in response to Hurricane Matthew.

- **Lee County, Gasparilla**

A Section 934 report has been initiated to determine the Federal interest in extension of Federal participation in cost-sharing from the current 10 years to a 50-year period of Federal participation, or an additional 40 years. The Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) Milestone Meeting was held on October 17, 2016. The draft report was released for agency and public comment and an Agency Decision Milestone (ADM) meeting was held in February 2017.

- **Manatee County Shore Protection Project**

The Project Delivery Team (PDT) is working on various activities in preparation for the 2022 renourishment and permitting of the expanded borrow area.

- **Pinellas County**

There was a Congressional Visit on July 26, 2016 to investigate Shell Key preserve as a potential CAP Section 206 or as a borrow source for the shore protection project. Local interest includes homeowners, Tampa Bay Watch, and the County, no formal CAP request has been received to date.

Sand Key: PIR for Sand Key was reviewed and approved for full renourishment. Approximately 360,000 cubic yards of sand eroded from the project's design berm. The project is set to begin in September of 2017 and expected to last about 4 months.

Long Key: The 7th Post construction monitoring data assessment is underway. The PIR does not recommend P.L. 84-99 assistance for Long Key.

Treasure Island: The 10th Post-construction monitoring data assessment is underway. The PDT is investigating the ability to utilize current Construction General (CG) funds on hand to initiate Section 1037 WRRDA 14 analysis for the extension of 15 years of federal participation. Treasure Island federal participation is set to expire in 2025. The PIR does not recommend P.L. 84-99 assistance for Treasure Island.

REGIONAL SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT (RSM):

The Jacksonville District has been officially named the South Atlantic Division's Center of Expertise (CX) for RSM. With this designation, SAJ will lead a virtual team of subject matter experts from SAD to further operationalize RSM throughout the District. Work has begun to quantify the value of RSM provided by jointly managing navigation, coastal storm risk management (CSRМ), and ecosystem restoration projects.

- **South Atlantic Comprehensive Coastal Study (SACCS) / RSM Strategy**

Initial coordination to include scope and Project Management Plan (PMP) development are tentatively moving forward as determination of path forward regarding Authority and funding are finalized.

- **SAD RSM Optimization Pilot**

The pilot has been presented to USACE Major Subordinate Command (MSC) Operations Chiefs as well as USACEHQ Navigation and other HQ leaders. Feedback has been extremely positive and a meeting will be scheduled with MG Jackson and Mr. Stockton. Roll out to begin with other MSC's.

ENGINEERING AND DESIGN:

- **Nassau County**

The Nassau County Shore Protection Project (NCSPP) is located from FDEP "R" monuments R-13 to R-33; there has been an existing RSM strategy of placing beach quality material dredged from the Kings Bay Entrance Channel (KBEC) maintenance dredging project and placing within the NCSPP template. An acquisition strategy has been developed which will allow for a more effective placement of material within the NCSPP which minimizing overall costs to the NCSPP and KBEC Project. The Kings Bay Entrance Channel Dredging Project was completed in March 2017. A total of 165,000 cubic yards of material from that project was placed on Fernandina Beach. A Project Initiation Report has been submitted to South Atlantic Division due to Hurricane Matthew.

- **St. Johns County, St. Augustine Beach**

The engineering team is currently evaluating monitoring data to revise the erosion rates and quantities for the next renourishment event. Investigation into potential offshore sand sources is ongoing. The next renourishment is scheduled for 2017. A PIR is underway due to Hurricane Matthew.

- **Sarasota County, Lido Key**

No new updates to the project. Two Big Key Milestones Achieved: The PDT release the draft EA/draft FONSI for public comment/review on 30 Mar 2015. The FDEP JCP application was also submitted to the State on 15 Mar 2015. The application represent the latest design of the groins. This is a significant cost savings to the project (reduction of approximately 11,000 Tons of Granite Armor Stone) and it removes a major hurdle for the project to overcome. A NEPA public meeting was held on 15 Apr 2015 at City Hall City of Sarasota. The public comment period for NEPA closed on 15 May and the PDT is addressing over 300 comments provided by the public through the NEPA process. FDEP provided RAI comment on 15 Apr 2015. PDT has finalized responses to RAI and submitted response to FDEP on 04 September 2015. FDEP requested 2nd RAI on 07 October 2015. PDT is working to respond to 2nd RAI. A newly proposed mitigation site has been identified and the PDT is coordinating with FDEP and FWSS for acceptance. Sarasota County's consultant (ATKINS) has released comments to their Peer review. PDT is working on response to the ATKINS report. PED phase will be complete with acquisition of permit and project will be ready for New Start Construction funding by 1st quarter FY17. SAJ PDT responded to FDEP for 2nd RAI on 1 August 2016. On 31 August the team requested a 30 day waiver to provide FDEP with additional time to review the submitted package and to obtain additional documentation needed from Manatee County. Manatee County approved the use of Perico Seagrass Mitigation site on 28 September. Team received Notice of Completeness from FDEP on 30 September. The Notice of Intent was issued by FDEP 22 December 2016. There are 3 formal petitions of the permit at this time. FDEP is reviewing the petitions to determine if they have merit.

