

Shoreline

November 2008

Hillsboro Beach Truck Haul: A Project of Opportunity

The Town of Hillsboro Beach recently completed a truck haul beach nourishment "project of opportunity" to mitigate an erosional hot spot. Increased construction costs and a lack of economically available beach compatible sand sources have resulted in counties and municipalities developing creative solutions to restore critically eroded shoreline.

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2009 National Conference on Beach Technology

The 2009 National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology, February 18-20 at the Tradewinds Island Resorts in St. Petersburg Beach, is beginning to take shape.

All indications are that this will be one of our best programs ever.

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Annual Meeting Survey Results



Why did we enjoy an excellent turnout at the FSBPA Annual Meeting in Captiva in the face of government tightening of travel and a menacing hurricane lurking off the Southwest Florida coast?

While we didn't ask that specific question, we did survey past meeting attendees to find out what they like about our meetings and what they'd like to see changed.

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USACE Jacksonville District: Project Status



Feasibility Studies:

- St. Johns County – Beach-fx economic modeling has begun. Bathymetric surveys of offshore borrow areas were delayed due to survey boat technical difficulties but are expected to be completed by December. Surveys will then be used to refine borrow source delineations.
- Volusia County - on hold. No non-Federal funding.

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[Palm Beach DERM Status Report](#)

FSBPA Welcomes Charlie Hunsicker to the Board of Directors



We are delighted to have Charlie Hunsicker on our Board of Directors. He has been a member of FSBPA since 1998, and is a former recipient of the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association's Environmental Award (2002).

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An Interview with Phil Flood

Phil Flood, recipient of FSBPA's 2008 Per Bruun Distinguished Service Award, is well known to many of our members for his dedicated service to Florida's beach program and the many beach communities around the state which benefited from his efforts. Phil served with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems (and it's various earlier names) from Management District.

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Hillsboro Beach Truck Haul – Project of Opportunity

By Paden E. Woodruff, DEP, Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems; and John F. Studt, Coastal Systems International, Inc.

The Town of Hillsboro Beach recently completed a truck haul beach nourishment “project of opportunity” to mitigate an erosional hot spot. Increased construction costs and a lack of economically available beach compatible sand sources have resulted in counties and municipalities developing creative solutions to restore critically eroded shoreline. The Town is located on a barrier island and enforces an ordinance requiring that all excavated sand from building foundation construction remain within the Town limits. In 2007, a source of beach compatible sand from within the Town was identified. The beach compatible material resulted from a local construction project which involved excavating a boat basin adjacent to the Intracoastal Waterway and foundation excavation on a separate lot east of A1A. Excavated sand from both of these sources was stockpiled together on a vacant lot in the Town, approximately ½ mile south of the beach placement site. After receiving all necessary permits during the early stages of the marine turtle nesting season in June 2008, the Town constructed the Project using the locally available sand.

The Town is located in the northern portion of Broward County and borders the City of Deerfield Beach to the north and Hillsboro Inlet to the south. The erosional hot spot is located in the northern portion of the Town, immediately downdrift of a groin field in Deerfield Beach. Permit applications for the project proposed the use of two upland sources of beach compatible sand; the Ortona Sand Mine in LaBelle, Florida and the locally excavated sand. This approach provided the Town with the flexibility they needed to plan and implement the project. Close coordination was required to sufficiently manage the design, permitting, and construction schedules for this Project.

Permit applications for the Project were submitted on August 27, 2007 and processed through the Corps of Engineers (COE), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department (EPGMD). The project proposed placement of approximately 14,000 cubic yards of fill material along 430 feet of beach. Although the Project was small in scope and only impacted sandy dry beach and intertidal and subtidal areas with small areas of relict beach groins exposed by erosion, a number of issues were raised during the permitting process. These issues included potential direct and indirect impacts to the recently listed species of coral *Acropora cervicornis* and *A. palmata*, potential impacts to foraging areas for marine turtles, potential impacts to nesting marine turtles, and the compatibility of the proposed local source of sand. A Biological Opinion was required from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service due to the potential impacts to nesting marine turtles.

