



About Shoreline

news from the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association

January 2024

A Message from incoming FSBPA Chair Steve Boutelle



Welcome to 2024! As we watch 2023 fade away in the rearview mirror, we have a chance to reflect on the year that was and imagine the year ahead. While several regions of the state are still struggling to recover from storm impacts from the last two years, there are reasons to be hopeful. Even amid conversations of storm frequency, rapid intensification, and sea level rise, there is clear recognition of the physical, social, economic, and environmental benefits provided by Florida's beaches and dunes. That recognition has come along with amazing support from our state and federal partners in the form of regulatory provision for emergency repairs and financial assistance for communities stretched thin to repair widespread devastation. I have seen portions of the hundreds of millions of dollars in state recovery plan funding supported by the Governor and Legislature turned into restored beaches and dunes in Lee County and by my colleagues elsewhere on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts.

As the shorelines continue to shift physically, so does the political landscape. There is widespread recognition of what we have known for decades, that well planned and executed beach and dune projects are efficient and cost-effective ways to make our coasts more resilient. We saw that recognition reflected in the outstanding turnout for our second annual but first fully operational Florida Resilience Conference in Fort Lauderdale and look forward to the 3rd Annual Florida Resilience Conference, September 11-13, 2024, in Bonita Springs. But there is lots to do before we get there. With Committee meetings well underway, the 2024 legislative session is picking up steam. We will be on the lookout for any legislation related to beaches or related topics. The FSBPA staff will be sure to keep all our BeachWatch members informed so that your voices can be added to any discussion as needed. It was encouraging to see the continued support in Governor DeSantis's budget proposed budget which included \$50 million for beaches and an additional \$157 million for statewide resiliency efforts. We look forward to a successful

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National Conference on
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**2024 Tech Conference
February 7-9**

**Embassy Suites
St. Augustine Beach FL**

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of Engineers®

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session that will carry these priorities forward to final passage. And we know there is work to be done with our longtime allies at the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that the federal shore protection projects that have long been the gold standard will continue to be so in the years ahead.

Speaking for the Board and staff, we know there might be some bumps, but we are excited about the road ahead. We look forward to seeing you all at the National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology in St. Augustine Beach on February 7-9. We thank everyone for joining us on this journey, and we wish you all the best in 2024!



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FSBPA 2024 Officers and Directors

We are pleased to introduce FSBPA's 2024 Officers and Board Members. Officers were recommended by the Board of Directors and voted upon by members at the September 2023 general membership meeting. They include:

Steve Boutelle (Lee County), Chair
Janet Zimmerman (Florida Inland Navigation District), Vice-Chair
Andy Studt (Palm Beach County), Secretary/Treasurer

Officers plus the past-chair, Emily Lewis, will serve as the 2024 Executive Committee.

The 13 member **Board of Directors** are:

John Bishop, Pinellas County
Marina Blanco-Pape, Miami-Dade County
Steve Boutelle, Lee County
Damon Douglas, St. Johns County
James Gray, Sebastian Inlet District
Emily Lewis, Charlotte County
Michael McGarry, Brevard County
Charles Mopps, Town of Longboat Key
Joshua Revord, St. Lucie County
Dan Rowe, Bay County
Andy Studt, Palm Beach County
Rob Weber, Town of Palm Beach
Janet Zimmerman, Florida Inland Navigation District

The **Ex-Officio Board Members** include:

Dan Hussin, Manson Construction
Nicole Sharp, APTIM
Angela Schedel, HDR Engineering
Lainie Edwards, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
Jenny Jacobson, USACE Mobile District
Milan Mora, USACE Jacksonville District

Thank you for agreeing to serve.

Meet FSBPA's Newest Board Member - Charlie Mopps



Charles "Charlie" Mopps, the Town of Longboat Key's Program Manager and Assistant Public Works Director, was elected to the FSBPA Board of Directors by members on September 28, 2023. Charlie's experience includes working in marine and coastal industries for both private and public sectors. Charlie worked for a local engineering firm designing and permitting coastal structures, before becoming the Coastal Projects Manager for Charlotte County, a role he held for 15 years. He is a retired Army Reserve Lieutenant Colonel, with two deployments (Bosnia 1997 and Afghanistan 2011). Charlie holds a bachelor's degree in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island. His other interests include scuba diving, and traveling with his family. Charlie is a first-time board member.

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2024 Pre-Session Overview

by Pepper Uchino, President



Committee weeks leading up to the 2024 Regular Session were relatively calm for beach issues. With the normally slower starts to committee weeks during early sessions, and the interruption by Special Session C in November to deal with emergent issues including Hurricane Idalia relief, substantive bills were scarce. Like in past years when these early weeks are part of a special session, there appeared to be significant fatigue and then the lead-up to the holidays seems to temper everything. Now that 2023 has officially come to an end, we turn our energy towards this session, which runs from January 9 to March 8.