CONSTRUCTION:

- **Brevard County Mid-Reach**

The General Reevaluation Report (GRR) and Supplemental EIS (SEIS) was approved in September 2014 with the ROD signed by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. The Design Agreement was executed in October 2014 and the Pre-Construction Engineering and Design (PED) kickoff meeting was held in December 2014. The contract was awarded to Shoreline Foundation, Inc on 29 Sept 2016. Construction is scheduled to start in April 2017.

Next Page

- **Broward County Shore Protection Project - Segment II 2nd Renourishment**

Construction was completed on 28 December 2016. Approximately 665,000 cubic yards of sand was placed on the project. PIRs for Segments II and III are underway in response to Hurricane Matthew.



Photo of Broward County during previous Beach Renourishment (2014)

- **Dade County Renourishment**

Final approval of the Limited Re-evaluation Report (LRR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) from South Atlantic Division was completed on 24 March 2016. A PIR is underway in response to Hurricane Matthew.

FY 16 Renourishment: The Truck Haul project is completed. A total of 233,330 cubic yards was placed on the beach.

FY 17 Renourishment (Sunny Isles): No new updates to the project.

- **Duval County**

The prime contractor has initiated remobilization efforts at 4th Street in Atlantic Beach. Dredging activities commenced on 8 April 2017 and are scheduled to be completed in 6-8 weeks.

- **Martin County**

A PIR is ongoing for Hurricane Matthew for Martin County.

- **Sarasota County, Venice**

No New updates to either project.

LRR: SAD provided comments on the Draft LRR on 24 Nov 2014. LRR has been endorsed to SAD on 27 Jan 2016.

FY14 Award: Contract was awarded to GLDD on 25 Sep 2014 under MATOC Group 4. Estimated quantity to be placed on the beach is approximately 750,000 CY. The Pre-Con meeting was held on 13 Nov 2014. Dredging commenced on 16 Jan 2015. Project was physically completed on 12 Apr 2015. On 02 April 2015, approximately 2000 CY of material was leaked from the floating dredge pipeline. GLDD has performed the corrective action plan and FDEP has provided clearance on the remediation action. Area Office has finalized the Final Estimated Quantities modification (a decreased of approx. \$403K).

FDEP Division of Water Resource Management

Agency Updates



Noah Valenstein named new Secretary for DEP, effective June 5th

Congratulations are in order for Mr. Noah Valenstein, who was selected as the new Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection after an interview with Governor Scott and members of the Cabinet on May 23rd. Mr. Valenstein is currently the Executive Director of the Suwannee River Water Management District, and has also worked in both the Governor's Office and DEP's Legislative Affairs office. FSBPA welcomes and looks forward to working with Mr. Valenstein.

Congratulations Roxane on 40 years of service!



Roxane Dow recently celebrated her 40th anniversary with the State of Florida! Roxane began her public service career in 1977 after graduating from the University of South Florida with a BS in Botany and MS in Microbiology. Roxane first worked as a training coordinator in the South District Office and then moved onto the Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) where she was promoted to Bureau Chief of Surface Water Management. While at DER she was a federal policy coordinator and worked in the Florida Washington Office on water policy issues, including the Magnuson Fisheries Act, Everglades restoration and funding, and the Clean Water Act. In 1999, Roxane moved to Office of Beaches and Coastal Systems, where she was instrumental in developing both the Strategic Beach Management Plan and a dedicated beach funding source. Roxane is continuing her career in the Division of Water Resource Management and assists with a variety of issues including Deepwater Horizon, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, and federal consistency coordination. Roxane is a true steward of the environment and we thank her for her dedication to the State of Florida.

Blind Pass - Inlet Management Plan

By William “Guy” Weeks, Planning Manager, FDEP



On March 2nd, 2017, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection adopted a new inlet management plan for Blind Pass of Pinellas County. This new plan establishes a new sediment budget and management strategies which are consistent with current statutes and observed erosion conditions.

The Florida Legislature amended Chapter 161.142, Florida Statutes, in 2008 to improve the management activities for inlets and the adjacent eroding beaches by requiring a balanced sediment budget for each managed inlet.