The Town is also conducting a demonstration project utilizing an innovative technology to address shoreline erosion on the northern one mile of the Town’s shoreline. The Town placed Pressure Equalizing Modules (PEM’s) in the beach down to the mean low waterline. The PEM’s were placed in the beach in late February 2008. A total of 33 rows of PEM’s were placed within the 1 mile of shoreline downdrift of the groin field. Two rows of PEM’s were placed within the eroded beach at the site of the truck haul project (430 feet). The permitting agencies agreed that the 14,000 cubic yards of material proposed to be placed within the truck haul project area would not have a substantial impact on the monitoring of the PEM’s, but would be incorporated into the experimental test plan accounting for the volume of fill material. The Town is monitoring the effectiveness of the PEM’s over a three year experimental test period.

From January through May 2008, Coastal Systems International, Inc and the Town worked with the permitting agencies, resulting in the commencement of project construction in early June. Based on an in-water survey, no colonies of the listed coral species were observed and the agencies ultimately agreed that the proposed Project would not result in any direct or indirect impacts to the hardbottom resources located approximately 450 feet offshore.



Sand screening operation for material to place on the beach



Sand screening operation for waste material at the stockpile location

Hillsborough Beach Truck Haul

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Since loggerhead and green turtle nesting season becomes active in June, both the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service required construction activities to cease on June 15, with several restrictions to protect nesting marine turtles. As a result of the permit process, special conditions requiring daily surveying for new marine turtle nests and the relocation of any nests identified by the surveys were included in the issued permits.

In anticipation of permit issuance, the Town bid the project and committed to entering into a contract with Eastman Aggregates Enterprises, LLC immediately upon issuance of all permits. The DEP permit was issued on May 28, 2008 and the COE permit was issued on June 2, 2008 and Eastman quickly mobilized and began construction on June 5, 2008. An upland hopper was utilized to accept truckloads of sand and a conveyor system delivered the sand to the beach through a narrow access corridor, limited to approximately 20 feet wide by 200 feet long. Since all work, including grading of the placed material and removing machinery from the beach, had to be completed by June 15 and since work could not continue at night, only 9,000 cubic yards of material was placed. The 9,000 cubic yards of sand was obtained locally, with no material brought in from the Ortona mine. The material was screened to ensure the highest-quality sand was placed on the beach. Use of the local source of sand resulted in a cost savings of approximately \$33.80 per cubic yard, or \$304,200.00. The unit costs of the project are provided in Table 1; total project costs were \$339,840.

Table 1 – Material and Construction Costs

Materials	Cost (per cubic yard)
Sand Purchase from Property Owner	\$ 8.40
Screening/Loading	\$ 3.17
Hauling, Placing and Grading	\$13.22
Subtotal (cost per cubic yard)	\$24.79
Construction	
Mobilization/Demobilization	\$ 5.83
Surveying	\$ 2.64
Temporary Fencing/Tilling	\$ 1.60
Vibration Control & Monitoring	\$ 2.90
Subtotal (cost per cubic yard)	\$ 12.97
Total (cost per cubic yard)	\$37.76

The local source of sand was determined by the DEP to be beach compatible based on the results of the geotechnical evaluation. The local material was also acceptable for marine turtle nesting, as one nest was observed in the beach in early July. By the end of marine turtle nesting season, a total of three nests were observed in the new material.



Conveyor systems placing sand on the beach



Final grading of project

The project was completed in 10 days with approximately 9,000 cubic yards of material. Although the volume of sand is small in comparison to large nourishment projects, the Town was able to complete an economical project utilizing excavated local material to provide improved storm protection for upland property and infrastructure. The use of this locally available sand resulted in significant cost savings to the Town, as compared to the cost of using known beach compatible sand from a distant sand mine. DEP project managers and geologists visited the site on June 17, 2008 to observe the sand quality and the sand sorting operation. This project provided an interim measure addressing erosion in a hot spot south of the Deerfield Beach groin field. On July 3, 2008, the Town applied for a more comprehensive beach nourishment project that will extend from approximately 1,300 feet north of the Town's boundary and a total of 7,150 feet.

