

Shoreline



January 2011

news from the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association

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Public Workshop
Held for the Martin
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**12th annual
CIRP Technology
Transfer Workshop
February 7-9, 2011
Hyatt Regency Jacksonville**

As 2011 Begins.....

By Debbie Flack

The forecast for beaches and the statewide beach management program for the coming year is not good, but it certainly is not the exception. The last revenue estimating conference estimate of the documentary stamp tax "beach" allocation for 2011-12 was \$ 6.8 million, a far cry from the legislative intent a decade ago for the state to provide at least \$30 million annually to cost-share with federal and state partners in support of the repair and maintenance of Florida's beaches.

State economists just updated (12/15) earlier forecasts to a current \$3.5 billion shortfall between expected revenues and priority spending needs for the next fiscal year. This will serve as the base for Governor-elect Scott's FY 2011-12 Recommended Budget. March revised numbers will be available for the legislative appropriations process. Regardless, it is an almost insurmountable gap, especially when considering the last three years of unprecedented cuts in state programs and activities.

Now all we can do is wait and see the specific amount of the Department of Environmental Protection's statewide beach projects funding request. Be assured, however, that transmitting a local government beach funding request list totaling over \$105 million certainly won't be the starting point. Instead, we need to think in terms of mere program survival, funding for a few projects, preservation of the trust fund, and maintaining the ability to fight another day. It could be far worse. Few resource management

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programs have the beach program's ability to revert and reappropriate even a minimal amount of existing dollars; the possibility of "restoring" Northwest Florida beaches impacted by the oil spill outside of our traditional funding program; and the recognition by some decision-makers that healthy beaches are an important component of the state's economic recovery. Return-on-Investment (ROI) is among the "new" buzz words in Tallahassee.



Obviously, how our federal partners in beach management define earmarks and how seriously discretionary non-defense cuts are pursued by Congress may also play a role in how many and which Florida beach projects make it through the state's corresponding appropriations process this spring. Local government project sponsors please note that existing state project allocations for the current fiscal year and earlier need to be under contract, and previously-funded projects readied for construction. It may be difficult to expedite projects through the maze, but lawmakers and local decision-makers can't see the economic benefits of beach nourishment projects if they

languish in the permitting process, and months turn into years.

It is not all grim, although severe revenue shortfalls certainly put a damper on the short-term outlook. At least we should appreciate that membership on the Senate General Government Appropriations Committee and the House Agriculture and Natural Resources counterpart well-represents beach districts, after an almost exclusive inland/agricultural emphasis for the last several years. Further, committee representation is a positive balance between historical knowledge and new perspective. Committee allocations determine the bottom line; however, if there is any non-recurring General Revenue to be had, beaches should be in the fight. Let's hope that the Association does not have to reconsider its longstanding policy of fully funding the DEP's Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems (currently over \$5 million); but at some point appropriations must reflect that it takes more than staff to sustain a viable program foundation.

With all this said, we will have a much better forecast as the Legislature begins weeks of committee exercises on budget cuts in mid-January and throughout February, and we see the Governor's spending recommendations and agency/personnel changes.

January should also provide us with the first look at project lists for Northwest Florida being developed by the Trustees (State) as part of the Oil Spill Pollution Act's NRDA (Natural Resources Damage Assessment) process associated with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The short version is the Trustees are required to demonstrate cause and effect between the oil spill, resource injuries and loss of use, with the polluter to pay for the assessment and restoration. The goal is to return the resource to its baseline condition and compensate the public for the time period the resource and services



Pensacola Beach, Escambia County

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were impacted. This process does not include private or economic resources – it is restoration focused. Beach nourishment has been identified as one of the “early” restoration processes. After attending two briefings (local government and legislative) I am still not sure how they are selecting beach projects but it currently clearly exceeds renourishment of existing beach projects and what one normally considers “baseline” conditions. Maybe we will figure it out as projects lists are unveiled. These potential beach projects are not likely to be defined as “emergency” projects, so timing is in question but was suggested to be at least three years out. Regardless, any NRDA funding for beach nourishment in Northwest Florida outside of the traditional statewide management program, would be most welcomed at this point in time when there is a backlog of far too many projects and far too few dollars.

FSBPA needs the support and input of all our member governments to target and prioritize 2011 projects and grow legislative support. It is most likely that readiness-to-proceed to construction and amount of leveraged matching funds will once again be of overriding consideration to the Legislature. When the Agency’s project list is officially released, we will go to work with project sponsor input and guidance. It is going to take a unified effort to identify and brief key lawmakers, and effectively involve local-elected officials. It is encouraging that a number of beach nourishment projects have been the subject of recently-held local delegation meetings. FSBPA cannot make a project the priority of your local government or legislative delegation; it can just target our mutual advocacy efforts and deliver the message. This combination has served us well in the past. Let’s hope it can deliver one more time.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I look forward to serving as your chairman for 2011 and would like to kick off the year with a few thoughts.

