

Shoreline

May 2008

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By Lisa Armbruster and Debbie Flack
FSBPA Governmental Affairs



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Florida Institute of Technology Report: Florida's Changing Sea Level

By Professor George A. Maul, Ph.D.
Department of Marine and Environmental
Systems

Key West has the distinction of being the Western Hemisphere's longest sea level record. It dates back to 1846, and although it has several multi-year gaps, it shows a long-term trend of rising sea level of about +2 mm per year. Records such as those at Key West are a measure of the ocean's surface relative to fixed survey points on land called benchmarks, and is titled relative sea level (RSL). Changing sea level is a study of the inter-annual trends calculated by a linear least-squares fit to ...

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Sand Source Issues for Dade County Beaches

By Brian Flynn
Special Project Administrator
Miami-Dade County DERM

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Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems: Status of Beach Management Projects

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The 2008 Legislative Session Wrap-up

By Lisa Armbruster and Debbie Flack, FSBPA Governmental Affairs

Sitting down to summarize the 2008 legislative session – my first real glimpse into the very foreign process – the analogy of a roller coaster comes to mind. This legislative session and, from what I gather, many legislative sessions, have their ups and downs with brief pauses to catch a breath. Just when you sit down, diligently planning your next steps and feeling somewhat in control, an unexpected surprise sends you working on a new challenge, revising and rethinking your next steps.

The Budget ---- Conference Report on House Bill (HB) 5001

As Session began, FSBPA recognized that given the state's budget crisis, it would certainly have some work to do to secure FSBPA's long-standing and uncompromising position of \$30 million dedicated funding for beach projects. DEP submitted their request for a \$6 million budget to support Bureau staffing and operations along with a project priority list that totaled only \$20 million. The remaining projects fell to the alternate list. This initial position was quite troublesome in itself, given Chapter 201.15 (11), Florida Statutes' \$30 million allocation from documentary (doc) stamp revenues dedicated to the "preservation and repair of the state's beaches." Similarly, the Governor's recommended budget allocated \$25 million for the Bureau and projects, combined. However, the Governor's budget also included a corresponding conforming bill permanently reducing the doc stamp allocation for beaches to \$25 million.

As FSBPA set out to preserve the statutory allocation of \$30 million for beach projects, the Revenue Estimating Conference doc stamp allocations (for final budget preparation) surfaced, and a shocking reality set in. The state budget crisis was evident in the doc stamp revenues, and FSBPA realized that when there is no money, there is simply just no money! After covering debt services on various environmental land acquisition programs, the Transportation Trust Fund, and alternative water supply, the remaining funds for beaches totaled a paltry \$1.1 million. Simply put, at this point, there was no beach program! FSBPA absorbed this news and quickly transitioned from preserving the allocation of \$30 million new dollars to saving the program and securing funding for as many projects as possible.

In response, and after many hours, numerous and detailed spreadsheet analysis, and with the full involvement of the best appropriations staff, the General Appropriations Act (HB 5001) allocates nearly \$19 million in reverted dollars for FY 2008-2009 statewide beach management, in addition to fully funding the Bureau. Just as detailed as the initial analysis to get there, the funding for FY 2008-2009 beach management comprises 17 distinct reverter sections to describe the allocation of previously-appropriated beach dollars. The approach has the additional benefit in that it draws down a very large beaches trust fund balance, of which the Governor's Office has been quite critical. In addition, Senator Jones, in creative budget proviso and committee discussion, reminded us that dedicated beach management funding cannot be all things for all purposes. Without affecting ranking or order on the DEP project priority list, in proviso in Specific Appropriation 1748 of HB 5001, he reduced non-project specific funding recommendations for FY 2008-2009 in order to provide an additional \$6.8 million in state dollars for local government beach projects.

Lessons certainly rise from this challenging and excruciating budget exercise. Of most significance is that FSBPA has a responsibility to preserve dedicated beach funding for its intended purpose of constructing beach management projects and placing sand on Florida's beaches. Notably, the line item budget category in the appropriations bill is entitled "Grants and Aids to Local Governments and Nonstate Entities – Fixed Capital Outlay Beach Projects." While in the past, the funding level has been able to support the liberal use of the beach dollars to fund the bureau and program staff support, statewide activities, and in-house consulting services, these activities must be absorbed, as they were historically, in the Bureau's base budget. We must take this lesson to heart; alternatively, next year, this "grants and aids to local governments" funding might do little more than fund the Bureau, program staff support and post-construction monitoring.

