

Shoreline

November 2013

news from the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association

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27th Annual National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology

February 12-14, 2014 | Hutchinson Island Marriott | Stuart, Florida

We hope you can make plans to join us for the 2014 Tech Conference which will be held February 12-14 at the Hutchinson Island Marriott in Stuart. This is our



second visit to the Marriott and they have again offered us an extremely attractive group rate for South Florida in the winter! The \$129 single/double rate is available by making a reservation online or by phone. The deadline for reservations is **January 13, 2014**, so don't delay (you can even make your reservation today!) since the hotel cannot guarantee the room rate or availability after this date. You can also save \$50 by registering

early for the conference. The early registration deadline is also **January 13, 2014**.

Complete details for hotel reservations and registration are available on the conference website at www.fsbpa.com/tech-conference.html.



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Calendar of Events

About Shoreline

Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association

New for this year, the conference will be awarding three student registration sponsorships. The sponsorships will include registration as well as a \$500 stipend for travel and other expenses. A poster presentation is required by the winning students. Please [click here](#) for further details and to view/print the flyer and application. This is an excellent opportunity! **The deadline for applications is December 6th.**

FSBPA as conference organizer and the 2014 Planning Committee's efforts to put together an outstanding program are in full swing! While the Planning Committee's scoring exercise is just now wrapping up, we can already anticipate some outstanding presentations and topics. Of interest to many folks, the FWS will be providing us information about the proposed terrestrial critical habitat designation for sea turtles. We anticipate a Hurricane Sandy session including a presentation by USGS on coastal management lessons learned. There will also be a handful of presentations focused on projects and work located near the conference site. Be on the lookout for the full conference program to be posted online through the FSBPA website in December shortly after your brochure should arrive in the mail.

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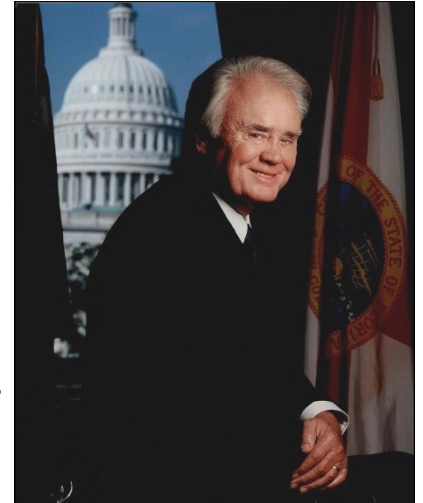
Michael Walther, P.E., Coastal Technology Corporation

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Saying Thank You and Good Bye to a Champion on Behalf of Florida's Beaches

(D. Flack, 10/25/13)

Representative C.W. Bill Young of Florida (Pinellas) passed away on October 18. He was the longest serving Republican Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. After serving 10 years in the Florida Senate, he was elected to the House in 1970. He was in his 22nd term in the House, having spent more than a half-century in elected office, and having served with eight presidents. He chaired the House full Appropriations Committee and the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee during his tenure on Capitol Hill. He was known nationally as one of the all-time appropriations masters; but to us he was FSBPA's number one beach advocate in Washington. I can think of no one that will be missed more in the halls of the Capitol in terms of championing beach protection; and unfortunately, I believe that will be fairly obvious and will happen rather quickly.



Congressman Young was without a doubt the single individual most responsible for the Pinellas County Shore Protection Project that was authorized in 1966; 13 miles of beach under the authorization have been constructed, and over the years have benefitted from approximately \$130 million in federal cost-sharing. Pinellas has truly been blessed by the Chairman's recognition of just how important his District's beaches were economically and in terms of quality-of-life to his constituents. He was in the perfect position to make sure they were maintained in an adequate and timely fashion for over the past four decades. It was the "perfect storm" or team when coupled with

Florida's Sandman, Senator Dennis Jones. So it was befitting when Congressman Young announced his retirement the week before his death that the first word I received announcing his decision to not seek reelection came from Dennis— "what now?"

