



Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association Monthly Newsletter AUGUST
2025 EDITION



2025 Florida Resilience Conference Updates

featuring FSBPA's 68th Annual Meeting

"Adapting Today; Powering Tomorrow"

In just over a month, FSBPA, in partnership with Resiliency Florida, will kick off the 4th Annual Florida Resilience Conference at the stunning Sunseeker Resort in Charlotte Harbor. [The current program](#), featuring four concurrent themed tracks (Beach Management, Energy Management, Gray & Green Infrastructure, and Smart Planning), is now available on [the conference website](#). We are pleased with this year's agenda and invite you to take a few minutes to review the lineup of distinguished speakers and sessions.

We are especially honored to welcome Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez (District 40), Chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, who will deliver the Opening Keynote Address, and Colonel Brandon Bowman, Commander of the USACE Jacksonville District, who will provide updates on federal shore protection programs.

Also of note:

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FDEP August Updates

- Senator Jay Trumbull (Florida District 2) is invited to speak on recently passed legislation that allows local governments to once again adopt ordinances recognizing recreational customary use of beaches.
- The Florida Division of Emergency Management will share expert guidance on reimbursement procedures for Category G Beach Projects.
- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection will present on state funding, required regulatory monitoring, inlet sand bypassing strategies, and its partnership with USGS to develop a Florida Seafloor Mapping Initiative for resource managers.

Many other excellent presentations are planned throughout the three-day event, and we encourage you to review the full program and make plans to stay through the conclusion of the conference!

As in previous years, there are no formal plans for Thursday afternoon, offering a perfect opportunity for one-on-one networking, exploring Fisherman's Village, or relaxing on the rooftop with unforgettable views. Or, if you're feeling competitive, join in a fun game sponsored by Live Wildly Foundation (details to come!).

For evening flair and tradition, Thursday night will feature the FSBPA Awards Banquet, where we'll celebrate the notable achievements of our peers. This year's Award Recipients will be announced next month.

Please plan to join us September 17-19! For more information, email us at mail@fsbpa.com.

Thank you to our 2025 Florida Resilience Conference Sponsors!



Our 2025 Florida Resilience Conference Sponsors!



Registration is Open



Secure your spot at the conference today!

Early registration rates are available through **August 20, 2025**.

For more information on registration fees and to register, visit the [Registration page](#).

Hotel Reservations



- Group Rate \$229 single/double and a reduced resort fee of \$15 per day, plus tax
- Self-parking is complimentary for overnight guests. Day self-parking is \$17 per day.
- The hotel will honor the group rate as long as rooms remain in FSBPA's block or by **August 20, 2025, whichever occurs first**.

[Click here](#) to make your reservation online & for reservations by phone, call: [\(833\) 914-7300](tel:8339147300).

*When making your reservation by phone, please mention **Florida Resilience Conference** to receive the group rate.*

Notice of Proposed Bylaws Amendments & Annual Business Meeting

The 2025 Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association will be held on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 12:10 p.m., during the Florida Resilience Conference at the Sunseeker Resort, Charlotte Harbor. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

The meeting agenda will include:

- Approval of the minutes from the 2024 Annual Business Meeting
- A financial update
- Approval of the 2025 Slate of Officers and Directors
- **Consideration of proposed amendments to the association's bylaws**

****NOTICE: This serves as formal notification of proposed revisions to the bylaws, as required.**

The last updates to FSBPA's bylaws were approved by the general membership on September 25, 2015. At the February 5, 2025, board meeting, Chair Janet Zimmerman requested a staff-led, periodic review of the bylaws. Following the review, several suggested revisions were discussed by the board at its June 16, 2025, meeting and formally approved in July for membership consideration.

Summary of Proposed Amendments:

1. Conflict of Interest Language: New provisions define what constitutes a conflict of interest for board members and establish expectations for compliance as a condition of board service.

2. Clarification of Board Member Removal Procedures: Language has been added to outline specific causes, grounds, and procedures for removal of a director from the board.

3. Definition of Executive Committee Role: Clarifies the responsibilities of the Executive Committee between full board meetings.

4. Meeting Formats and Voting Procedures: Updates reflect current and practical meeting formats (e.g., virtual participation), proper notice requirements, and acceptable voting methods, including electronic voting.

The board of directors has approved these proposed amendments and authorized their inclusion in this newsletter to meet the notice requirement. The amendments will be presented for a formal vote of the general membership at the 2025 Annual Business Meeting.

Annual Business Meeting
Thursday, September 18, 2025
12:10 p.m.
Sunseeker Resort, Charlotte Harbor

A full copy of the proposed amendments to the bylaws is available [HERE](#)

If you have questions about the proposed changes, please [call the FSBPA office](#) or email us at mail@fsbpa.com.

FSBPA 2026 Tech Conference Call for Abstracts is Open!



We are excited to announce that the Call for Presentations is now open for the 2026 National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology!

We welcome abstract submissions from professionals involved in coastal engineering, environmental science, coastal management, and related fields. This is an excellent opportunity to share your work, research, and innovations with peers from across the country.

Primary Topics:

- Shore Protection Projects and Coastal Management
- Coastal Research and Environmental Science

Additional Topics:

- Sea Level Rise and Coastal Resilience
- Beach and Nearshore Hydrographic Surveying Technology
- Dredging Technology
- Living Shorelines
- Environmental Resource Protection and Mitigation Projects
- Construction of Coastal Piers and Other Structures
- Beach Operations and Maintenance
- Red Tide and Other Harmful Algal Blooms
- Storm Surge Modeling

Who Should Submit?