Unlike past years, FSBPA's agenda for the 2024 Legislative Session is slightly

expanded from years past. Along with our traditional advocacy for programmatic funding and beneficial policies, we are dealing with a federal easement issue, which has the potential to severely limit federal funding and may push such shortfalls to the state and local levels. In addition, as we expected, the beach dredging bill has been refiled this year again. As always, we keep close tabs on all bills that affect beaches – positive or negative. FSBPA is not pursuing any substantive language this session. Fortunately, the Legislature's dedication to beaches remains strong.

[The 2024/25 Appropriations Process and Budget Outlook](#)

Coming off another great year of funding, and with a “soft landing” predicted for the economy, especially in Florida, FSBPA's agenda for the 2024 Legislative Session remains steadfast and straightforward – protect the \$50 million in recurring funds, and advocate for full funding of the LGFR list from non-recurring trust fund or general revenue.

Speaking of budgeting, during the fourth committee week, Amy Baker, the state's lead economist, gave an update on the state's long-range economic outlook, which remains largely positive. One caveat – surpluses are being consumed faster than they are being replenished, so non-recurring spending is going to be tighter than in previous years. This trend is expected to last through next year's budget cycle as well, further reducing surpluses. Inflation, while coming down significantly, is expected to be stubborn through this fiscal year, especially on medical spending, which is a huge portion of the state's budget and may impact other funding. On the bright side, FDEP and the governor requested \$50 million from the Legislature for beaches, so there were no unwelcome surprises there. This means the governor, the department, and FSBPA are all advocating for the same level of funding. Updated fiscal numbers are expected towards the beginning of session, which will show the members the financial impacts of inflation and slower economic growth. Taken all together, Florida's economy and revenues are healthier than expected.

[Governor's Budget](#)

On December 5, 2023, Governor DeSantis released his proposed 2024/25 budget. The \$114.4B budget has several bright spots related to beaches and coasts. The first is the continuation of \$50M in programmatic funding for the statewide beach program. In addition, the governor proposes an additional \$330M to continue water quality improvements around the state, \$100M for resilience projects, \$57M for planning and coral reef protection, and \$55M to address harmful algal blooms. For a complete breakdown of the budget, visit the [Focus on Florida's Future link](#). If you have any questions regarding the budget, please contact me.

[Substantive Legislation](#)

We already know the dredging bill has been refiled in the both chambers, but another bill addressing tourist development taxes was filed in early January, [SB 1072/HB 1081](#). We are still evaluating the language, but it appears to significantly impact charter counties' ability to direct those TDT revenues. We will take a position if the initial read is correct. Please take a close look to see if your local government will be affected. As always, we will also watch for bills seeking to direct statutory allocations of limited recurring LATF dollars and new climate change/coastal resilience initiatives. If there are substantive bills or issues you would like to discuss in depth, please contact me.

We look forward to again serving the needs of Florida's beaches this Session.

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**37th Annual Conference
February 7-9
Embassy Suites
St. Augustine Beach, Florida**

**National Conference on
Beach Preservation Technology**

The 2024 National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology kicks off in less than five weeks, and we hope you will join us for an outstanding educational conference. This year's [program](#) features 62 presentations on the technologies, innovations, research, and studies being used to preserve and protect beaches and coastal systems. A few program highlights include discussions on the extensive efforts to nourish northeast Florida shorelines impacted by multiple coastal storms, why munitions and explosives of concern may be of concern for your next dredging project, the *National investment in coastal research and beach nourishment in Florida*, and *the value and resilience of beach tourism during the COVID Pandemic*.

There are also breakout sessions that focus on specific areas of interest, including:

- Inlet sand management studies
- Numerical modeling of sediment transport, SLR, and coastal morphology
- Beach project design improvements and monitoring techniques
- Case studies of beach restoration projects and coastal resilience projects
- Coastal and submerged aquatic vegetation advancements and restoration projects
- Vulnerability assessments and strategies to protect coastal infrastructure
- Emergency beach response and repair strategies from recent coastal storms

Attendees will earn 17.50 professional development hours and have ample opportunity to network with peers, clients, and friends. We are also excited to announce 11 students will be attending through the Student Scholarship Program and will be available to meet with you to discuss their ongoing research. Be sure to make your plans to attend soon. **Early registration and conference rates at the Embassy Suites close on January 8.**

Register Now!