How important was Bill Young to FSBPA and Florida's beaches over the years? He received the Association's Legislative Award in 1995, the Dennis Jones Statesman Award in 2003, and the very special 2007 FSBPA 50th Anniversary Golden Statesman Award. Seems quite appropriate that he and Dennis are our most celebrated award recipients.

"As a colleague and personal friend for the last thirty-two years, Bill will be greatly missed. Without Bill Young looking out for our interests in Washington this State would not have the beaches we do today. He was a role model for many and it's hard to imagine anyone filling his shoes."

Quote from Senator Dennis Jones

We can appreciate that the next generation of folks in Pinellas will remember Bill Young as they enjoy “his” beaches and unspoiled sunsets. He spent years in Washington to become a real hometown hero to the coastal communities in Pinellas County. I know many others have their own reasons to keep the Congressman in their thoughts, especially those that have served in our military or benefitted from his generous earmarks over the years. For me personally, I treasure the handwritten notes from the Congressman as the ultimate reflection of his gracious style and of the unequalled professionalism of his long-time Chief of Staff, Harry Glenn.



Photo courtesy of Visit St. Pete/Clearwater



For our beach advocates and local coastal communities around the state, you may only come to fully appreciate Bill Young’s support of the statewide beach program as we go forward. It will take the work of many of Florida’s Congressional Delegation Members to fill the void. It was Congressman Young that was prepared on New Year’s Day, and then came through for all of Florida, but especially our East Coast when the Sandy Supplemental Appropriations Bill was finally heard in January. With his leadership role on Appropriations, Congressman Young, on the House floor, in a colloquy with the Chair, reversed serious bill concerns that Florida would be part of the

emergency response. We now know that translated to over \$145 million in federal dollars through the Corps of Engineers for 24 separate beach and inlet sand placement projects on Florida’s East Coast and from Pinellas thru Lee County on Florida’s Southwest Coast impacted by Tropical Storm Debby. That is the perfect example of Bill Young’s legacy—protecting Pinellas beaches and bringing all of Florida’s beaches along in his efforts. We all need to continue to recognize his contributions so that every once in a while someone walks the beach, looks up, and thinks of Bill Young.

“Congressman Young was a champion for all things good for the State of Florida. Whether storm damage protection, environmental restoration, navigation, or environmental clean-up, if it benefited the people of Florida it had Congressman Young's support.”

Quote from David S. Hobbie, Deputy District Engineer, USACE Jacksonville District

What follows are just a few quotes “borrowed” from NPR, the Washington Post, CNN and Tampa Tribune that capture the spirit and career of Congressman C.W Bill Young

Charles William Young was born Dec. 16, 1930, in Harmarville, Pa. He was raised by a single mother after his father abandoned the family. He grew up in a coal town that was so grimy, Mr. Young once said, “I thought fresh air had to smell like sulfur.”

When he was 6, the family’s one-room shack was swept down a river in a flood. He kept a photograph of the shanty on his office wall as a reminder not to get too “puffed up.” Mr. Young quit school at 15 to support his mother after she fell ill on a visit to Florida. He found a job hauling concrete...

“He would be your classic gentleman member of Congress. His strong suit was his leadership in the House. As Congress was changing, he never changed in his civility toward his opponents and his constituents.” *(Susan McManus, University of South Florida)*

As to why he was retiring, Young said, "I don't know that I would pick out one thing. It's a lot of things." Among them was his frustration with congressional gridlock. "I'm a little disappointed. It seems there's too much politics. It's a different Congress."

As a long-serving full chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Young “was considered a congressional cardinal, and was a seasoned veteran of many legislative battles.”

“Not a day went by without a colleague seeking Bill’s counsel as he sat on his perch in the corner of the House floor,” House Speaker John A. Boehner said in a statement. “Here was a man who had seen it all and accomplished much.”

Mr. Young was once described by a local newspaper as “one of the all-time appropriations kings, using years of accumulated power to secure hundreds of millions in earmarks.”

“Few congressmen could boast of such influence over the federal purse strings.”

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Thank You for Being a Part of FSBPA's 57th Annual Conference

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank all of you that attended the 2013 Annual Conference, September 25-27, in Delray Beach—the presenters, sponsors, exhibitors and attendees. Palm Beach County and the City of Delray Beach were most gracious hosts and hopefully everyone that joined us at the conference had a chance to enjoy the amenities the area had to offer.