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FSBPA Annual Meeting Survey Results

By Debbie Flack
Governmental Affairs Director

After a successful annual meeting in September on Captiva, despite menacing threats from Hurricane Ike, we decided to examine why. We fully recognize that during these challenging times we must earn your conference attendance, taking nothing for granted. We emailed surveys to former FSBPA Annual Meeting attendees to seek input regarding future site selections and attendee needs/wants at the destination resorts for FSBPA's annual fall meetings.

We are not sure whether it's a case of "no news is good news" or something on the negative side of the equation, but the number of survey responses was a modest 70. We did, however, receive a number of separate congratulatory comments or single questions or statements. In turn, we must be very cautious in interpreting results given this low survey response rate. So we will instead note trends and make observations rather than draw specific conclusions.

Where Should We Meet?

With FSBPA's long history, not unexpectedly there is a wide range of opinions regarding site selection. The single location at the top of the list of "favorite" destinations is Amelia Island. This is fortunate since our next annual meeting is already planned for Amelia Island Plantation, September 16-18, 2009. The Keys are also a very popular destination with a number of our regulars listing Hawks Cay and Ocean Reef (Key Largo) as preferred sites. Boca Raton and Ft. Lauderdale (Marriott Harbor Beach) were also frequent responses. Captiva is still a favored destination for many. However, it was also the most frequently mentioned "least" favorite destination. Must be something to the saying "familiarity breeds contempt."

We sought information regarding what is important in determining these favored meeting locations to help us review new meeting sites. Not surprising, ease of travel and facility amenities were the most frequently mentioned considerations. On the other hand and quite surprisingly, the Association's historical efforts to rotate annual meetings between the east and west coasts is not that important to attendees, giving us the discretion to consider geographic location as just one of many considerations. A Panhandle destination still must be cautiously considered, with over a third of the respondents answering it would decrease the likelihood of annual meeting attendance. This is, no doubt, related to "ease of travel" and the cost of that travel. Any future Panhandle site consideration obviously must be reviewed in light of convenient air travel and good roads, as well as attractive accommodation rates to offset higher travel costs.

When Should We Meet?

As you know, annual meetings have been held in August as well as October, but we usually meet in September. With a recent number of close calls with storm events, we thought it was appropriate to question our September preference, despite the advantages it has in terms of site availability and rates. Well, the significant preference of survey respondents is to keep things as they are - - September the choice, toward the end of the month the preference. There was modest interest in holding annual meetings in August, making it a viable fall-back position.

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FSBPA Annual Meeting Survey Results

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What Should our Awards Program Look Like?

We have not been very adventuresome when it comes to the annual awards banquet, and that seems quite acceptable to many of you. However, we have the encouragement from a majority of survey respondents to “try an extended cocktail party with hot/cold appetizer buffet, with abbreviated awards banquet.” At an appropriate opportunity during future contract negotiations, we will try to determine if an “upscale” extended cocktail party is a viable alternative in terms of cost. If so, it will make a nice change of pace. Most of our respondents did not care whether we had sit-down service or buffets at the awards banquet. This is useful information for us to have since buffets are usually more expensive.

Amenities and Welcome Cocktail Reception

We also confirmed in this survey that a variety of choices in sleeping accommodations should not be a primary consideration in site selection. A vast majority of respondents stay in hotel rooms during our conferences. What is instead important to our attendees is a variety of eating alternatives in close proximity to the resort and a variety of “gathering” spots on site. Free internet service is an important amenity as well. Complimentary parking and an exercise facility were frequently noted as desired amenities.

Finally, there was a considerable majority of survey respondents who wanted us to reinstate our welcoming hour get-together the first evening of the annual meeting, especially if we could secure sponsors. If not possible, they were more than willing to go to a cash bar the next evening before the awards banquet to provide the opportunity for the welcoming hour social.



