



Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association Monthly Newsletter  
SEPTEMBER 2025 EDITION



## 2025 Florida Resilience Conference Updates

featuring FSBPA's 68th Annual Meeting

### "Adapting Today; Powering Tomorrow"

The countdown is on! We're a couple weeks away from the 4th Annual Florida Resilience Conference, taking place September 17–19 in Charlotte Harbor. This year's program brings together experts, policymakers, and industry leaders to address Florida's future across energy, infrastructure, smart planning, and beach management.

We're honored to welcome Senator Ana María Rodríguez, Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, as our Opening Keynote Speaker. Representing Florida Senate District 40 (Monroe County & part of Miami-Dade), Senator Rodríguez will deliver valuable perspectives on Florida's Environmental Outlook on Policy and Funding. Join us on Wednesday, September 17 at 1:15 PM in Great Egret A as she sets the tone for meaningful conversations on resilience, policy, and the future of Florida's environment.

With dynamic sessions, networking opportunities, and a focus on innovative solutions, this year's conference is not to be missed.

Link to our program [here](#).

Register now and join us September 17-19! For more information, email us at [mail@fsbpa.com](mailto:mail@fsbpa.com) or visit our [conference website](#).

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## 2025 FSBPA Award Recipients

We are thrilled to recognize the outstanding contributions of this year's award winners. The annual Awards Banquet is a cherished tradition, bringing our members together to honor the achievements of coastal champions and colleagues.

Join us at 6:30 p.m. at the Sunseeker Resort, Charlotte Harbor, as we celebrate their extraordinary work and dedication. We look forward to sharing this special evening with you!

A heartfelt thank you to our Premier Gold Banquet Sponsor, Freese & Nichols, and Patron Sponsors, Coastal Protection Engineering, Ecological Associates, Inc., Kimley-Horn, and Lewis, Longman & Walker. We also extend our sincere appreciation to Humiston & Moore Engineering for their long-standing support as our Awards Plaque Sponsor.



### **Bob Dean Coastal Research Award**

We are honored to recognize Dr. Ping Wang with the Bob Dean Coastal Research Award for his exceptional contributions as a Professor in the School of Geosciences at the University of South Florida.

Dr. Wang has significantly advanced the understanding of beach and coastal processes through his research in sedimentary processes, nearshore wave and current dynamics, beach–inlet interactions, coastal morphodynamics, and numerical modeling. Equally noteworthy is his dedication to mentorship, reflected in the achievements of the many doctoral and master's students who have studied under his guidance—truly embodying the legacy of this award's honored namesake.

He was nominated by Elizabeth Royer, Zachary Westfall, and Drs. Tiffany Roberts Briggs, James Houston, and William Dally for his enduring contributions to improved coastal management and resiliency.



### **Jim Purpura/T.Y. Chiu Engineering Award**

Michael Dombrowski is this year's recipient of the Jim Purpura/T.Y. Chiu Engineering Award in recognition of more than 35 years of expertise in coastal and marine engineering, shoreline restoration, and structural solutions.

Michael's remarkable career includes numerous contributions to enhance coastal protection and preservation, including feasibility studies that evaluate design alternatives to reduce erosion, attenuate waves, stabilize shorelines, and enhance navigation. He has also led the development of effective strategies for the long-term management of shorelines and designed cost-effective, innovative restoration and coastal structure projects.

Among his most notable achievements is the successful completion of the three-mile Mexico Beach Restoration Project following the devastating impacts of Hurricane Michael.

Michael was nominated by Lisa Armbruster and Kimberly Shoaf for his

tireless dedication to Florida's beaches and for advancing sound, resilient engineering solutions for coastal communities.



### **Suzi Fox Environmental Award**

We are pleased to announce that Niki Desjardin will receive the Suzi Fox Environmental Award this year for her unwavering commitment to protecting Florida's coastal habitats and wildlife.

For more than 20 years, Niki has played a vital role in balancing resource protection with project implementation for coastal restoration projects. As the Co-President of

EAI, she has helped develop several habitat conservation plans and led numerous volunteers in shorebird nesting data collection as the Treasure Coast Shorebird Partnership Coordinator. Earlier in her career, Niki conducted sea turtle surveys and research for the Loggerhead Marinelife Center and coordinated sea turtle nest protection efforts after the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill—further demonstrating the depth and impact of her contributions.

Nominated by Jessica Garland and Jimmy Sellers, Niki's enduring dedication and the inspiration she provides to those working to safeguard Florida's most valuable natural resources reflects the ideals and contributions of Suzi Fox, whom this award honors.



### **Public Service Award**

This year's Public Service Award goes to William "Guy" Weeks in recognition of his 30 years of unparalleled dedication and outstanding service in the government sector, particularly toward the preservation and enhancement of Florida's beaches and inlets.