Our beaches face unprecedented challenges with growing development, rising seas, interrupted sand supplies, diminishing borrow sources, a shrinking economy, and ever more competing uses. There is a need for every beach to be managed to its highest and best use and an expectation that we as coastal managers and engineers are up to the task. Yet we are all learning as we go and our greatest strength is in our collective experience and our desire to share that knowledge with each other through our technical conferences, annual meetings, monthly newsletters, and other correspondence. I encourage each of you to be a part of that dialogue to share your strengths, to exchange new ideas, and to avoid the mistakes that come from working alone where we are blind to our individual ignorance and weakness.

Resource management and sustainability used to be about keeping conditions or the flow of services constant through time. That seemed challenging enough, but it is apparent that we are working during a time when the world's economy, environment, social systems, entitlements and expectations are changing ever more quickly.

This creates a demand for resource management strategies to adapt accordingly. Inflexible bureaucratic processes will become increasingly intolerable. Meanwhile, our most experienced beach managers retire, and our most seasoned legislators are replaced with freshmen lawmakers who now comprise one third of the Florida Legislature. Communicating the importance of our beaches and their management needs must be a priority. FSBPA is already retooling our organization to meet this demand for communication during the 2011 legislative season.

I would like to thank the previous Board and FSBPA staff for their successful leadership in 2010 including: the most challenging appropriations year in over a decade; the victorious and landmark outcome of the U.S. Supreme Court case *Stop the Beach Renourishment v. Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, and Walton County/City of Destin*; development of an oil exploration and sand source protection policy position that was supplanted by Deepwater Horizon Spill response; and transition from a contract-managed organization to a more transparent, more accountable, self-administered non-profit.

Whatever your beaches mean to you - rejuvenation, exploration, relaxation, wildlife habitat, fun in the sun, family time, etc. - it has never been more important for each of us to support FSBPA and participate in advocacy efforts on behalf of Florida's beaches.

Virginia Barker
(Brevard County)

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At our September 2010 Annual Conference in Clearwater Beach, FSBPA's general membership voted to approve the following slate of Officers and Board of Directors for the coming year. The Association's bylaws provide they will serve for the 2011 Calendar Year. We hope you agree that these individuals represent a talented balance of leadership, with a necessary mix of experience, interests and new ideas.

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2011 "Tech Conference" Information February 9-11, 2011

The early registration deadline ends on January 14, 2011 for the 2011 National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology! **Don't delay – register today to save on registration fees.** There are three easy ways to register:

- 1. ONLINE:** www.FSBPA.com
- 2. MAIL:** Form and payment to:
FSBPA
PO Box 13146
Tallahassee, FL 32317-3146
- 3. FAX:** Form and credit card information to (850) 201-6782
[Print the conference registration form](#) 

If you would rather register by fax or mail, click on the link above to open the registration form in a pdf file format. Type your information directly into this pdf file and print. Then simply mail or fax your form to the address or number listed above.

Don't forget to also **reserve your room** at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront **by January 14, 2011**. [Click here to make your reservation online.](#)

Standard rooms, single or double are \$125 with complimentary self-parking and complimentary WIRED internet access for hotel guests.

If you haven't had a chance, be sure to check out the entire **conference program**, at www.fsbpa.com. The 2011 Planning Committee's hard work produced an outstanding technical program this year – with sessions and presentations on a wide range of technical topics.

Finally, should you have interest in conference sponsorships, exhibits, program advertisements, or questions regarding conference or hotel registration, please contact us at (850) 906-9227 or mail@fspba.com.

We hope you will join us **February 9-11**, at **"America's largest annual conference on beach preservation technology."**

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Mark your calendar for the following conferences:

2011 Annual Conference

While a bit embarrassing to admit, FSBPA is finally going to Miami Beach for the 2011 Annual Conference, our 55th. Our visit to the site that served as the lifeblood and catalyst for Florida's successful beach management program is long overdue.

Please plan ahead to join us

September 14-16, 2011, to celebrate "the" beach project, and express our appreciation to Miami-Dade County and Miami Beach for putting our mutually-supported efforts to repair and maintain Florida's treasured beaches on the map. It will be a most appropriate time to discuss and focus on a future advocacy and educational strategy to insure program survival and growth during these fiscally-challenging times.



FSBPA Annual Conference

September 14-16

Eden Roc Renaissance Miami Beach

Miami Beach, FL

2012

National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology

February 8-10

Marriott Hutchinson Island Resort

Stuart, FL

FSBPA Annual Conference

September 26-28

Naples Grande Beach Resort

Naples, FL

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Public Workshop Held for the Martin County Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project



US Army Corps
of Engineers

A public workshop was held on December 16, 2010 in Stuart Florida to to discuss Martin County's Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Program and the upcoming beach renourishment project proposed for the northernmost 4 miles of Martin County's shoreline. A draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) was put out for public release on November 5, 2010. The purpose of the SEIS is to document the selection of a new borrow area located approximately 6 mile offshore in Federal waters for future nourishments of the project which was initially constructed in 1996. The draft document is available on-line at http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Divisions/Planning/Branches/Environmental/DocsNotices_OnLine_MartinCo.htm.

