



## About Shoreline

news from the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association

January 2023

## A Message from incoming FSBPA Chair

### Emily Lewis

It's an honor and pleasure to deliver my first message as incoming chair of the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association. I wish it were under better circumstances, as so many of our cities and counties are in the earliest recovery phases from damage caused by Hurricane Ian. The impacts stretched from the Gulf to the Atlantic, undoing years of work undertaken to restore, renourish and preserve the shores and beaches to which this organization is dedicated.

The good news is that our Legislature held a special session in December to address insurance and recovery issues, including the passage of an additional \$100 million to the statewide beach program for the following counties impacted by hurricanes Ian or Nicole: Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Duval, Flagler, Indian River, Lee, Manatee, Martin, Nassau, Palm Beach, Saint Johns, Saint Lucie, Sarasota, and Volusia. Another \$50 million was budgeted for a hurricane restoration reimbursement grant program to fund sand placement and coastal armoring.



We know how vital these investments are from past experience with hurricanes Michael and Irma. Beaches with nourishment projects absorbed storm impacts and protected upland development from beach erosion and coastal flooding. In my home county of Charlotte, a \$30 million beach renourishment project recently completed on Manasota Key delivered the same benefit. Our mission now includes advocating for the rapid replacement of beach sand lost in Lee and Collier counties, which bore the brunt of Ian's massive storm surge.

Our efforts going forward will build on remarkable progress achieved by our board members and dedicated staff in 2022. In the \$109.9 billion budget approved by the governor following the 2022 regular legislative session, nine state park beaches received \$30 million for beach renourishment. Seventeen of 29 local coastal assets project bills we tracked were funded for a total of \$26,041,000. The approved budget contains nearly \$6.7 billion in agriculture and natural resources spending in the budgets of the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services,

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the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Beyond the immediate work of hurricane recovery, we're focused on expanding the number of miles of critically eroded beaches in the statewide beach management program. Of the 825 miles of sandy beaches in Florida, 420 miles are critically eroded, 247 miles are actively being managed and 170 miles of critically eroded shoreline are not currently being managed.

Our message has legs to stand on, too. Beaches are Florida's No. 1 tourist attraction. The state's own Office of Economic & Demographic Research found that beach investments deliver a 5.4:1 return on investment. An annual state investment of \$44 million increased state revenues by \$237.9 million and increased the GDP by \$2.4 billion per year. Shores and beaches are our bread and butter.

I look forward to working with all of you on these and other goals. Here in Charlotte County, we see challenges as opportunities. Let's make the most of our opportunities in 2023.

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## Meet FSBPA's Chair



Emily is a native Floridian and grew up in Pensacola, FL. After moving to the east coast to attend high school, Emily went to college at the University of Florida (GO GATORS!!!). Emily joined the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners in 2006 and currently serves as the Assistant County Administrator with responsibility and oversight of Public Safety, Human Services, Legislative Affairs and Public Information. Emily is responsible for developing both the state and federal legislative programs for the Board of County Commissioners and directing the County's state and federal lobbying efforts. Emily is a diligent advocate for the interests of Charlotte County in Tallahassee and Washington, DC.

Emily holds a Bachelor's in Business Administration from the University of Florida and a Master's in Public Administration from Hodges University.

Emily is currently an affiliate member of both the International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) and the Florida City County Manager's Association (FCCMA). In addition to her service to FSBPA, Emily is also a board member of the Florida State Parks Foundation.

Emily and her husband Shawn reside in Punta Gorda with their three children, Cody (18), Hailey (15) and Madison (13). Her hobbies include reading and playing Pickleball and spending time at her children's various sporting events and extracurricular activities.

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## FSBPA 2023 Officers and Directors

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

Emily Lewis (Charlotte County), Chair  
Steve Boutelle (Lee County), Vice-Chair  
Janet Zimmerman (Florida Inland Navigation District), Secretary/Treasurer

*Officers plus the past-chair, Charlie Hunsicker, will serve as the 2023 Executive Committee.*

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

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

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

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

Thank you for agreeing to serve.