In summary, the Conference Report on House Bill 5001 includes \$5,901,094 Bureau funding, \$18,935,695 from reverted dollars for statewide beach projects on the DEP projects list, and proviso language which results in an additional \$6,833,727 million for statewide beach projects. It also includes new dollars in the amount of \$3 million for only those projects on the FY 2008-2009 DEP alternate project list to complete those projects that were partially funded with 2007-2008 funds reverted in Section 33 of the 2007, Laws of Florida. These additional funds were added at the end of the conference process. The total allocation gives \$27,836,789 for beach management in FY 2008-2009, plus proviso. Hopefully there will be an appreciation for the need to compensate for unanticipated doc stamp shortages that were unforeseen in the Governor's budget recommendation, as we wait and see how this creative financing for the beach program is received by the Governor's Office. Notably, we must recognize that line-item vetoes are not out of the question. We must also hope that this April's revenue shortages are not an indicator of potential budget cuts for FY 2008-2009.

As an example of unexpected surprises, after the conference process was complete, conference bill (one of many) CS/SB 1882, traveling with the Appropriations Act, surfaced – notably, without discussion or debate in the conference process. CS/SB 1882 deals with the "distribution of excise taxes," or as we refer to "doc stamps" – the dedicated funding source for beaches. For doc stamp recipients (except debt service on bonds), there is now a variable distribution (percentage) as well as a fixed allocation, with the lesser amount prevailing. FSBPA has historically been strongly opposed to anything less than the \$30 million allocation. However, keeping in mind this year's initial allocation of \$1.1 million for the entire beach program, and given the current revenue forecasts, at least CS/SB 1882 affirms that beaches will get their proportionate share of the doc stamp revenues. We must also recognize that this bill predicts a short-term future of limited funding for beaches. The variable estimated distribution for beaches is projected to be just over \$15 million next year, and it is expected to ramp back up to \$30 million over five years.



Before closing on the budget discussion, one last piece of proviso language, unrelated to the \$6.8 million reallocated to beach projects, is also contained in Section 1748 of the Conference Report on House Bill 5001. This proviso, in response to a number of expressed legislative and local government concerns, calls for the creation of a working group to review the effectiveness of Florida's beach management program. The group shall include the Secretary of DEP or designee, representatives from city and county general government associations, a beach government-based association, scientific and technical experts, a local coastal government representative, a multi-contract manager, and an environmental/coastal stakeholder. The review must include, but is not limited to, the following: the responsiveness and timeliness of the permitting process for beach and dune projects; project selection and funding procedures, contract management, and expenditure accountability; post-construction monitoring; and mitigation. A report to the Governor and Legislature is due January 15th, 2009.

Inlet Management ---- CS/HB 1427 (Representative Mayfield)

Despite the necessary focus on the beach budget, FSBPA began the Session also directing its efforts on major beach management legislation related to the state's inlet management. CS/HB 1427, sponsored by Representative Stan Mayfield, and the Senate companion CS/CS/SB 1672 by Senator Dennis Jones, enjoyed widespread support through four committee stops and floor passage, and the bill is now on its way to the Governor. In brief, the legislation redirects and recommits the State's beach management program to more effectively address beach erosion caused by Florida's inlets. This bill's content has been well-documented in previous [Shoreline](#) newsletters, and can be read in its entirety on the Florida legislative websites. While FSBPA owes special thanks for support to DEP, the Florida Association of Counties, the League of Cities, many individual local government members, the Caribbean Conservation Corporation, Surfrider, and the Florida Coastal and Ocean Coalition, it owes a very special thank you to Dr. Bob Dean. After all, it was Senator Jones who wisely noted from Dr. Dean's presentation at the FSBPA 50th Anniversary Conference this past September that it is imperative that we manage our inlets better! FSBPA takes pride in this legislation, and we hope it represents an important milestone for Florida's beach management program that we all can be proud of.