Hotel Reservations

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Silver Luncheon Sponsors



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Pretzels & Candy Bar Break



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Friday Breakfast Break



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"Restoring Beaches as Natural Coastal Systems"



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Thank you to our 2024 Tech Conference Exhibitors



Construction Underway for Brevard County Beaches Impacted by Hurricanes Ian and Nicole

By Christopher Ren, Senior Project Manager



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Brevard County beaches were severely impacted by both Hurricanes Ian and Nicole in the fall of 2022, having lost approximately 1.3 million cubic yards of sand along the shoreline between Satellite Beach and Melbourne Beach. To put that amount of sand into perspective, that's enough to fill about 100,000 dump trucks! In response to these storms, the Corps was able to secure \$73.7 million in Federal disaster relief supplemental appropriations to repair these beaches.

A construction contract was awarded to The Dutra Group, based out of San Rafael, CA, on September 29, 2023, to rehabilitate the Mid Reach and South Reach segments of the Brevard County, FL Shore Protection Project. The Mid Reach segments covers the shorelines between the southern border of Patrick Space Force Base to just north of the James H. Nance Park in Indian Harbour Beach, FL. The South Reach segment picks up where the Mid-Reach ends and continues through Melbourne Beach ending at Spessard Holland Beach Park.

The first order of work is to rebuild a section of the Mid Reach between the Pineda Causeway and just north of Millennium Beach Park in Indian Harbour Beach, FL by April of 2024 before the nesting sea turtle season begins and beach work must stop. Construction will restart in November 2024 to complete the remainder of the Mid Reach and all of the South Reach by April 2025.

The sand that will be placed on the beaches comes from the ocean floor in an area known as Canaveral Shoals II (CS-II), located about 8 miles east of Port Canaveral and managed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). CS-II has long been the source for many beach construction projects in Brevard County, having provided over 11 million cubic yards of excellent quality sand since its first use in 2000.

For many beach construction projects in Florida, sand is dredged from the ocean floor by a hopper dredge and then pumped through pipelines directly onto the beach and spread by bulldozers. While that concept will be used for rebuilding the South Reach, directly pumping sand to the Mid Reach beaches cannot be done due to the abundance of environmentally sensitive nearshore rocks that support a diverse number of organisms. Therefore, in order to build the Mid Reach segment, the sand will first be stockpiled in an area immediately north of Spessard Holland Beach Park before being loaded onto dump trucks and taken to the Mid Reach for placement.

The Mid Reach and South Reach segments were last renourished between 2019 and 2021, also by The Dutra Group with many of the same team members that worked on that renourishment also working on the current rehabilitation effort. The Corps continues to work in close partnership with the Brevard County Natural Resources Management Department to ensure coastal infrastructure and the local community are better protected and more resilient to storms like Hurricanes Ian and Nicole.

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Fusing and installation of pipeline near Spessard Holland Beach Park in preparation to begin rehabilitation of the Brevard County, FL Shore Protection Project Mid Reach and South Reach segments December 19, 2023.

Credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Construction of the Brevard County, FL Shore Protection Project by The Dutra Group during the 2019 - 2021 renourishment
Credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Join Us February 6-7 in Tallahassee for
FLORIDA OCEANS DAY 2024

**Focusing on
Florida's Blue Economy:
Building a Sustainable Future**

Save the Dates

Feb 6
2024

Fish Fry & Member Exhibits, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Hosted by Florida Institute of Oceanography
The Florida Capitol, South Plaza
Contact: Chris Sharp, cssharp@usf.edu or
727-553-3388

Feb 7
2024

Legislative Reception, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Hosted by MOTE Marine Laboratory & Aquarium
The Florida Historic Capitol Museum
Contact: Kevin Claridge, kclaridge@mote.org or
941-388-4441 ext 275

Florida Oceans Day is hosted by:



Shoreline

A monthly electronic publication of the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association.

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Vice-Chair

Janet Zimmerman, FIND

Secretary-Treasurer

Andy Studt, Palm Beach County

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Emily Lewis, Charlotte County

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USACE Mobile District, Jenny Jacobson

FDEP, Lainie Edwards

Dan Hussin, Manson Construction

Nicole Sharp, APTIM

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS**FSBPA Events**

February 7-9, 2024

37th Annual National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology

Embassy Suites, St. Augustine, FL

September 11-13, 2024

3rd Annual Florida Resilience Conference

featuring the 67th FSBPA Annual Meeting

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, Bonita Springs, FL

Other Events

2024 Legislative Session

January 9 - March 8

March 26-28, 2024

2024 ASBPA Coastal Summit

National Association of Counties Building

Washington, D.C

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