## Meet FSBPA's Newest Board Members

**James Gray** is the Executive Director for Sebastian Inlet District where he has been employed for the past 4 years. James manages the implementation of the District's Charter which includes maintenance of navigation, coastal resiliency and resources protection projects and sediment bypassing. James has over 20 years of experience working in the local government sector, formerly serving as the Natural Resources Manager in charge of Indian River County's coastal engineering division. James has a Master's in Engineering Management and a Bachelor's in Ocean Engineering from Florida Institute of Technology. James served as a FSBPA Board of Director from 2012 – 2019, was awarded the 2018 FSBPA Local Government Award and the 2016 Keep Indian River Beautiful Government Collaborator Award.



*"I welcome the opportunity to serve on the FSBPA Board again and be part of the continued successful coastal advocacy in the State of Florida."*



**Mike McGarry** is Beaches, Boating & Waterways Program Manager for Brevard County Florida. Mike administers coastal and estuarine management and restoration projects along 72 miles of Atlantic Ocean shoreline. Since 2003 he has completed twenty federal and non-federal beach projects placing 235 million dollars of sand (12.7 MCY) along thirty five miles of shoreline. McGarry holds a bachelor's degree in Marine Biology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and a master's degree in Oceanography/Coastal Zone Management from the Florida Institute of Technology. Mike was presented the FSBPA Outstanding Achievement Award in 2005 and the FSBPA Public Service Award in 2018.

*"I look forward to using my coastal experience to help FSBPA continue to support strong and healthy shorelines throughout Florida."*

## 2022 Special Session-A Wrap-up

by Pepper Uchino, President



It was a much busier end of the year than we typically experience in Florida. Due to impacts from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole, the Legislature convened a special session the second week of December to provide immediate relief to Floridians. Several bills were passed, but the bill related to beach programs was [SB 4A](#).

In relevant part, the bill adds an additional \$100M from general revenue to the statewide beach program for the following counties impacted by Hurricanes Ian or Nicole: Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Duval, Flagler, Indian River, Lee, Manatee, Martin, Nassau, Palm Beach, Saint Johns, Saint Lucie, Sarasota, and Volusia. The DEP is authorized to reduce or waive the local match.



A second grant program was created: the hurricane restoration reimbursement grant program. It is funded with \$50M from general revenue and is intended for sand placement and coastal armoring as a dollar-for-dollar reimbursement for construction up to \$150,000 per grant. Grants are available for single-family residences, condos, and cooperatives. Low and moderate income applicants get priority, but it will also be administered on a first-come, first-served basis, which is confusing. At first blush, it appeared the bill authorized building without a permit, but further investigation and conversations with DEP clarified that this is not the case. Additionally, we have confirmed that local government requirements are NOT waived.

As early as Monday afternoon of Special Session, we were told that substantive amendments would not be considered, so we turned our focus to DEP. We have been working with the agency to address some of our concerns, but the speed at which the rule must be adopted and the minimal requirements for emergency rules will preclude our and your ability to fully consider and make comments on the rule once it is published. In fact, the emergency rule does not require a public comment period, so if you have any comments or concerns regarding implementation of the bill, you have days not weeks to send your comments to DEP. For any concerns that require more intensive policy discussions and decisions, they will have to be fixed during Regular Session, for which we are currently mapping out a strategy to deal with any unintended consequences from bills passed during Special Session and other expected bills related to storm damage recovery. More on this to follow in the next Shoreline, so stay tuned.

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Regarding Regular Session 2023, here are some important dates:

Committee Weeks –

January: week of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>

February: week of 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>

Session Convenes – March 7<sup>th</sup>

Session Ends – May 5<sup>th</sup>

Please reach out to me anytime if you have questions or want to discuss any policy or appropriations issues you have going into Regular Session this year. On behalf of the FSBPA team, we wish you a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year, and we hope to see you in Fort Myers at the Luminary next month for the Tech Conference!

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National Conference  
on Beach Preservation  
Technology

## 36th Annual Conference February 1-3 • Luminary Hotel • Fort Myers, Florida

The 36th National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology is just over three weeks away, and on behalf of the Planning Committee and FSBPA staff, we hope you are making plans to join us in lovely Fort Myers. The committee has an excellent program in store for you, consisting of just the right balance of topics for coastal managers, engineers, scientists and academia alike. Reserve your place today! Early registration closes on Monday, January 9, as does the FSBPA room block at the Luminary Hotel.

Looking for things to do while you are in Fort Myers? Go to <https://www.visitfortmyers.com/> to plan your visit.