Given the current fiscal challenges, the inlet management bill's impact may take a bit longer to become clear; however, this legislation now provides a framework for improved and reemphasized inlet management as a viable and weighted component of the beach management program. In the near term, DEP can start to develop the administrative rules and begin to update existing or create new Inlet Management Plans for the State's inlets, and prepare for implementation of such plans.

Other Notable Session Activity

In other beach related news this past Session, the Florida Forever bill – SB 542 – contains new coastal language in the intent section of the bill and the work plan (largely due to Caribbean Conservation Corporation). However, the language is linked to climate change, and contrary to our desire, it does not provide an acquisition opportunity for beach properties to support prudent coastal development practices and effective beach management.

Surfrider championed beach access legislation – CS/SB 2622 – which was passed by the Senate Environmental Preservation Committee, but the House did not take up the bill. FSBPA spoke in support of the bill language which focused on “private beach” signage on public beaches. Such signs, especially seaward of ECL's on our restored beaches, are very concerning and potentially very damaging to the program, and we hope Surfrider will revisit these efforts next year.

Wrap-up of the Wrap-up!

Looking back, this was a very challenging first Session for me. However, I see that these challenges are likely not uncommon. The roller coaster will likely evolve in future sessions, especially considering the ongoing statewide funding crisis. FSBPA should be proud of the landmark inlet management legislation that will be an important component of Florida's successful beach management program. What began as a \$1.1 million doc stamp allocation, insufficient to even fund the Bureau, turned into a total beach budget of nearly \$28 million. This funding evolution relies on reverter provisions that draw down the current trust fund balance in a careful and appropriate manner. Proviso language takes the first step in recognizing that the dedicated funding source for beaches can't be used for everything and anything; these funds are meant to serve beach projects. These fiscal challenges will surely follow us into next year, and new ones will arise! Lastly, additional proviso detailing a formal assessment of several components of the beach program will hopefully begin to address some growing frustration related to permitting, funding, contract management, mitigation, and monitoring of our ever increasingly important beach nourishment, shore protection, and inlet management projects!

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Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems: Status of Beach Management Projects

By Paden Woodruff

This article will provide a brief description of proposed projects to be constructed later this year, including beach restoration, dune rehabilitation, and beach and dune nourishment for areas of critically eroded shoreline in Florida. The list does not include all of the projects in the feasibility or design and permitting phases.

Nassau County: The Nassau County Federal Shore Protection Project will restore approximately 4.4 miles of critically eroded shoreline between reference monuments R-11 and R-34 in Fernandina Beach. Approximately 1.73 million cubic yards of sand from an offshore borrow source will be used to construct the project, which is scheduled for this summer. The estimated construction cost is \$14.1 million.

St. Johns County: As a result of impacts from Tropical Storm Noel in 2007, St. Johns County received cost sharing from the state to construct a two mile dune restoration project between monuments R-84 and R-94 in South Ponte Vedra Beach. The County has located an upland sand source and applied for a Coastal Construction Control Line permit. The scheduled start date for the project is November 1, 2008 and the total cost is estimated to be \$3 million.

Volusia County: The Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND), in coordination with Volusia County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is constructing a dune restoration project along 2.73 miles of critically eroded beach between R-160 and R-175 in New Smyrna Beach using maintenance dredging material of the Intracoastal Waterway. The project is under construction and scheduled for completion this fall. Construction is being funded by FIND and the federal government.

Brevard County: As a result of Tropical Storm Noel in 2007, dune restoration was conducted along the Mid Reach Section of the Brevard County Shore Protection project located in Satellite Beach/Indian Harbour Beach, and the South County segment located between R-141 and R-202. Estimated construction costs for both segments total \$3.1 million and construction was completed on April 29th, 2008.

Indian River County: The City of Vero Beach sponsored a dune restoration project along Conn Beach in February 2008. Approximately 4,500 cubic yards of material from an upland source was placed between R-76 and R-79 at a project cost of \$130,000.

Martin County: A dune restoration project is proposed by the County this fall at Bathtub Beach Park between R-34.5 and R-36 to replace material lost as a result of Tropical Storm Noel in 2007. Approximately 25,000 cubic yards will be obtained from the St. Lucie Inlet flood shoal.