The conference was well-attended and well-received! The conference theme was the collective response to the storms of 2012, the success stories and lessons learned as well as the initial identification and discussion of possible changes to Florida's statewide beach management program as a result of the storms. (Speaker presentations are available for viewing on FSBPA's website at www.fsbpa.com/publications/2013-annual.html.) In keeping with this focus, we celebrated as part of the Awards Banquet the Corps unprecedented role in the expedited 2013 beach recovery efforts, and the exceptional responses by our local government members and the Florida Legislature.

As we move forward, the Association is confident we are up to the challenges ahead because of the involvement and support of our collective membership and each of you individually.

To set the stage, a letter distributed by our Chair at the conference follows. Hope to see you at our 2014 Annual Conference, September 24-26, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Bonita Springs.

Debbie Flack

The following message from FSBPA's Chair for 2013, Charlie Hunsicker (Manatee County), was included as a conference handout. He wanted to share it with all our members as a Shoreline reprint.

Chair's Message, "Setting the Stage" for the Challenges Ahead

As your 2013 FSBPA Chair and moderator of a conference panel discussion on the challenges facing Florida's beach management program, I am providing this written message to emphasize the association's contribution to the discussion on the challenges facing Florida's beach management program from our distinguished panelists. I want to ask for a moment of your time to read and reflect on the past year of activity responding to coastal storm damages not only here in Florida, but along the entire Atlantic Coast and consider your unique and distinguished role within FSBPA as we face our future together.

The challenges of the past year associated with storm damage recovery, changing players, and fiscal and financial constraints at all levels of government left FSBPA at the forefront on a host of issues. We began the year with storm damaged beaches on both coasts and no clear direction from our traditional state and federal partners who historically have taken the early initiative. There was uncertainty as to when these beaches would be repaired and whether the federal shore-protection and statewide beach management partners would be responsive.

I was convinced then as I am now that it was time for our local governments, through this Association, in concert with our Legislative and Congressional delegations, to step forward into the leadership vacuum and be more visible and vocal. As Chair of FSBPA, and a member of the FSBPA Executive Committee which represents many other coastal governments in the same position, I believed that a dramatic adjustment in the Association's traditional legislative session strategy was in order, and worked with your FSBPA Executive Committee and President to move FSBPA into the position to steer both agency and political will to the solutions we all hoped to see at the beginning of the state budget negotiations. Ultimately, Florida's beaches got that needed support, although not through the normal protocol and not without a great deal of effort from the legislative branches in Tallahassee and Washington.

My challenge today to each coastal community that benefits from maintaining Florida's beaches and appreciates their economic importance is to reenergize efforts and commit resources to advocating on behalf of Florida's beach program. THIS IS IMPORTANT. We must renew our efforts, enlisting local elected officials in the important role of educating lawmakers in Tallahassee and Washington and in challenging regulations and funding policies that hinder the effective maintenance and repair of Florida's beaches.

Many of our members attending this conference are looking with great anticipation to the construction of storm damage recovery projects with a fortunate financial mix of state and federal partners. But we know, deep in our hearts, that we did not arrive at this juncture of good fortune without hard work and alignment of many political factions, financial backing from our Boards and Commissioners and supplemental appropriations and toil from state and federal project managers and regulators.

An important challenge for us collectively, as an Association on behalf of Florida's beaches, is to put more emphasis on economic, policy, and political perspective of our programs when communicating to decision-makers at all levels of government that set the programs' legal framework and determine spending priorities. Term limits and a multitude of state issues have meant that our elected representatives have to re-make themselves as generalists, relying upon advocacy and advocates to help them prioritize their attention during Florida's very short annual legislative season. The same is true for Florida's congressional delegation, both in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Florida's beach program enjoys considerable political support – FSBPA, in concert with our local governments, has the responsibility to make sure it is deserved.