“It is in the public interest to replicate the natural drift of sand which is interrupted or altered by inlets to be replaced and for each level of government to undertake all reasonable efforts to maximize inlet sand bypassing to ensure that beach-quality sand is placed on adjacent eroding beaches. Such activities cannot make up for the historical sand deficits caused by inlets but shall be designed to balance the sediment budget of the inlet and adjacent beaches and extend the life of proximate beach-restoration projects so that periodic nourishment is needed less frequently.”

Consistent with statute, FDEP and the University of South Florida (USF) developed a scope of work in late 2013 to conduct an inlet management study for both Blind Pass and John’s Pass in Pinellas County. The study was designed to incorporate both passes into one study due to their proximity (3.5 miles) and the interconnected tidal prisms with the Gulf of Mexico and Boca Ciega Bay (**Figure 1**). The purpose of the study was to examine the hydrodynamic, sediment transport, and morphodynamical processes at Blind Pass and John’s Pass and their adjacent beaches, based on field measurements and numerical modeling.

To gain perspective on the inlet’s dynamics, and the need to update the management strategies, it is important to understand the history of Blind Pass, its geomorphological evolution, prior inlet management and beach erosion control activities conducted along the adjacent beaches. Over the past century and a half, Blind Pass has experienced three epochs of different inlet management approaches. From the 19th century to 1937, inlet management was minimal, and the pass migrated in a southward direction. Between 1937 and 1968, rigid structures (seawalls, bulkheads, groins, and jetties) were constructed. From 1969 to present, excavation of sediment from the inlet’s entrance channel and placement of the dredged material along the adjacent beaches has been the principle management activity, with extension of the jetties. (**Figure 2**).

Next Page

At present, Blind Pass is stabilized by a terminal groin on the north side and a jetty on the south side of the inlet channel. Recent management activities at Blind Pass involve: 1) modification of the south jetty, 2) regular channel dredging on 6-10 year intervals, and 3) use of the inlet complex as a borrow source for beach nourishment for the adjacent Upham Beach on 4-6 year intervals. Five geotextile T-groins were installed at Upham Beach in 2006 and subsequently repaired in 2010. Based on field data, the T-groins did not have significant influences on Blind Pass inlet processes.



Figure 1. Blind Pass in Pinellas County, FL. (2014 aerial photo by FDOT)