Palm Beach County: The Lake Worth Inlet Implementation Plan, benefiting from the Palm Beach Harbor maintenance dredging, is currently under construction with a permitted extension through May 15, 2008. Approximately 100,000 cubic yards of material is being placed landward of the mean low water line on the downdrift beach south of the inlet. This is a federally authorized project, which the state may cost share on approximately \$300,000 of the incremental portion of placing sand on the beach if required.

Palm Beach County completed a sand bypassing project at South Lake Worth Inlet on March 20, 2008. The material was placed in the Ocean Ridge Beach template between R-155 and R-157. The project consisted of interior sediment trap dredging and maintenance dredging in the Intracoastal Waterway and related channels. Approximately 89,000 cubic yards of material was placed with an estimated cost of \$918,265.

The City of Boca Raton proposes to nourish the North Beach Nourishment Project this fall/winter. The project will place approximately 780,000 cubic yards of material from an offshore borrow source along the north end of the City between R-205 and R-212. Construction costs are estimated to be \$7.7 million.

The City of Boca Raton proposes to nourish the South Beach Nourishment Project with approximately 124,000 cubic yards of material from an offshore borrow source along the shoreline extending from Boca Raton Inlet approximately 4,000 feet south between R-223 and R-227. Construction costs are estimated to be \$1.56 million with an anticipated construction date of fall/winter 2008.

Broward County: In February 2008, an innovative technology project involving the Pressure Equalization Module System (PEM's) was installed between R-6 and R-12 in the Town of Hillsboro Beach immediately south of the Deerfield Beach groin field. PEM's are plastic pipes with micro-slots cut into the buried portion of the pipe that allows water into the pipe like a well point. Three rows of PEM's were installed along 5,000 feet of shoreline and will be monitored over the next three years for an overall project cost of \$1.2 million.

The Hillsboro Beach truck haul nourishment project is designed to place approximately 14,000 cubic yards of material via truck haul from an upland source along the shoreline between R-6 and 500 feet south. The project is scheduled for construction in 2008 with an estimated construction cost of \$605,000.

Hillsboro Inlet is required to bypass approximately 120,000 cubic yards of beach quality sand per year from the inlet to the critically eroded beaches of the Broward County Segment II project area. In April 2008, the Hillsboro Inlet District purchased a new dredge for \$1.6 million that is more efficient and can better measure production rates.

Miami-Dade County: The Bal Harbour, Sunny Isle section of the Miami-Dade County federal project is being permitted and portions of it are expected to be constructed this fall.

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Monroe County: The Curry Hammock State Park Restoration Project located in the City of Marathon removed marl fill and a derelict rock revetment from the park shoreline and replaced the marl with a sandy beach. Approximately 14,000 cubic yards of sand from an upland borrow source was truck hauled to construct the project with an estimated cost of \$948,650. The project was completed April 30, 2008.

Escambia County: The Perdido Key Beach Restoration Project will restore 6 miles of critically eroded shoreline between R-1 and R-34. The project will include three miles of dune restoration and three miles of beach and dune restoration using approximately three million cubic yards of sand from an offshore borrow source. The project is scheduled to begin this fall/winter with an estimated construction cost of \$14.5 million.

Bay County: The federal Panama City Beaches Shore Protection Project located between R-5 and R-92 will place nourishment material along two areas this fall/winter. The nourishment will include placement of approximately 600,000 cubic yards of sand on the western 4.5 miles of the project and the eastern 3.2 miles of the project. The estimated cost of construction is \$10 million.

Construction of the Mexico Beach Inlet mobile sand bypassing system is expected to begin in the winter of 2008 which will include rehabilitation of the west jetty. The dredged material discharge pipe was constructed below the inlet and buried along the shoreline extending 2,000 feet east of the inlet in spring of 2008. The discharge pipe included four fixed discharge valves located every 500 feet along the pipe to facilitate the discharge of material dredged from the inlet. The estimated cost of constructing the entire bypassing system is approximately \$1.5 million.