The future of intergovernmental funding for our program has become increasingly critical. This year's exceptional level of federal and state funding is an anomaly. It is not just competing demands, fiscal constraints, and the fallout of discretionary programs that the beach program is facing. If we do not work together, at some point these projects will be priced out of the reach of state and federal legislators who are challenged to show the benefits of a substantial investment of public funds along the narrow coast line of our state to their constituencies of all 67 Florida's counties. These challenges to political will are amplified even more so for our elected representatives from all 50 states. As costs beyond simply putting sand on the beach escalate, federal and even state tolerance to continue historical cost-sharing arrangements will also be increasingly questioned. This leaves us with the responsibility to further analyze and capture the economic benefits of each beach project, examine the justification for all actual costs, and pursue difficult programmatic changes when there are no viable alternatives.

I represent a local government project sponsor of a federal beach project impacted by Tropical Storm Debby. The project was not queued in the state's funding request process for construction until 2014-2015. Manatee County, as a federally-authorized project had the good fortune of receiving both FEMA Category G funding for its non federal beaches along with Army Corps FCCE Emergency Federal Funding from the Hurricane Sandy supplemental congressional appropriations. We had the immediate attention and assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District that many state-local sponsored programs lacked. We and other federally sponsored projects also had the benefit of Corps field assessments and formal reports on damages and costs which could later be shared with our state FDEP regulatory staff. These financial and study resources stood in stark contrast to a number of FSBPA's governmental members with non-federal projects such as Brevard's Mid-Reach, Indian River's Sector III, South St. Lucie, and Jupiter Island. These projects had nothing to fall back on when the State of Florida's request for a FEMA emergency declaration was twice denied with no apparent state back up plan.

Coming off an unprecedented year in terms of addressing storm damages to Florida's beaches and the number and nature of major projects receiving funding, we should take the time to celebrate and appreciate the response from decision-makers at all levels of government. However, we also must keep in mind it will take a renewed effort on the part of the beach interests to sustain this successful program. There is no argument currently that maintaining Florida's beaches is in the public interest, but escalating project costs, conflicting coastal interests, and competing needs may marginalize current support.

It is my hope that my service to many of you as members of FSBPA, has inspired each of you to consider your contribution to advocate for the beach management programs of this great State of Florida, and the envy of our New England, Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes, and Pacific coast colleagues. Continue to be the advocate you joined FSBPA to become and ensure the future of this great program.

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2013 Annual Conference Award Winners

Presented during the Awards Banquet, Thursday, September 26, 2013

Congratulation to our 2013 Award Winners!



Stan Tait Award

“Setting the standard of excellence and commitment to Florida’s beaches through exemplary service representing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers”

Jacqueline Keiser



Jim Purpura/T.Y. Chiu Engineering Award

“For truly outstanding contributions to Florida’s beach management and regulatory programs as well as recognized excellence in coastal engineering”

Brett D. Moore, P.E.

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Local Government Award

“For your outstanding record and involvement over the years supporting the protection and preservation of Florida’s beaches, as well as your vision and commitment to St. Lucie County’s beach management program”

Commissioner Frannie Hutchinson



Public Service Award

“For a distinguished career in public service and professionalism on behalf of the City of Delray Beach and its beaches”

Paul Dorling, AICP



The Richard Bonner Award

“For outstanding service to the Nation, the State of Florida, and its coastal communities by an individual representing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on the collective behalf of the dedicated staff of the Jacksonville District”

**Colonel Alan M. Dodd
USACE-Jacksonville District**



Legislative Award

(Presented by Rep. Debbie Mayfield)

"For outstanding leadership and policy commitment to the management of Florida's beaches, especially the unprecedented legislative funding response to address the storm damages of 2012"

Representative Ben Albritton
District 56
Florida House of Representatives



Statesman Award

"For an outstanding legislative record and ongoing commitment to the preservation and management of Florida's beaches and the funding of their maintenance and repair"

Senator Joe Negron
District 32, The Florida Senate

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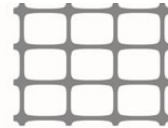
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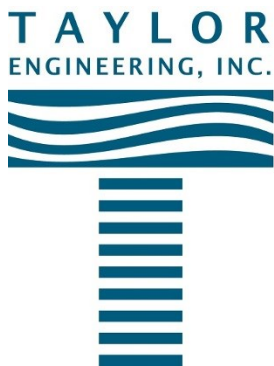
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Candid Shots from the Annual Conference