On behalf of our Conference Planning Committee, (Steve Boutelle, Don Donaldson and Tom Campbell) we thank those of you who took the time to respond to the annual meeting survey. The results will prove useful to the Board of Directors and staff in future site selection and event planning. Late next spring, we will be seeking your input regarding topics and issues for next year’s Amelia Island Annual Meeting.

Thank You!

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FSBPA Welcomes Charlie Hunsicker to the Board of Directors

By Debbie Flack
Governmental Affairs Director



"I draw my greatest job satisfaction from building environments which will serve generations to come."

Charlie Hunsicker

We are delighted to have Charlie Hunsicker on our Board of Directors. He has been a member of FSBPA since 1998, and is a former recipient of the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association's Environmental Award (2002).

Charlie has held various positions with Manatee County, beginning in 1977. He is currently the Director of the Natural Resources Department, responsible for a staff of 32, and a \$5.1 million operating budget. Charlie oversees extensive land stewardship activities over Manatee County's 30,000 acres across 15 preserves; manages the budget for environmental land acquisitions and restoration; and directs the county-wide beach management program. The latter involves a nourishment program for 6.1 miles of Gulf beaches, coastal structure construction, and state and federal authorizations and appropriations requests for periodic beach nourishment on Anna Maria Island.

Charlie's professional goals are to continue serving the public of Manatee County as the Director of the Natural Resources Department, and to establish and maintain a widely-recognized reputation for the County as a source of information and innovation for land and coastal management practices, passive recreational endeavors, and environmental protection.

FSBPA is indeed fortunate to be the beneficiary of Charlie's recognized planning background, his enthusiasm, and years of experience coordinating a local government beach management program.

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2009 National Conference on Beach Technology

The 2009 National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology, February 18-20 at the Tradewinds Island Resorts in St. Petersburg Beach, is beginning to take shape.

All indications are that this will be one of our best programs ever.

Our Planning Committee, flush with new members and a mandate to put together a top notch program, is now reviewing more than 60 abstracts on projects located in the U.S. and abroad, including California, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Barbados, Grand Cayman, Trinidad, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. We plan to have our speaker program put together and available on our website in the last week of November.

And we're meeting in a very nice hotel on a top-notch beach, with lots to do nearby after hours.

WARNING: In years past, we've been able to offer groups rates somewhat beyond the cut-off date, even for attendees who waited to make their reservations a day or so before the meeting started. That is **NOT** the case this year. Please make your reservations on or before the hotel's cut-off date (January 16, 2009) or you certainly won't get a room at the group rate and you might not be able to get a room at all.



2009 Conference National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology

Planning Committee

Executive Members:

Michael Barnett, P.E., Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Kevin Bodge, Ph.D., P.E., Olsen Associates
Douglas Mann, P.E., Coastal Planning & Engineering

Members:

Karl Havens, Ph.D., Florida Sea Grant
Robert Dean, Ph.D., P.E., University of FL
Michael Walther, P.E., FL consulting (Coastal Technology Corp.)
C. Scott Hardaway, Jr., Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Jonathan Gorham, Ph.D., FSBPA Board of Directors and Indian River County
Jason Engle, P.E., USACE-JAX
Lynn Bocamazo, P.E., USACE-NY
Bill Curtis, USACE-ERDC
John Ramsey, P.E., Massachusetts consulting (Applied Coastal Research & Engineering)
Spencer Rogers, Jr., North Carolina Sea Grant
Kenneth Banks, Ph.D., P.E., FL environmental and Broward County
Todd Walton, Ph.D., P.E., FSU Beaches and Shores Resource Center
Scott Douglass, Ph.D., P.E., University of South Alabama

USACE Jacksonville District: Project Status

Feasibility Studies:

- St. Johns County – Beach-fx economic modeling has begun. Bathymetric surveys of offshore borrow areas were delayed due to survey boat technical difficulties but are expected to be completed by December. Surveys will then be used to refine borrow source delineations.
 - Volusia County - on hold. No non-Federal funding.
 - St. Lucie County – Jacksonville District will be initiating Beach-fx work during FY09. The non-Federal sponsor will be completing the remainder of the study work.
- Flagler County –Beach-fx economic modeling has begun. Parking, public access, and shore protection structure surveys were completed in July. A draft Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS has been prepared. Shoreline process data collection and modeling has begun. The sponsor plans to have a draft borrow area document completed by January 2009.