Throughout his career at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection,

Guy has served countless coastal stakeholders and communities. He has been instrumental in the strategic planning and management of projects to repair the state's most critically eroded beaches, spearheaded the department's Annual Inlet Report, and played a leading role in Erosion Control Line hearings for initial project construction. Respected for his collaborative approach and extensive expertise—from survey and mapping to project funding and emergency response—Guy continues to make a lasting impact on Florida's coastlines.

Nominated by Greg Garis, James Gray, and Tom Pierro, his career stands as a model of professionalism and public service.

These awards not only recognize individual excellence but also celebrate the collaborative spirit that drives our community forward. We extend our sincere thanks to this year's honorees for their enduring commitment to Florida's coastal future. Please join us in congratulating this distinguished group as we honor their remarkable achievements together.



Explore Charlotte Harbor during the 2025 Florida Resilience Conference! Discover local dining, outdoor adventures, and scenic spots. Visit Sunseeker Resort Charlotte Harbor for more information.

See Things to Do!



## Thank you to our 2025 Florida Resilience Conference Sponsors!



## 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 2026 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](mailto:mail@fsbpa.com).

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## Additional Summit Opportunity – Come Early for More Learning



We're excited to announce that the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP) will be hosting its fifth annual Southwest Florida Resiliency Summit from September 16-17 at the Sunseeker Resort in Charlotte Harbor.

This is a regional public event for local scientists, land managers, policy makers, and resource users to share the latest regional science, hurricane impacts, and recovery information, as well as to address challenges impacting Central and Southwest Florida.

For more details, visit their conference site at [SWFL Resiliency Summit](#)

# Abstracts is Open!



The Call for Presentations is now open for the 2026 National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology!

We invite professionals in coastal engineering, environmental science, coastal management, and related fields to submit abstracts. Don't miss this opportunity to share your research, innovations, and insights 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](mailto:mail@fsbpa.com).

We look forward to your participation!

[Call for Abstracts Link](#)

**Article Spotlight - FDEP Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection**  
**September 2025**

## Resilient Florida Rulemaking:

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is hosting a rule development workshop for the Statewide Resilience Plan (Chapter 62S-8.003, F.A.C.) on Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 1:30 p.m. EDT at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building, Room 137A, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Tallahassee, FL, 32399. For those unable to attend in person, a virtual option will be available. Please register on [GoTo Webinar](#).

The workshop will focus on legislatively mandated updates to the scoring system for assessing project eligibility for inclusion in the Statewide Resilience Plan.

A [Notice of Rule Development](#) was published in the Florida Administrative Register on July 31, 2025.

Learn more about [DEP's Resilient Florida Program](#).

## Coastal Construction Control Line Rulemaking Begins

The department is beginning the process of rule amendments to the CCCL Rule 62B-33, F.A.C. Chapter 62B-33, F.A.C., provides procedures for permits for coastal construction and excavation seaward of the coastal construction control line. The rules include definitions, exemptions, general criteria, application requirements and procedures for areawide and individual permits, procedures for coastal armoring and related structures, survey requirements and electronic submittal information. A Rule Development Workshop for amendments to 62B-33, F.A.C., is being held on **Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025**, at 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 pm EST in conference Room 609, at the Bob Martinez Center, 2600 Blair Stone, Tallahassee 32399, with a virtual option available. Please register here: [Rules and Procedures for Coastal Construction and Excavation Rule Workshop](#).

The proposed changes to the rules in chapter 62B-33, F.A.C., will provide necessary form updates and add clarity to the rule consistent with statutory language. Additionally, the amendments will update the armoring provisions in rule to add definitions for replacements and upgrades, which often occur after storm events. It will also add language to incorporate sea level changes into the design and permitting process and add minimum design standards. Finally, it will adjust the threshold for vulnerability for public infrastructure, based on more frequent storms occurring to meet the definition of a high frequency storm event.

A [Notice of Rule Development](#) was published in the FAR on August 07, 2025.

Obtain a copy of the draft rule here: [Draft Rule](#)

## Critical Erosion Report Updated.

The 2025 version of the Critical Erosion Report is available at: [Critically Eroded Beaches](#). This year's report added 17.9 miles, bringing the total to 451.1 miles of critical erosion in Florida out of 850 miles of sandy beach shoreline. The longest additions were in St. Johns County at Crescent Beach; 3.6 miles in Indian River County between Wabasso and Vero Beach; and 2.2 miles in Flagler County.

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

### Officers Chair

Janet Zimmerman, FIND

### Vice-Chair

Andy Studt, Palm Beach County

### Secretary-Treasurer

## Calendar of Events

### [FSBPA Events:](#)

**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

Mike McGarry, Brevard County

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Visit our Conference  
Website!



FLORIDA SHORE & BEACH  
PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

A League of Cities and Counties on Beach and Coastal Issues

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