You will find the most up-to-date **full conference program** [online](#). A list of the conference sponsors and exhibitors are available on the following pages.

**Last Day for early registration and guaranteed hotel rates—January 9, 2023**

To register for the conference, visit the conference website and **sign-up** [online](#).

**Register  
NOW!**

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the conference hotel, the Luminary Hotel. [Click here to make your reservation online](#). The group rate is \$189 for a single or double room, plus tax. Valet parking is available at \$20 per day and self-parking is \$12 per day. **To ensure room availability, make your reservation early!** The hotel will honor the group rate as long as rooms remain in FSBPA's block or by **January 9, 2023**, whichever occurs first.

We hope to see you in Fort Myers this February!

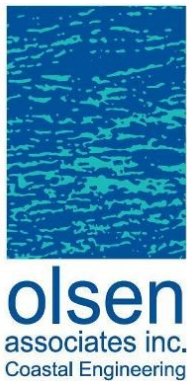


# Thank you to our Conference Sponsors

## Host Sponsor



## Tote Bags



## Note Books



## Lanyards



## Pens



## Student Scholarships



## Welcome Reception - Cocktails



## Silver Luncheon Sponsors



# Thank you to our Conference Sponsors

## Pretzels & Candy Bar Break



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## Friday Breakfast Break



## Friends of FSBPA

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*"Restoring Beaches as Natural Coastal Systems"*



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## 36<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference on Beach Technology Exhibitors





US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

## Perfect Timing for St. Lucie County Federal Beaches following Hurricanes Ian and Nicole

by Christopher Ren, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Joshua Revord, Senior Coastal Engineer, St. Lucie County Erosion District

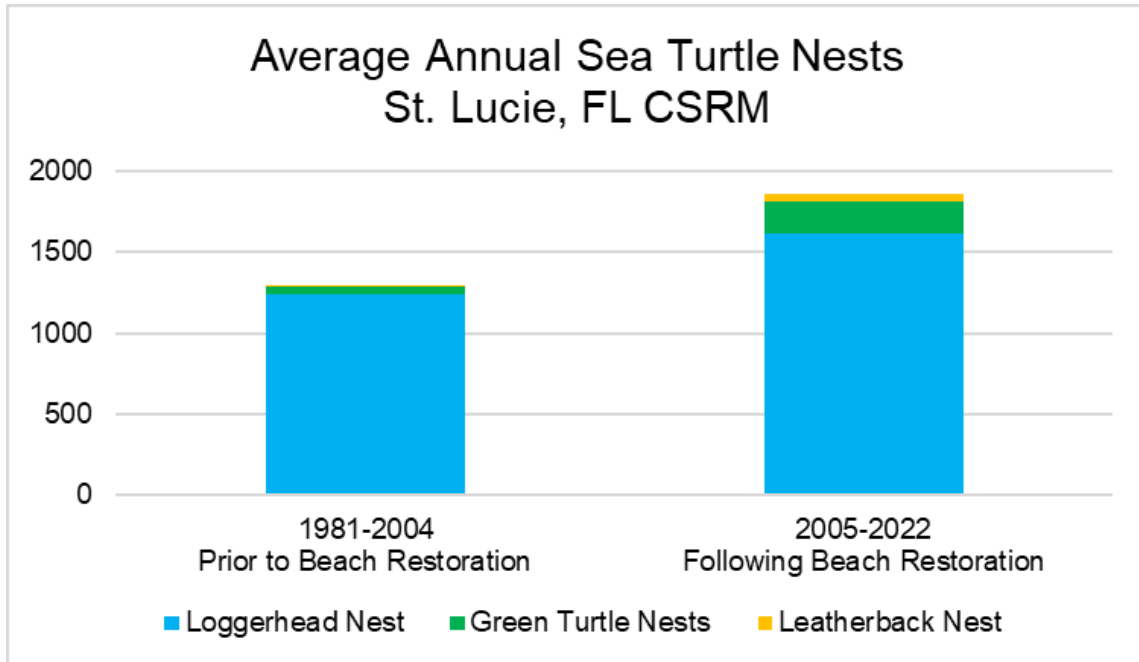
St. Lucie County beaches were well prepared to weather the storms from both Hurricanes Ian and Nicole in 2022. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District, in partnership with St. Lucie County's Erosion District, completed placing sand on the St. Lucie, FL Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSR) project in south Hutchinson Island just 4 months before Hurricane Ian made landfall, and were also well underway in preparing for another renourishment of the Ft. Pierce, FL Shore Protection Project (SPP) scheduled to start placing sand on the beach in March 2023.