Photos courtesy of Pat Pacitti and Paul Marino Photography



Candid Shots from the Annual Conference Recognizing the USACE Jacksonville District





East Pass – A New Inlet Management Plan

By Ralph Clark, Coastal Engineer, FDEP



On July 24, 2013, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection adopted a new inlet management plan for East Pass in Okaloosa County. This plan updated a previous plan for East Pass adopted June 8, 2000, to make the plan consistent with current statutes and observed erosion conditions.

In 2008, the Florida Legislature amended Section 161.142, Florida Statutes, finding:

"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."

The 2000 inlet management plan – which specified that all inlet dredge material be placed west of the inlet – did not provide for balancing the inlet sediment budget or extending the life of proximate beach restoration projects. The plan was not consistent with Section 161.142, Florida Statutes, because it did not ensure that the inlet dredge material was "placed on adjacent eroding beaches."

In 2009, the Department and the City of Destin sponsored an update study of East Pass, to compile new and historical data and information regarding coastal processes and inlet and shoreline dynamics, as reported in *City of Destin, Florida, East Pass Inlet Study & Management Considerations* (CP&E, 2010). The study area included the entire 14-mile stretch of coast from FDEP reference monument R-1, at the west end of the beach community of Okaloosa Island, to FDEP reference monument R-50 at the east Okaloosa County line. The actual area of direct inlet impact was determined to be approximately 10,000 feet to the east and to the west of East Pass.

For the time period between March 1996 and July 2007, Coastal Planning & Engineering, Inc., developed a sediment budget set forth in Figure 1. An update sediment budget for this 11.3-year time period reflects a change from the sediment budget determined in the earlier study for the 2000 plan. Between 1996 and 2007, west to east longshore transport in the vicinity of the inlet has resulted in a small net gain immediately west of the inlet and a significant loss along Holiday Isles to the east of the inlet. As shown in Figure 1, the net accretion (not including fill placement) west of the inlet between V611 and the west jetty (approximately 10,000 feet) has been approximately +6,000 cy/yr [15,000 + 26,000 = 41,000 cy/yr, less 35,000 cy/yr of fill placement]. The net erosion loss (not including fill placement) to the east of the inlet between the jetty and R27 (approximately 10,000 feet) has been approximately -54,000 cy/yr [-50,000 cy/yr - 4,000 cy/yr of fill placement].