Gulf County: The St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration Project is currently under construction and will restore 7.5 miles of critically eroded shoreline between R-67 and R-105. Approximately 3.6 million cubic yards of sand from two offshore borrow areas will be used to construct the project. The estimated cost of constructing the project is \$22 million. Construction began in March 2008 and is expected to be complete in fall 2008.

Pinellas County: The Honeymoon Island State Park Interim Restoration Project restored approximately 2,600 feet of critically eroded shoreline between R-8 and R-10.6 including construction of a low-profile permeable T-head terminal groin. Approximately 160,000 cubic yards of material from the Hurricane Pass ebb shoal borrow area was used to construct the project with an estimated construction cost of \$1.9 million. The project was completed in January 2008.

Sarasota County: The Lido Key Nourishment Project will place material along a 1.5 mile segment of critically eroded shoreline between R-35.5 and R-44.2. Approximately 449,400 cubic yards of sand from the New Pass Channel borrow area will be used to construct the project. The estimated cost of constructing the project is \$5.5 million with an anticipated start date of fall/winter 2008.

Lee County: The Blind Pass Ecosystem Restoration Project will remove approximately 111,000 cubic yards of beach quality material from the closed pass channel and place the material on Sanibel Island between R-115 and R-118. Construction is expected to begin in September 2008 with an estimated total cost for feasibility, design, construction, monitoring and mitigation of approximately \$3.5 million.

The Captiva Island and Sanibel Island Nourishment Project is currently placing approximately 80,000 cubic yards of material along two project areas to mitigate for previous storm season impacts. Construction is scheduled for completion by May 31, 2008 with the federal government paying the construction costs.

We are pleased to have some new local sponsors, as well as our experienced ones, in or near the construction phase. All our partners have been quite busy as we near the completion of storm recovery activities and plan for the next phase of maintenance and program improvements.

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Sand Source Issues for Dade County Beaches

By Brian Flynn
Special Project Administrator
Miami-Dade County DERM

In late 2007, Assistant Secretary of the Army John Paul Woodley, Jr. issued a memorandum authorizing the Corps to include non-domestic sand sources in their ongoing investigations of material for the future nourishment of the Miami-Dade County shore protection project. This landmark decision comes at a time when this issue has reached the critical stage: Miami-Dade and Broward, counties, have for practical purposes, exhausted their traditional offshore sources of borrow material, and have had little success in identifying alternative domestic sand sources.

While the consideration of non-domestic sands for beach nourishment in Florida dates back to the 1960's, serious development of foreign sources was not initiated until the mid 1990's. In anticipation of pending shortages of offshore sand, the Corps, DEP, and Miami-Dade County hosted a series of three workshops in 1995 to bring together agencies and industry to identify potential future sand sources. As expected, nearby sources in the Caribbean basin, such as the Bahamas Bank, dominated the

discussions, and work to investigate these sources in greater detail was initiated soon after those meetings. This effort included interagency environmental studies of Bahamian aragonite, and a formal request by the Corps to the Bahamian government to conduct geotechnical assessments of potential sources within their territories.

These efforts ground to a halt in the late 1990's due to a provision of the 1986 Water Resources Development Act, which stated, in effect, that the Corps could consider non-domestic sand sources for beach nourishment only if it could be demonstrated that no viable domestic sources were available, for economic or environmental reasons. To comply with this provision, the Corps implemented a tiered assessment of domestic sources, beginning with upland sources, and progressing to any domestic source of material. A 2003 solicitation for upland sources yielded several bids, but none was awardable due to financial constraints. As a revised Corps solicitation, open to any domestic source, was in preparation in 2007, prospective bidders unanimously indicated that the St. Lucie Shoal, located in Federal waters offshore the Martin/ St. Lucie County line, would be the selected source. In series of public scoping meetings held as part of the Corps environmental compliance process, however, it became clear that vehement public and political opposition to Miami-Dade utilizing those sources, would be problematic or impossible. Comparable opposition, or simple lack of sufficient quantities of beach quality material excluded other potential sources on the east coast of Florida.

