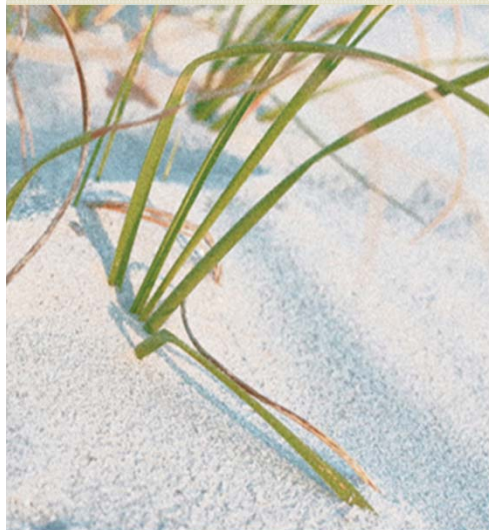


**24<sup>th</sup> Annual National  
Conference on Beach  
Preservation Technology**

**Florida Shore & Beach  
Preservation Association**



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# **The Expiration of Project Life for Congressionally Authorized Shore Protection Projects**

**Erik J. Olsen, P.E.**

# Overview Statement

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- **Federal SPP's have a contractual life – (PCA),**
- **Many projects constructed in the 1970's are rapidly approaching the ends of their 50-year “authorized” life,**
- **No provision exists to address the issue.**



# Genesis for the Talk

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- **City of Tybee Island, GA - Client,**
- **Tybee Shore Protection Project (Expiring)**
- **Letter received from the Savannah District, USACE regarding this issue**



# Factoids

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- **A Federally authorized project is for “life”,**
- **Federal funding (i.e. fiscal participation) is limited (50 years max),**
- **Sponsor bound by contract to continue to fund the Federal project at 100% local expense.**



# Prior Debate on Issue

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- **Howard Marlowe Newsletter of May 2006,**
- **Congressman Mike McIntyre (NC) attempted to address the matter via H.B. 5241 (110<sup>th</sup> Congress).**





**South  
Groyne**

**North Groyne**

**Authorized Limits of Project**

**Tybee Island, GA**

**Federal Shore Protection Project**

# TYBEE ISLAND



Prior  
Shoreline  
(Seawall)

S. Federal  
Groin

T-Head Groin Field



# Tybee Nourishment History

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- **1975 – N. Federal Groin**
- **1976 – Beach Fill (2.2 Mcy)**
- **1985 – S. Federal Groin**
- **1987 – 1<sup>st</sup> Renourishment (1.3 Mcy)**
- **1993 – Failed Federal Beach Disposal**
- **1999/00 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Renourishment (1.4 Mcy)**
- **2008 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Renourishment (1.1 Mcy)**





# Savannah District – COE Letter to Tybee Mayor dated 5 Aug 2010

- Federal financial participation in periodic renourishment ends in 2024,
- Authorized until deauthorized by Congress,
- PCA dictates responsibilities.

**CWYAF**



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# **Savannah District – COE Letter to Tybee Mayor dated 5 Aug 2010**

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- **Local sponsor becomes responsible for Operations, Monitoring, Repair, Rehabilitation of Replacement (OMRROR) as long as it remains authorized.**
- **Extension of Federal participation for cost sharing of periodic renourishment would require Congressional Authorization.**



# The “Process” Without Congressional Action

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- **Section 216 of the Flood Control Act would allow the Savannah District to propose an Initial Appraisal (IA) report.**
- **If the IA findings indicated it is advisable to modify project operation then the District could conduct a Reconnaissance Study of 905(b) analysis.**



# Recon Study Goals

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- Determine if “problem” warrants Federal participation and a feasibility study,
- Define Federal intent consistent with D.O.A policies, costs, benefits etc. for the “alternatives”.

**NAPP**



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# Recon Study Goals

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- **Complete a 905(b) Analysis Recon Report,**
- **Prepare a Project Management Plan (PMP),**
- **Assess “local intent”,**
- **Negotiate and execute a Feasibility Study Cost Sharing Agreement.**



# The “Clincher”

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“The new studies would define the project without condition to be the beach condition at the end of the 50-year period of cost sharing for the authorized project”

**NOT GOOD ...**



# Feasibility Study Issues

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- **Cost shared at 50:50 – relatively expensive,**
- **Implications of a “non-eroded” baseline condition,**



# TYBEE ISLAND



Prior  
Shoreline  
(Seawall)

S. Federal  
Groyne

T-Head Groin Field

CURRENT SHORELINE CONDITIONS



# Feasibility Study Issues

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- **Congressional appropriations required,**
- **Time to fund, time to study, review(s).**



# Rhetorical Question

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**Is this essentially a  
“new start” ...?**

**... in the eyes of the COE,  
Congress, Administration,  
OMB?**

**Existing policy is no  
new starts...**



# Pragmatic Solution

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- **A best case solution is Federal legislation intended to formalize the process to re-up a project,**
- **It will necessitate a WRDA bill,**
- **A coalition of affected communities or states and strong Congressional support will be required.**



# Alternative Actions

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- **No Action – revert to pre-project conditions ....**
- **Construct a non-federal project ...  
(after de-authorization)**



# Non-Federal S.P.P. Advantages

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- Design, frequency, determination of need,
- Cost to construct less: flexibility,
- “Engineered Beach” – FEMA post-disaster funding eligibility,



# Non-Federal S.P.P. Advantages

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- **No Congressional appropriations necessary,**
- **Turn around time,**
- **Control of your own “destiny” ...**



# Federal S.P.P. Advantages

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- **Potential cost-sharing,**
- **Decisions/guidance by the USCOE,**
- **Better prioritization in state funding programs.**



**Without Federal “earmarks” ...**

**... Federal project feasibility may  
be a moot point ...**



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# Acknowledgements

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- **Howard Marlow,  
Marlow Co.**
- **Jacksonville District,  
USACOE**
- **Wilmington District,  
USACOE**





# Questions or Comments?



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