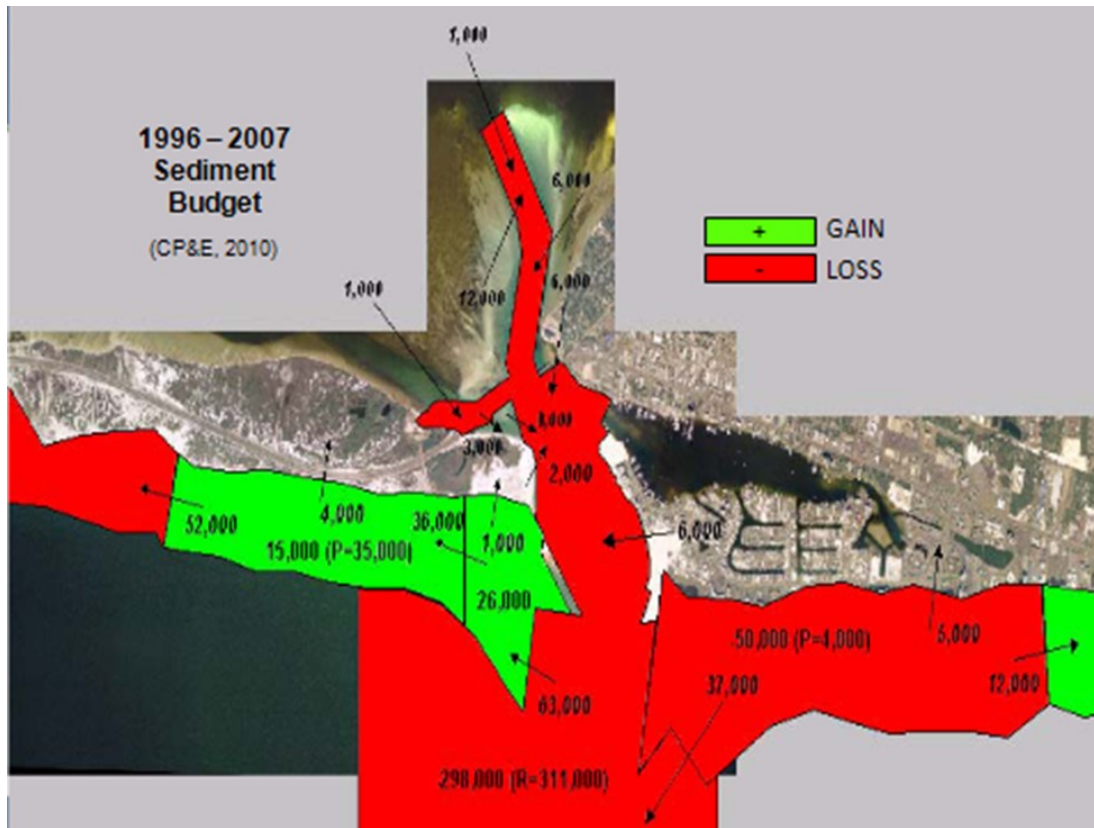


Figure 1. East Pass Sediment Budget for 1996 to 2007

Certainly, the effects of Hurricanes Ivan (2004) and Dennis (2005) caused the greatest erosion impact east of the inlet over the 11.3-year time period; however, the FDEP survey data indicates that shoreline retreat and volumetric erosion occurred prior to these storms as well as during the post-storm recovery period. The tabulated shoreline change data and volumetric data clearly showed consistent erosion loss for the study period to the east of the inlet, while the equivalent area immediately west of the inlet experienced accretion for the same 11.3-year study period (CP&E, 2010).

In the preparation of the sediment budget, CP&E developed a Delft3D numerical model of the inlet and adjacent waters and beaches. The model was used as a tool to evaluate the current inlet management strategies and to evaluate alternative strategies, to include dredge material placement on both sides of the inlet. The sediment budget developed for the inlet for the period between 1996 and 2007 suggests that the net sediment transport within the inlet interior is from north to south, and therefore would be hydraulically indicative of an ebb dominant inlet. The sediment budget for this period also suggests that the net sediment transport direction at the entrance between the jetties is from south to north. These results depict the inlet interior as a sediment sink.

In response to concerns regarding the accuracy of the Delft3D model at predicting the direction and magnitude of inlet currents and sediment transport, the City of Destin contracted an additional tidal hydraulics study of the inlet in 2011. The contractor, MRD, Associates, installed tidal current gages and obtained tidal current data to permit further evaluation of the inlet’s hydrodynamics and sediment transport (MRD, Associates, 2011). This field data was considered consistent with the data obtained in the Delft3D model study by CP&E.

With adoption of the new inlet management plan, all future inlet management activities shall be consistent with the following four strategies:

1) Implement a comprehensive beach and inlet hydrographic monitoring program to evaluate performance and impact of existing projects and to update and define the inlet sediment budget. Beach profile monitoring data shall be used to determine erosion quantities from the gulf beaches east and west of the inlet along the area of inlet influence (V611-V620 and R17-R26). Prior to any scheduled inlet channel maintenance dredging, the recent erosion of adjacent beaches observed over a minimum of five years shall define the placement need in terms of location and volume.

2) Modify the current inlet sand transfer protocol to permit the placement of inlet dredge material along the gulf beaches both to the east and to the west of the inlet within the area of inlet influence (V611-V622 and R17-R26). The quantity of allowable fill placement in each area shall be based upon observed erosion patterns and beach erosion quantities documented through the monitoring protocol. Dredge material placement shall not exceed the design template of any proximate beach restoration projects. Any dredge material placement shall be strategically sited to minimize the potential for any re-entry or re-entrainment back into the inlet or the federal navigation channel of East Pass.