Next Page

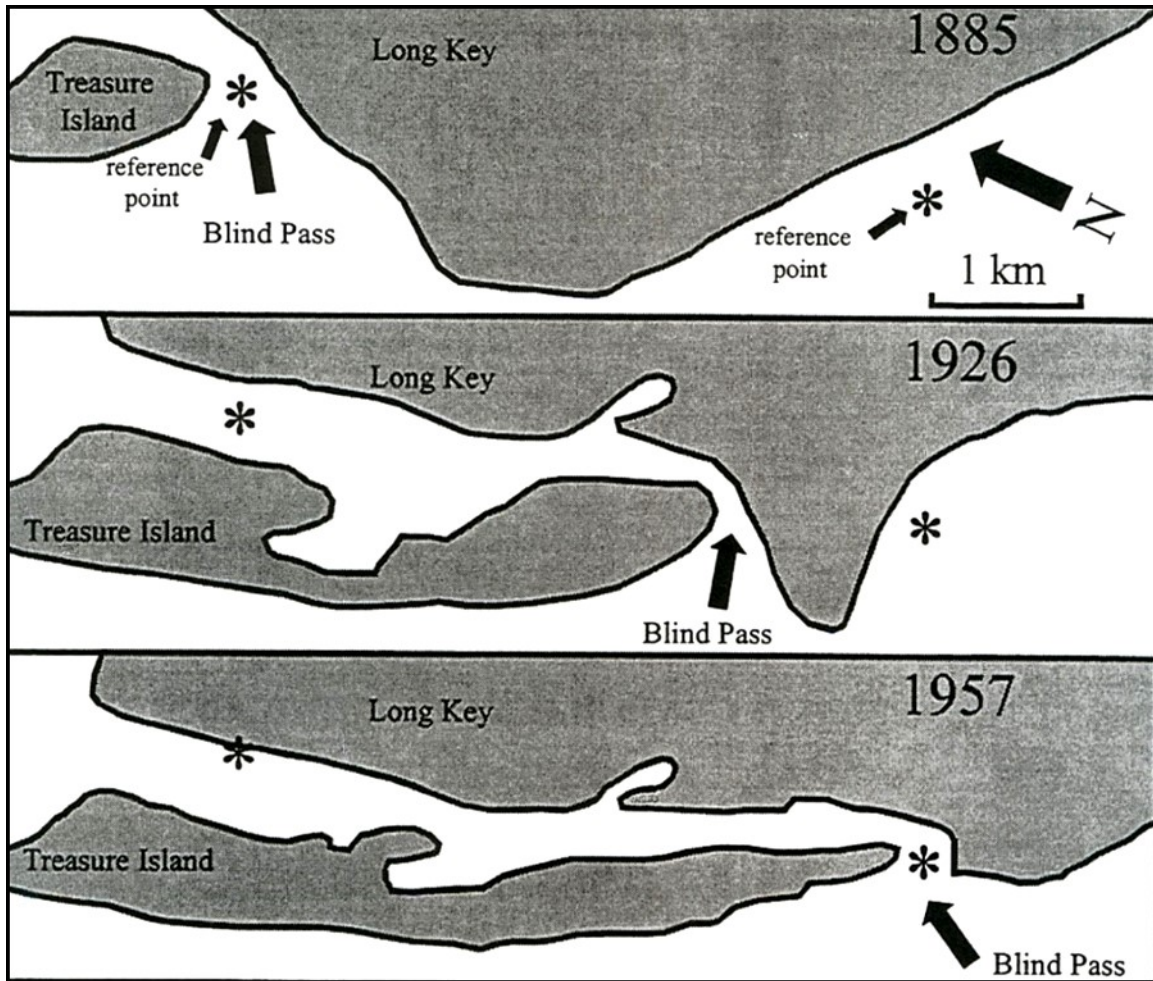


Figure 2. Southward migration of Blind Pass following the opening of John's Pass in 1848. Note that Blind Pass was stabilized in 1937 and the location of the pass in 1957 is the same as it was in 1937, (Wang 2016).

Extensive field data collected from October 2010 to June 2014 by USF was the foundation for the modeling work performed for the study. The modeling analysis for the Blind Pass study included the analysis of four design alternatives, including baseline conditions, dredging of the channel borrow area, extension of the south jetty and a combination of terminal groin/ south jetty extensions. Both the field data and modeling work contributed to the development of the sediment budgets for both passes. The sediment budget established bypass objectives for both adjacent shorelines (**Figure 3**). While the study was conducted, a total of three technical advisory committee (TAC) meetings were held in 2014 and 2016. Participants of the TAC meetings included FDEP, USF, Pinellas County, CB&I and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The two-inlet study was finalized by USF in March of 2016 and later revised in August of 2016.



Figure 3. Annualized sediment budget at Blind Pass based on field data collected from October 2010 to June 2014 (aerial photography 2014; Wang et al., 2016).

The study resulted in four recommended strategies for the inlet. The study recommends the continuation of a comprehensive beach and inlet monitoring program to monitor the inlet dynamics and to facilitate important planning decisions regarding future sediment budgets. This monitoring effort will ensure that current strategies are effective, and that the plan is updated as necessary, based upon the monitoring data. Additionally, sand will be bypassed from the inlet both to the north and south of the inlet onto adjacent eroding beaches within designated critically eroded areas between R136 and R148, with target bypassing quantities being an average annual placement of 31,000 cubic yards to the south and 12,000 cubic yards to the north. The source of the bypass material will be sand from the Blind Pass entrance channel borrow area.

The new strategies in the 2017 inlet management plan will provide more efficient bypass objectives to replicate the natural flow of sand and implement best management practices that will benefit the adjacent beaches and local communities adjacent to Blind Pass. With the adoption of this new inlet management plan, all future inlet management activities are to be consistent with the four strategies located in the plan found at the following links:

[Blind Pass – Inlet Management Plan \(old web site\)](#)

[Blind Pass – Inlet Management Plan \(new web site\)](#)

Note: New website anticipated to go live in June.

The Department is currently finalizing the John's Pass Inlet Management Plan. The plan is expected to be adopted in the next couple of months and will be placed on the Department's web page.

References

Wang, P., Horwitz, M.H., and Cheng, H., 2016. *Inlet Management Study for John's Pass and Blind Pass, Pinellas County, Florida*, University of South Florida, Coastal Research Laboratory, 300 p.

Back to Main Page

Shoreline

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FSBPA Conferences

September 27-29, 2017

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OTHER DATES OF INTEREST

October 24-27, 2017

ASBPA 2017 National Coastal Conference

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Did you know – Florida Factoid Supporting Sea Grant Program

On March 29, Senator Nelson became a cosponsor of S. 129, a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the Sea Grant program. In its 50th year, the Sea Grant program promotes research, education, and training to increase the understanding, development, management, utilization, and conservation of the nation's coastal, marine, and Great Lakes resources. The Florida Sea Grant program has awarded numerous scholarships, improved over 50,000 acres of degraded ecosystems, trained thousands of professionals in hurricane preparedness, risk reduction, and improved sustainability of fishery resources.

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