Construction of the St. Lucie project was completed by Great Lakes Dredge & Dock in May of 2022. Nearly 390,000 cubic yards of sand was obtained from an offshore borrow source, known as St. Lucie Shoal, and placed on the shoreline between Normandy Beach and the Martin County line on Hutchinson Island. The project reduces the risk of damage to over \$670 million worth of coastal infrastructure.

Likewise, the Ft. Pierce project was last renourished in 2021 and current plans are to place an additional 500,000 cubic yards of sand on the beach before June 1, 2023, fully restoring the beach to its intended design template. The beach at Ft. Pierce experiences rapid erosion, largely due to effects of the inlet, with the greatest amount of erosion occurring at the north end near Jetty Park. The beach requires renourishment roughly every 2 years to address the downdrift impacts of the inlet. Any additional erosion due to the passing of significant storm events is always concerning. Luckily, a site visit was held with contractors interested in bidding on the next Federal renourishment contract just 6 days after Hurricane Nicole made landfall! A perfect transition to promptly address any damages as a result of the 2022 hurricane season.

Coastal management of the St. Lucie beach since 2005, along with other contributing factors, has also had positive effects on sea turtles. Between 1981 and 2004, prior to any beach restoration, the average annual number of nests for all species of sea turtles, including loggerhead, green turtle, and leatherback, was just under 1,300. Since 2005, after the first dune restoration project, that number has increased to over 1,850 nests (an over 40% increase!).

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A record number of leatherback nests were recorded in 2011, with just over 100 nests. In 2019, following the 2013 locally funded beach project, a record number of loggerhead and green turtles nested within the project area including 2,485 loggerhead and 589 green turtle nests. Following the most recent Federal renourishment in 2022, 1,967 loggerhead nests, 169 green turtle nests, and 70 leatherback nests were recorded. The St. Lucie project area also boasts one of the lowest disorientation rates in the state of Florida, leading to more hatchlings making their way to the ocean safely.

With the completion of the St. Lucie project and the planned next renourishment of the Ft. Pierce project both happening within a few months of the passing of Hurricanes Ian and Nicole, the Treasure Coast of Florida is more resilient to impacts from storms. We are happy to say that there were no infrastructure impacts along both project areas during the recent storm events! Although there were notable sand losses recorded, the storm protection provided by both projects effectively showcased the benefits of the Federal coastal storm risk management program.

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Construction of the St. Lucie, FL Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) project was completed by Great Lakes Dredge & Dock in May, 2022.  
Credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Representatives of USACE, St. Lucie County's Erosion District, Great Lakes Dredge & Dock, and Cashman Dredging at Ft. Pierce beach participate in a Pre-Bid site visit on November 16, 2022  
Credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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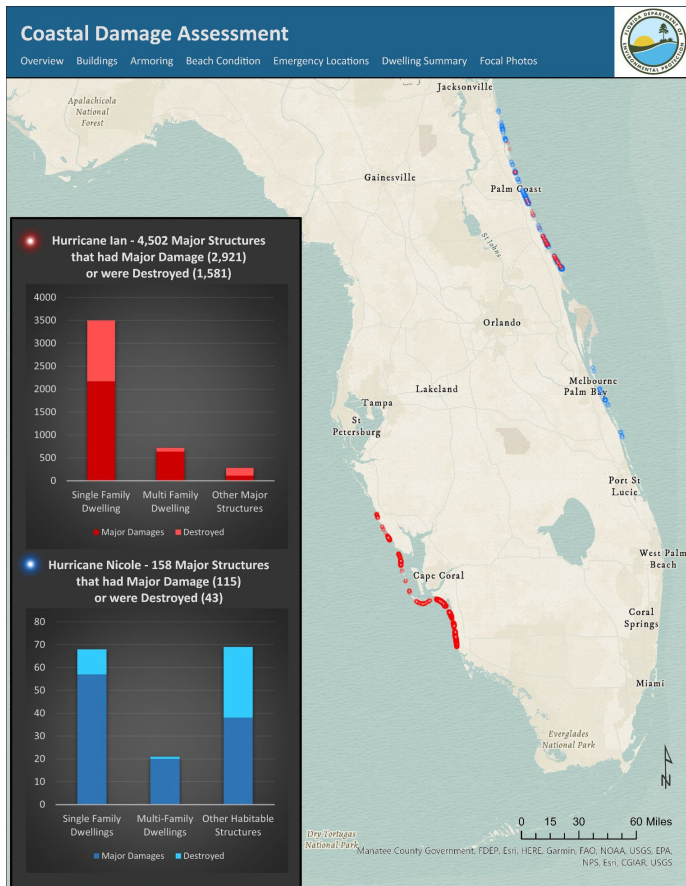
# FDEP Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection Updates