3) Complete the stabilization of Norriego Point. The City of Destin proposes a Norriego Point Stabilization Project to include repair and reconstruction of the existing T-groins, the construction of an additional T-groin and a seawall or boulder mound structure at the northern end, and the placement of fill to reconstruct the tip of Norriego Point.

4) Investigate availability and feasibility of supplemental inlet sediment excavation outside the federal navigation channels, exclusive of areas with submerged natural resources. Should gulf beach erosion, as determined in the monitoring protocol, exceed the bypassing quantities obtained from maintenance of the federal navigation channels, additional inlet sediment may be obtained as determined from its availability, feasibility, and impacts.

The new sand placement protocol does not eliminate the continuance of sand placement to the west of the inlet. It does, however, allow sand placement to the east of the inlet given the beach to the east has clearly been adversely affected by the inlet. A future sediment budget is dependent upon meteorological conditions and the resulting wave climate, which cannot be predicted with any reasonable accuracy. The most practical means of determining a sand placement protocol is to utilize the most recent volumetric change data for the beaches adjacent to the inlet. Implementation Strategy #1, a comprehensive beach and inlet hydrographic monitoring program, is the most important element to managing the sediment budget at East Pass. Basing the sand placement protocol on the actual survey data eliminates the guesswork and specifically complies with the statutory mandate of Section 161.142, Florida Statutes.

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The up-date inlet management plan will be implemented through a combined effort of the Department and both Okaloosa County and the City of Destin with the cooperation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, and Eglin Air Force Base. The beach profile data east and west of East Pass is already being obtained through the regulatory requirements for the authorized beach restoration projects. This existing beach profile monitoring data will suffice for the determination of erosion quantities from the gulf beaches east and west of the inlet along the area of inlet influence (V611-V620 and R17-R26). Continuance of the periodic surveys of the East Pass Channel, the Destin Harbor Channel, and the U.S. Coast Guard Channel by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers along with their dredge records will be essential to evaluate shoaling trends within the inlet. Inlet ebb shoal surveys are also being obtained by the City of Destin and Walton County to monitor the borrow site authorized by the Department for the Walton-Destin Beach Restoration Project.

The new East Pass Inlet Management Plan is located on the following Department web address – <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/publications/pdf/IMPlans/EastPassInletMgmtPlan.pdf>.

References

- Coastal Planning & Engineering, Inc., 2010. *City of Destin, Florida, East Pass Inlet Study & Management Considerations*, 87 p. plus appendices.
- Dombrowski, M.R., 2011. *East Pass ADCP Tidal Current Study*, MRD, Associates, Inc., 18 p.

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Florida Oceans and Coastal Council Meeting

By Diana Ferguson



The Florida Oceans and Coastal Council met via conference call on October 2. DEP reported on their recent reorganization. The Coastal and Aquatic Management Areas (CAMA) Program no longer exists and these functions are now housed within the new Florida Coastal Office. Kevin Claridge is the Director of the Florida Coastal Office and Kelly Samek is the Coastal Program Administrator. The Coastal Program's strategic planning is focused on restoration, education, and monitoring. This works well within the framework of the Florida Coastal Monitoring Program (FCMP) key strategic objectives of improved habitat, prepared communities, and informed coordination. FWC and DACS gave similar agency updates; however, there have been no major structural or functional changes within these agencies.

There was a discussion of current gulf restoration efforts. Active monitoring of Florida beaches was closed out by the Coast Guard in June. A "Beach Watch" program is currently under development by the DEP Office of Emergency Response. DEP and FWC continue to work together on NRDA restoration and RESTORE efforts. NRDA efforts are being facilitated by the Deepwater Horizon Trustee Council. Trustees are evaluating the impacts of the oil spill on natural resources and working on behalf of the public to restore, replace, rehabilitate, or acquire the equivalent of these resources. The ongoing trial has limited the amount of information made available to the public, but extensive, vigorous assessments are ongoing to catalog the extent of injury to resources and loss of human use. The RESTORE Act provides a vehicle for Clean Water Act civil and administrative penalties as a result of the spill. Governor Rick Scott represents Florida on the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, which is responsible for implementing the Initial Comprehensive Plan. This Plan, developed to restore the Gulf Coast's ecosystem and economy, was released in August. Treasury regulations are out for public comment now; these must be finalized in order for RESTORE dollars to flow.