Having considered the most viable domestic sand sources for the Miami-Dade County project without success, the Corps Jacksonville District initiated preparation of a letter report documenting their efforts to identifying a viable domestic source, concluding that the test prohibiting the use of non-domestic sources had been met, and requesting authorization to consider foreign sources in their investigations of future sand sources for the Miami-Dade project. This report was forwarded for concurrent review to the Corps Atlanta and Washington offices, who ultimately concurred with the report conclusions, leading to Assistant Woodley's memorandum. In reviewing the report, the Corps took a holistic view of what actions were needed to maintain the project now and into the future, and requested three action items:

Initiate immediate nourishment of eroded segments of the Miami-Dade project using any and all currently available sand sources. These sources would include the last remaining borrow site offshore of Miami-Dade, backpassing of sand from accretional segments of the project, and any other source that might be identified in the development of the project.

Initiate investigations of potential non-domestic sources that might provide nourishment material for the future maintenance of the project.

Complete a Regional Sediment Management Plan for the east coast of Florida to identify and quantify all viable sand sources in both State and Federal waters.

While work has begun on each of these initiatives, considerable challenges still remain regarding the use of non-domestic sand sources. These challenges range from satisfactorily addressing environmental issues such as marine turtle nesting and introduction of exotic species, to procedural ones, such as developing exactly how the material will be procured and by whom. Other important factors, such as cost, are difficult to estimate due to the number of variables associated with non-domestic sources. In spite of these challenges, however, expanding the universe of options to include non-domestic sources for the nourishment of southeast Florida's beaches greatly enhances our ability to maintain these critical natural and economic resources.



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DEP Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Geotextile Containers

The Department of Environmental Protection has initiated rulemaking for proposed new Chapter 62B-56, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). This Chapter implements the amendments to Section 161.085 of the Florida Statutes, covering all sand-filled geotextile containers used to protect upland structures. It includes requirements and procedures for issuance, denial, transfer, modification, suspension, and revocation of Construction and Maintenance Permits for sand-filled geotextile containers used as the core of a reconstructed dune. It also includes criteria and financial assurance requirements for the removal of such structures.

A corrected "[Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#)" was published in the Florida Administrative Weekly (FAW) on May 9, 2008.

If requested a hearing for this chapter will be held at the following:

DATE AND TIME: May 28, 2008, 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems Training Room, #309
5050 West Tennessee Street
Tallahassee, Fl.

In addition, conforming changes will simultaneously be made to Chapter 62B-33, F.A.C. to clarify that all geotextile containers as the core of a reconstructed dune shall be governed by the new Chapter 62B-56, F.A.C.

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US Army Corps of Engineers: Jacksonville District Project Status

Feasibility Studies:

- St. Johns County - Beach-fx data gathering is ongoing in Summer Haven and an extension of the Vilano reach running to the north jetty of St. Augustine Inlet. Bathymetric surveys of offshore borrow areas are planned for early summer to refine borrow source delineations. The survey area is currently being defined.
- Volusia County - on hold. No non-Federal funding.
- St. Lucie County - cultural resources work and State Historic Preservation Officer coordination are being completed by the Corps. Work has been delayed due to foul weather conditions and conclusion of fieldwork is now anticipated in June 2008. The non-Federal sponsor will be completing the remainder of the study work.
- Flagler County – Beach-fx data gathering has begun. Beginning work to publish a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS. Shoreline process data collection and modeling to begin this FY.

Other Major Planning Reports:

- The Brevard County Mid Reach General Reevaluation Report (GRR) is in the draft report preparation phase. The project team continues to address comments raised by USACE Headquarters during the Alternative Formulation Briefing (AFB) (November 2007) and prepare the draft report. The draft report is expected to be complete in June 2008.
- The North Boca Raton Second Periodic renourishment revised final Limited Reevaluation Report was prepared in response to comments from the Corps' South Atlantic Division (SAD). The report package will be returned to SAD in May 2008.
- The Draft Ft. Pierce Shore Protection project GRR completed by the non-Federal Sponsor has been revised and final review is taking place by SAJ. The GRR seeks an additional 50-years of Federal participation in the project as well as the inclusion of groins to the project area.
- Broward County Shore Protection project - Segment I (north county line to Hillsboro Inlet) - GRR and NEPA document - Initiation of preparation of the GRR and NEPA document for initial construction of this segment is awaiting Federal and non-Federal funds to be provided to the Jacksonville District. A Design Agreement was executed in 2006 with the city of Deerfield Beach in order for the Jacksonville District to initiate preparation of the document.