Other Major Planning Reports:

- The Brevard County Mid Reach General Reevaluation Report (GRR) team has completed the draft report. The report is currently in agency technical review. Following review, the report will be submitted to our higher authority for approval to release to the public.
 - The North Boca Raton Second Periodic renourishment revised final Limited Reevaluation Report was approved by Corps' South Atlantic Division (SAD) in June 2008. SAD endorsed the Project Cooperation Agreement package for Corp's Headquarters review and approval in September 2008.
 - Jupiter/Carlin Shore Protection Project - Palm Beach County has started a 934 report/NEPA document for Jupiter/Carlin Segment to extend Federal participation for the next renourishment.
 - Guidance has been requested from higher authority on the review process for the Draft Ft. Pierce Shore Protection project GRR completed by the non-Federal Sponsor. 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 non-Federal funds to be provided to the Jacksonville District. Segment II – GRR Addendum and NEPA document – Sponsor has initiated their GRR Addendum for the upcoming renourishment.

Other:

- The Brevard County, Florida Independent Coastal Expert Letter Report has been revised per SAD, HQ, and Planning Center of Expertise (PCX) comments. The revised report underwent Agency Technical Review (ATR) by the PCX in September 2008. Final review will take place in Jacksonville in November, and the final report will undergo Policy Review and concurrent review by HQ and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.
- In Dade County work was funded for a section 227 project at 63rd Street in Miami to be reinitiated in August 2008. A design and build contract is being evaluated in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) and Reef Innovation, Inc. Genesis modeling will need to be done to determine the minimum structure footprint and the exact project location.

Borrow Site Investigations:

- Martin County and Sarasota County borrow area investigations are underway. 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 are complete, and further core borings will be taken to better define areas suitable for dredging.
 - The Pinellas County, Sand Key borrow area investigation is underway. Geotechnical work and surveys are complete. The sponsor will be applying to the FL DEP for permits to use the borrow area.
 - Hard bottom mapping for Martin County is completed. Work is underway on hydraulic modeling for the borrow area.
- Plans & Specs have begun in order to utilize all remaining domestic sand sources offshore of Dade County as directed by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) in his 10 December 2007 memo to the Director of Civil Works recommending a three-tiered approach to meet Dade County's beach renourishment needs. SAJ met with the State DEP in October to coordinated data collection and permit needs for anticipated work.

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. The report is currently available on: <http://planning.saj.usace.army.mil/rsm>. 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 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.

Further direction from HQ on the Dade County Letter Report – Alternative Borrow Source Investigation has indicated that a Regional Sediment Management (RSM) plan to address long term needs along Florida's Atlantic coast will serve as an addendum to the Letter Report. The scope of work for this plan is being coordinated with the State of Florida DEP and work is expected to begin early in FY09.

Construction:

- The Lee County, Captiva Island FCCE Rehabilitation Project is complete.
- Initial nourishment of the Nassau County Shore Protection Project has begun with completion expected by the end of October 2008.

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An Interview with Phil Flood, 2008 Recipient of the Per Bruun Distinguished Service Award

Phil Flood, recipient of FSBPA's 2008 Per Bruun Distinguished Service Award, is well known to many of our members for his dedicated service to Florida's beach program and the many beach communities around the state which benefited from his efforts. Phil served with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems (and its various earlier names) from 1990 until 2006, when he left to accept a position with the South Florida Water Management District. We asked Phil to reflect on his time at the Bureau. We hope that you will find this brief interview with Phil as interesting and insightful as we did.

Shoreline: What did you most enjoy in your job with the Beach Management Program? And least enjoy?