- Public and Private Sector Engineers
- Environmental Scientists
- Coastal Geologists
- Marine Scientists and Biologists
- Academic Researchers
- Coastal Surveyors
- Dredging Industry Professionals
- Coastal Managers and Local Government Representatives

Submission Deadline: October 13, 2025

Location: Embassy Suites, St. Augustine, FL

Conference Dates: February 4–6, 2026

For full details on abstract topics and submission guidelines, please visit [here](#) or contact us at mail@fsbpa.com.

We look forward to your participation!

Article Spotlight - FDEP Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection August 2025 Updates

Anastasia Island Beach Mice Surveys:

Alice Bard, a beach mice expert, has been surveying beach mice since 1993. Her expert surveys take place quarterly in the same locations, marked with pink tape. She uses seasonal traps baited with black oil sunflower seeds, a snack that the mice love and won't attract ants — a discovery made years ago by a student of hers.



Tagging a beach mouse.

On the mornings of June 18 and 19, staff from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Beaches, Inlets and Ports Program (BIPP) and Division of Recreation and Parks, joined Bard on her Anastasia Island Beach Mice surveys, alongside the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Over the two days, staff visited 40 different stations, with two traps at each station. For every mouse captured and released, staff recorded their sex, checked for a tag or tagged them with an individually numbered ear tag, noted reproductive status, estimated age and recorded their weight. After data collection, all mice were released at the site of capture. Staff caught eight mice on the first day and 10 on the second.

The field work assisted the BIPP team to gain a better understanding of the beach mouse habitat within the state park and at Crescent Beach, located just outside the park. Recent storm activity, including nor'easters in 2021 and Hurricane Nicole in 2022, significantly impacted Crescent Beach's dune system. Due to this documented habitat loss, Crescent Beach will soon be designated as critically eroded by DEP (2025). This critical erosion designation will establish criteria to identify the erosive influences and strategies to mitigate this erosion, such as dune restoration and planting or beach nourishment. Additionally, activities carried out by local governments that are consistent with these strategies then become eligible for cost share through grants administered by the Beaches Funding Assistance Program in DEP.

Time spent at Anastasia State Park remains as magical as ever. However, it is an important reminder that Anastasia Island is one of the few remaining places where the endangered beach mice are endemic. Alongside natural threats, coastal development and human-related activities — such as walking and biking through dune areas, introducing cats and removing native vegetation — have further degraded their habitat. DEP safeguards these areas by enforcing regulations that limit coastal development in sensitive areas, protects native vegetation and educates the public on how to minimize disturbances to wildlife. These combined efforts help maintain the delicate balance necessary for the endangered beach mouse and other species to thrive.



Releasing a beach mouse.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Local Government Funding Requests (LGFR) Review Schedule:

Staff will be reviewing the FY 2026-27 LGFR submittals adhering to the following schedule:

- Draft project assessments released: Sept. 5, 2025
- Local sponsor comments due: Sept. 26, 2025
- Signed Resolution due: Sept. 26, 2025
- Final project assessments released: Oct. 10, 2025
- Draft LGFR released for external review team: Oct. 24, 2025
- External review team comments due: Nov. 7, 2025

For questions related to the LGFR review period or process, contact John Irving, Environmental Administrator of the Beaches Funding Assistance Program at John.Irving@FloridaDEP.gov

Hurricane Restoration Reimbursement Grant (HRRG) Funds

In record time, the remaining HRRG funds, which was \$6.5 million, were allocated to the Town of Longboat Key, St. Lucie County, and Lee County for local government beach projects.

New Faces in Beaches, Inlets and Ports

Dakota Molewicz and Emily Daehler joined the permitting and compliance teams.

Molewicz holds a master's degree in natural resources from Virginia Tech and five years of supervisory experience in the U.S. Navy. He has also volunteered on several habitat restorations, sea turtle protection, and community awareness campaigns.

Daehler earned a bachelor's degree from Auburn University in marine biology and is a certified diver. She has volunteer experience in designing aquariums for the Auburn Museum of Natural History and has conducted fieldwork and laboratory research at Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

Welcome, Dakota and Emily!

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

Calendar of Events

FSBPA Events:

August 20: Last day to secure

Officers Chair

Janet Zimmerman, FIND

Vice-Chair

Andy Studt, Palm Beach County

Secretary-Treasurer

Mike McGarry, Brevard County

Past-Chair

Steve Boutelle, Lee County

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John Bishop, Pinellas County

Alan Dodd, City of Wilton Manors

Jessica Fentress, Volusia County

Jessica Garland, Martin County

James Gray, Sebastian Inlet
District

Charlie Mopps, Town of Longboat
Key

Joshua Revord, St. Lucie County

Dan Rowe, Bay County

Matthew Spoor, Pinellas County

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USACE Jacksonville District,
Milan Mora

USACE Mobile District, Jenny
Jacobson

FDEP, Lainie Edwards

Cheryl Miller, Coastal Eco-Group

Brett Moore, Humiston & Moore

Lynn Nietfeld, Great Lakes

Dredge & Dock

FSBPA Staff

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Executive Director: Jackie Larson

Technical Director: Lisa
Armbruster

Office/Conference Manager: Teri
Besse

Communications/Events

Specialist: Alexis Brown

your hotel reservation

August 20: Early registration for
the 2025 FRC ends

September 17: 2025 FRC begins

September 18: Annual FSBPA
Business Meeting

September 18: Annual Awards
Banquet

October 13: 2026 Tech
Conference Abstracts Due

February 4-6: 2026 National
Tech Conference



**Visit our Conference
Website!**



**FLORIDA SHORE & BEACH
PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION**
A League of Cities and Counties on Beach and Coastal Issues

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