Other:

- The cost sharing addendum based on changes in shoreline ownership has been finalized for Lee County, Gasparilla SPP Project, Final cost sharing was revised to 54.4% Fed - 45.6% non-Fed.
- Official comments were received from SAD on the Brevard Independent Coastal Expert Letter Report. The report is currently being revised at the Jacksonville District.

Borrow Site Investigations:

- Martin County and Sarasota County borrow area investigations are underway. Geotechnical field work is complete for both studies, and the bathymetric survey field work is complete for Martin County. In addition, the Corps is beginning to evaluate borrow area alternatives offshore of Martin and St. Lucie Counties. Bathymetric surveys for Sarasota will commence soon.
- The Pinellas County, Sand Key borrow area investigation is underway. Geotechnical work and surveys will be completed this Summer.
- Hard bottom mapping for Martin County is scheduled for this summer.
- A revised version (per Headquarters comments) of the Dade County Sand Source Letter Report has been sent to SAD and to Headquarters. On 10 December 2007, the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) sent a memo to the Director of Civil Works recommending a three-tiered approach to meet Dade County's beach renourishment needs:
 - 1) Consider use of emergency sand reserves in current borrow area SGC-Ext 1 and remaining material in other traditional borrow sources offshore of Dade County.
 - 2) Examine the viability of non-domestic sand sources for intermediate and longer-term renourishment needs.
 - 3) The remaining Florida coastal domestic sand sources should be evaluated through a comprehensive Regional Sediment Management (RSM) plan to address long term needs along Florida's Atlantic coast.

Work on Plans and Specs to meet Tier 1 is beginning. All economically and environmentally feasible domestic sources are being considered for placement on the Dade Co. project. Discussions regarding political and logistic concerns related to Tier 2 have begun with stakeholders. A Scope of Work is being developed to address the Tier 3 directive.

Regional Sediment Management:

- Three complete regional sediment budgets for the sandy coast of Florida are available. A large push is being made to participate in the Gulf of Mexico RSM initiative, utilizing existing stakeholders to assist in a regionalization of information and technology.
- The Southeast Atlantic Regional Sediment Source Study for Florida has been completed by GEC and Halcrow for SAJ. This Regional Sediment Management report approximates the volume of sand that remains offshore of Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties and compares that volume with the amount required by Federal and non-Federal nourishment projects over the next 50 years. This report marks a collaboration between the State of Florida, non-Federal sponsors, private industry, and the USACE to evaluate the sustainability of Florida's current beach nourishment program.

Construction:

- The Lee County, Captiva Island FCCE Rehabilitation Project was awarded to Weeks Marine Inc. and will be constructed in early Spring 2008.

Job Opportunities

Coastal Engineering Consultants, Naples, FL is seeking Senior Coastal Engineer/Scientist for Branch Office Manager Position in Louisiana. Unique opportunity to manage projects of national significance in restoring and protecting Louisiana's fragile coastal system. Plus the chargrilled oysters are the finest in the world. Send Resume in confidence to: mpoff@cecifl.com

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Calendar of Events

June 26 —27, 2008

Florida Coastal Law Conference
Miami, FL
<http://www.cle.com/miacoast>

August 31-September 5, 2008

International Conference on Coastal Engineering
Hamburg, Germany
<http://icce2008.hamburg.baw.de/>

September 10-12, 2008

FSBPA Annual Meeting
South Seas Plantation
<http://www.fsbpa.com/annual.htm>

October 15-17, 2008

ASBPA Fall Conference
Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza
www.asbpa.org

February 16-18, 2009

10th Annual CIRP Workshop
TradeWinds Island Resorts
St. Petersburg Beach, FL

February 18-20, 2009

National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology
TradeWinds Island Resorts
St. Petersburg Beach, FL

April 6-10, 2009

National Hurricane Conference
Austin Convention Center
Austin, TX
www.HurricaneMeeting.com

September 16-18, 2009

FSBPA Annual Meeting
Amelia Island Plantation
Amelia Island, FL

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**A monthly electronic publication of the
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