Phil: Hands down, the best part of the job is the great people involved throughout the state in beach management. Meeting with the communities, interacting with the local officials, and working with the consulting community always kept the job fun. And there is no better feeling than going to the ribbon cutting ceremony and seeing all of the folks that worked so hard to make a project happen, and seeing the community enjoy their new beach. Permitting has to be the toughest part of the job. No matter how much coordination you do, or how many studies and information you provide, it's never enough. It's disheartening, at times, how long it takes to address some of the permitting concerns.

Shoreline: How did the Beach Management Program evolve notably during your years with the Bureau?

Phil: The program expanded from a grant program that simply gave funding to local governments to providing technical assistance and outreach. We put forth a large effort to educate the communities on the importance of beach management to encourage local governments to address their erosion problems. The Bureau provides a great service to communities by offering guidance on how to develop support for beach management activities and offering assistance to local governments from the planning phases through the construction of a project.

Shoreline: What project did you find the most interesting? The most challenging?

Phil: All of the projects are interesting because each of the communities are so different and the projects all have different nuances about them. The most challenging project had to be the Knight Island Beach Restoration that included relocating Stump Pass. The project required Governor and Cabinet approval to sever the southern end of a State Park and to conduct new dredging in an Aquatic Preserve. It was very controversial at the state and local levels and required extensive coordination with the public and elected officials. Just days before construction, a protected shore bird nested within the footprint of the project necessitating a redesign of the project requiring state and federal permit modifications, a new sea grass survey and revised mitigation plans. In less than a week, Coastal Engineering Consultants and Charlotte County obtained all of the authorizations needed and the project moved forward, resulting in a very successful project.



Phil Flood receives the 2008 Per Bruun Distinguished Service Award from Steve Boutelle and Debbie Flack at FSBPA's Annual Meeting in Captiva. His citation reads: "You represent all that is good in Florida's successful beach management program – leadership and commitment that will not be forgotten"



Catching up with old friends at the 2008 FSBPA Annual Awards Banquet

An Interview with Phil Flood, 2008 Recipient of the Per Bruun Distinguished Service Award

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Shoreline: What part of the Beach Management Program would you change if you could?

Phil: That's easy: no permits required and plenty of money for all projects. But since that's not a reality, I'd like to see the contracting process streamlined by modifying or eliminating the scope of work review process. It is a big time consumer to Bureau staff and doesn't appear to save much time with the permit review process as it was originally envisioned to do.

Shoreline: With your new perspective, what do you see as the biggest challenges to the Beach Management Program?

Phil: Funding, funding, and funding. Given the current economic climate it's likely to be even more difficult to obtain federal funding and more challenging for the local communities to obtain their local share. At the state level, we need to continue the ongoing effort to educate the incoming legislators and insure that the Legislature as a whole understands the economic and ecological importance of appropriate beach management. Also, sediment quality has always been a concern of the general public and the environmental community. If only someone could find the mother lode of high quality sand, our lives would be so much easier!

Shoreline: Briefly, what you are doing in your new role with the SFWMD?

Phil: As the Director of the Lower West Coast, I'm involved in just about everything the District does, including water conservation efforts, environmental resource permitting, water supply planning and permitting, environmental restoration, and water quality improvements. My personal goal is to improve the water quality of our area, so I try to stay involved in our education and outreach activities and fund as many community stormwater and environmental restoration projects as possible. Fortunately, I still get to spend a lot of time working with the local communities and elected officials.

Shoreline: Do you miss us as much as we miss you?!

Phil: More than you know. I have pictures of beach projects on the walls of my office and I still keep track of some of the projects that I worked on. Sometimes I think my staff gets tired of hearing me talk about the projects and those good old days at the Bureau!

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South Cove Restoration

PBC has received notification that FDEP has scheduled the administrative hearing for the South Cove permit petition for February 3, 2009.

Peanut Island

Storm activity and extreme high tides in September has further eroded away Peanut Island's southeastern shoreline. ERM is currently working on a plan to add additional sand to the eroded beach and is evaluating modifications to the swimming lagoon.