The workshop began with a brief presentation by Michelle Rau of Anamar Environmental Consulting, Inc., the contractor writing the SEIS. The presentation highlighted the key features of the project and all the effort that has gone into studying project area, specifically the new proposed borrow area. After the presentation, meeting attendees were directed to display booths around the room where they could ask questions and discuss the project with personnel working on the project. Representatives were on hand from the Corps Jacksonville District, Martin County, Anamar, Taylor Engineering, Inc., Hesperides Group, LLC, Ecological Associates, Inc., and Continental Shelf Associates, Inc. Meeting attendees were able to learn about all aspects of the project from borrow area sediments to sea turtle and mole crab research in the project area.



Sand samples from the beach and potential borrow areas on display at the public workshop on December 16, 2010

The SEIS and public workshop are key parts of the NEPA process. NEPA refers to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 which requires an evaluation of the effects of major Federal actions culminating in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Environmental Assessment (EA), or Categorical Exclusion. An EIS, the highest level of examination, was prepared for the Martin County, Florida Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction (HSDR) Project in 1986. The draft SEIS has been prepared for the proposed action which is the use of a new sand borrow source. There is a prescribed format, process, and timeline for an EIS. The below highlights the NEPA process for identifying, evaluating and selecting a new sand borrow area for the Martin County HSDR Project.

- **Scoping** – Notice of intent to prepare an EIS published in the Federal Register, public comment scoping letter mailed, and cooperating Federal agency invitation letters mailed in June 2007.
- **Preparation** – The Draft SEIS is prepared and the cooperating Federal agency and contributing partners/ stakeholders review and comment on the draft document. Data gaps were identified and additional studies conducted.
- **Agency Technical Review** – Corps technical experts from outside of the Jacksonville District reviewed the draft document for technical consistency.
- **USACE South Atlantic Division (SAD) Review** – Draft document reviewed for policy compliance and approved for public release by the Corps Division headquarters office.
- ⇒ **Notice of Availability of Draft SEIS** – Notice of Availability of the draft document published in the Federal Register. Letters sent to residents. 60 day public comment period from November 5 – January 7, 2010. Public workshop on December 16, 2010. Comments are incorporated into the document and Federal consultations are completed.
- **USACE South Atlantic Division (SAD) Final Review** – Document reviewed for policy compliance by the Corps Division headquarters office.
- **Notice of Availability of Final SEIS** – Notice of Availability of the final document published in the Federal Register. Letters sent to residents and a 45 day public comment period takes place.
- **Final SEIS Completed** – All final comments are tabulated and listed in the final SEIS.
- **Record of Decision (ROD) Signed** – South Atlantic Division Commander signs the ROD in July 2011.
- **Anticipated Construction** – Construction must occur outside of the sea turtle nesting period which is from May 1 – October 31, so the earliest construction could begin is in December 2011.

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The Martin County Project area at the Virginia Forest Beach Access on December 16, 2010

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12th Annual CIRP Technology-Transfer Workshop Modeling and Decision-Support Tools for Coastal Inlets

Sponsored by



US Army Corps
of Engineers



February 7-9, 2011

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville-Riverfront, Jacksonville, Florida

The Coastal Inlets Research Program (CIRP) is pleased to celebrate our 12th Annual Technology-Transfer Workshop in conjunction with the 24th Annual National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology. The CIRP workshop will be held just prior to the Tech Conference, from Monday, February 7th through Wednesday, February 9th (half day), 2011.

This workshop will feature hands-on applications for several CIRP products. The CIRP workshop is structured to maximize hands-on applications of many of these CIRP products, with a focus on CMS and GenCade, **Personal Computers pre-loaded with software will be provided.**



For detailed information, including the agenda and to register online for the workshop, visit www.fsbpa.com/workshop.htm

Workshop Registration

Registration fee: **\$275**

[Click here to register](#)

Hotel Information

Hotel reservations for the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront can be made online. The group rate is \$125 single/double. For complete details, visit

www.fsbpa.com/techhotel.htm



CIRP workshop in New Orleans, May, 2010

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FSBPA Conferences

February 9-11, 2011

National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
Jacksonville, FL

September 14-16, 2011

FSBPA Annual Conference

Eden Roc Renaissance Miami Beach
Miami Beach, FL

OTHER DATES OF INTEREST

Florida Legislative Session

Convenes March 8, 2011, scheduled to adjourn
May 6, 2011

February 7-9, 2011

12th annual CIRP Workshop

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
Jacksonville, FL

March 1-3, 2011

ASBPA Coastal Summit

Reagan Center, Washington, DC

May 2 - 6, 2011

Coastal Sediments '11

Miami Regency Hyatt
Miami, Florida

Join us
February 9-11, 2011
24th Annual
National Conference on
Beach Preservation Technology

Conference Registration
Early Registration ends January 14, 2011

Hotel Information
Reservation deadline is January 14, 2011

**12th annual
CIRP Workshop**

Sponsored by
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Coastal Inlets Research Program

**“Modeling and Decision-Support Tools
for Coastal Inlets”**

February 7-9, 2011

**Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
Jacksonville, Florida**

For more information visit,

www.fsbpa.com/workshop.htm

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