Additionally, the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund has been established by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to administer funds arising from plea agreements that resolve the criminal cases against BP and Transocean. No monies are available from this Fund yet, but it will work in conjunction with RESTORE efforts and should have more flexibility in use of the funds, to include activities such as monitoring and mapping.

Following these updates, the Council focused on four items of discussion: the Coastal Partnership Initiative (CPI), the Internship Program, Section 309 Assessment and Planning, and Coastal and Marine Planning. CPI was developed to promote the protection and effective management of Florida's coastal resources at the local level. NOAA makes funds available, on a competitive basis, to eligible local governments (the 35 coastal counties and municipalities within their boundaries who are required to include a coastal element in their local comprehensive plan). The program provides support for projects in four areas: resilient communities, public access, working waterfronts, and coastal stewardship. These are small grants that range from \$15,000-\$30,000.

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With regard to internships, there was general discussion of the need to create stronger relationships between the Florida Coastal Office and the academic and research institutions to further common missions. There was also some discussion as to getting the most value out of internships and providing the most value to students.

Additionally, there was discussion of Section 309 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), which provides support for enhancing certain programs. An assessment conducted by DEP and NOAA has identified needs for improvement in nine areas: wetlands; marine debris; hazards; public access; cumulative and secondary impacts; special area management plans; aquaculture; oceans and Great Lakes resources; and energy and local government facility siting. A document detailing the assessment and strategies has been developed. It includes specific task descriptions, cost estimates, and milestones. It can be accessed here: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/cmp/links/files/FY2011-2015_Section309_Assessment_Strategies_revMay_6_2013_Final.pdf. It is intended to lead to a coastal management program change, including a change of boundaries, new or revised authorities, local coastal programs, special area management plans, or land acquisition, management, or restoration programs. This makes the coastal management program eligible for enhancement funding and additional competitive funding. DEP is currently participating in a workgroup to revise 309 guidance. During Summer 2014-Fall 2015, states will be developing new assessments and strategies. During Winter 2015-Spring 2016, states will develop tasks. And during Summer and Fall 2016, FY16 awards will be issued and states will begin working on strategies.

There was also discussion of coastal and marine planning. This is identified as part of the FCMP's informed coordination strategic objective. The Governors' Southern Atlantic Alliance (GSAA) has created a portal that can be accessed at <http://gsaaportal.org>. The need for marine spatial planning was further discussed. The Council has spent a significant amount of time talking about this and including it in its yearly Research Plan submitted to the Legislature.

Lastly, the FY2014/2015 Annual Science Research Plan was discussed. It is required to be submitted to the Legislature each year. Staff will update the Plan for discussion at the Council's next meeting, which is likely to be a face-to-face meeting in January, location to be determined. The Council spent some time discussing its mission and its tasks going forward. This discussion will continue in January. More information on the Council can be found here: <http://www.floridaoceanscouncil.org/default.htm>.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FSBPA Conferences

February 12-14, 2014

**2014 National Conference on Beach
Preservation Technology**

Hutchinson Island Marriott, Stuart, Florida

September 24-26, 2014

2014 FSBPA Annual Conference

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, Bonita
Springs, FL

OTHER DATES OF INTEREST

November 21-22, 2013

**Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Associa-
tion Annual Conference**

Charleston, SC

February 25-27, 2014

ASBPA's Coastal Summit

ASAE Conference Center, Washington, DC

**27th Annual
National Conference on
Beach Preservation Technology**

February 12-14, 2014

**Hutchinson Island Marriott
Stuart, Florida**

Conference Registration

Early Registration ends January 13, 2014

Hotel Information

Reservation deadline is January 13, 2014

**Sponsorships, Exhibits and
Ad Information**

For more information, please contact
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