Juno Dunes Natural Area Project

Palm Beach County staff will submit a project agreement with the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) for restoring a portion of the Juno Dunes Natural Area that is under lease with FIND. FIND will agree to cover the approximate \$2.5 million project costs that will include the restoration of mangroves and seagrass habitats, the construction of a boardwalk, floating docks, two story observation tower, picnic tables, kiosk and paved foot paths. This site will be accessible to the walking trails that connect the entire Juno Dunes Natural Area Property.



Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) awards grants for two County Projects

The John's Island Oyster Reef Project will receive \$250,000 which will cover about 1/3 of the project costs for constructing 5 acres of oyster reef east of John's Island in the Lake Worth Lagoon. Including the \$265,000 grant from the Lake Worth Lagoon Partnership Program, about 2/3 of the costs of this project will come from outside sources of funding. The Snook Islands Public Use Facility will receive an additional \$559,575 which will save County funds that were previously earmarked for this project. Over 1/2 of the costs of this project will now come from outside funding sources.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) awards grants for two County Projects

The County will receive two \$100,000 grants to cover portions of two projects scheduled for completion in 2009. The Snook Islands and Juno Dunes Natural Areas Public Use Facilities will each receive \$100,000 to go towards the construction of docking facilities to accommodate water taxi services.

Work to begin on 3 new projects

A marine contractor is expected to begin work in November on: 1) a breakwater project along the Intracoastal north of the Ocean Avenue Bridge in Ocean Ridge and Boynton Beach to protect mangroves; 2) a limestone boulder and pre-cast concrete module mitigation reef to be constructed just north of the City of Riviera Beach's Municipal Beach in 8-12' of water to mitigate for impacts in Juno Beach; and 3) a shallow water oyster reef project near John's Island.

Tequesta Bridge may become an artificial reef

Staff received notice that officials would like to demolish the Tequesta Bridge and construct an artificial reef off the Jupiter coast. If the slab portions of the bridge are laid crossways on 2-3' high beams, this bridge could create significant ledges for snook and goliath grouper. The County has permits for a 30-40' deep artificial reef site near Jupiter Inlet that would be suitable for this type of material.

Reef Monitoring and Management

The Reef Research Team surveyed two natural reef sites, Loggerhead and Bonnie's Reefs in the Jupiter area this month. These are two beautiful reefs with 4-6 ft. ledges and second "ledges" of 1-3 ft. on top of the reefs. Numerous hard corals are present and several large goliath groupers were observed. The Team submitted the final report for the 2 year FWC monitoring grant to ERM for review.

LWL Monitoring

PBC ERM continues to strengthen its partnerships with SFWMD, FWC and universities. Projects in various stages on implementation include water quality sampling, sea grass monitoring, sediment sourcing, substrate characterization, and the preliminary stages of nutrient modeling.

NENA trailhead at Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail

ERM continues work getting the trailhead ready for use during the Florida Trail Association's 17th annual Big "O" hike. Hikers will head north on the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST) from the Pahokee Marina at 8 AM on November 22. The LOST encircles Lake Okeechobee on top of the Herbert Hoover Dike. About half of the 110-mile long trail is paved. LOST is currently closed to the public between Port Myacca and Pahokee due to improvements being made to the Herbert Hoover dike, however, ERM is working with the Florida Trail Association and Bauer Foundation, Inc., contractors on this reach of dike, to make LOST and the trailhead available for this event.

NENA Bluegill Trail (C-18 Levee between Riverbend Park and Sandhill Crane Park)

At their October 17th meeting, the Natural Areas Management Advisory Committee voted to support the multi-use trail concept with separate treads for different users, but not the use of asphalt for a hardened trail. The project is being redesigned and will be submitted to the MPO and FDOT as a two tread trail, with one ten-foot wide shell-rock tread and the remainder left unimproved for equestrian use.

For more information on Palm Beach County environmental restoration projects, please visit: <http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm/>

Calendar of Events

February 16-18, 2009

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

<http://www.fsbpa.com/semregistration.htm>

February 18-20, 2009

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

<http://www.fsbpa.com/semregistration.htm>

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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