## Hurricanes Ian and Nicole Recovery Updates

The special legislative session concluded Dec. 15th, 2022, and the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection will be implementing several initiatives resulting from Senate Bill 4A, Chapter 2022-272 Laws of Florida in early 2023. Key inclusions are the receipt of \$100 million in recovery dollars for beach erosion projects for impacted counties and the ability for the department to waive local match for Hurricane Ian or Nicole impacted counties through July 1, 2023. The bill also created the Hurricane Restoration Reimbursement Grant Program which will distribute up to \$50 million to qualifying coastal homeowners to help remedy the damages from coastal erosion during the storms.

The \$100 million in recovery dollars for beach erosion projects will be dispersed to local governments for beaches impacted by either Hurricane Ian or Nicole and includes the potential waiver of local match requirements. The department is developing guidelines to expedite allocation of funds to impacted counties. The department’s “Hurricane Ian and Nicole Post Storm Beach Condition and Coastal Impact Report” and the “Hurricane Ian and Nicole Recovery Plan for Florida’s Beach and Dune System” are available [here](#). These documents outline the approximate impacts in each county, as well as the estimated non-federal costs to restore their beaches, and will assist the Department in the allocation of recovery funds.



Source: FDEP Hurricanes Ian & Nicole Preliminary Post-storm Beach Conditions and Impact Report

To be eligible to apply for \$50 million through the reimbursement grant program, the homeowner must be a coastal property owner that experienced significant impacts from either Ian or Nicole or both and live within the listed impacted counties. The grant program applies to single family homes, residential condominiums, and cooperatives. The activity must be permitted prior to implementation, be related to sand placement, temporary or permanent armoring and have occurred after September 23, 2022. The department will cost share on a 1:1 basis with the homeowner(s) for a maximum amount up to \$150,000 toward the actual costs of a project. The department will initiate emergency rulemaking for the grant program and adopt emergency rules by Jan 31, 2023. These rules are authorized to remain in effect for 6 months, which coincided with the expiration of the bill on July 1, 2023. A grant application portal will open by Feb. 1, 2023 and applications will be processed on a first come first serve basis, with priority given to low / moderate level income homeowners. To receive a grant reimbursement, a homeowner will need to submit invoices and payable receipts for eligible projects.

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## Save the Date!



Blue Flag staff will be hosting a virtual information meeting on Wednesday February 8th at 2pm Eastern.

Mark your calendars! Blue Flag staff is excited to invite local government and interested stakeholders to a Blue Flag beaches interest meeting February 8th, 2023. The Blue Flag eco-award is one of five environmental education programs offered by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). The award is offered to beaches, marinas, and tourism boats meeting over 30 criteria for water quality, environmental education and information, environmental management, safety and services, sustainable tourism, and social responsibility.

The agenda will cover an introduction to the program and partners, the criteria, and application process. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session with staff. Join us via Zoom to learn more about the program and other 2023 events. Registration is free for this event. Please reach out to staff with questions at [blueflagusa@asbpa.org](mailto:blueflagusa@asbpa.org).

Register now at <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqfuivqjguGd2FoVXDGP31pnMegnrCFqGc>.

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**Shoreline**

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

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS****FSBPA Events**

**February 1-3, 2023**

**36<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology**

**Luminary Hotel & Co., Autograph Collection**

**Fort Myers, FL**

**Other Events**

**February 17-18, 2023**

**26th Annual Marine Turtle Permit Holder's Meeting**

**Safety Harbor Resort and Spa**

**March 21-23, 2023**

**ASBPA 2023 Coastal Summit**

**National Association of Counties Building**

**Washington, DC**

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