

THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Debbie Flack and Diana Ferguson, Legislative Services, Rutledge-Ecena

The final scheduled day of the regular 2015 legislative session, May 1, was a silent ending to a dysfunctional session that ended early with little accomplished and no agreement on a budget. Just 232 bills passed during the regular session, while over 1300 were left to die.



Unlike the vast majority of bills, the Association's two overriding objectives – **beach funding and Amendment 1 implementation** – were at least left up in the air at the regular session's conclusion. The passage of the budget in the June special session (June 1 - June 20) represented a comparatively successful final chapter for Florida's beach program, at least until it begins anew with committee meetings starting September 16 for the 2016 Session, which convenes January 12, rather than the traditional March date.

Our early session success was legislative recognition that beach projects were eligible for funding in Amendment 1 implementing bills. This was FSBPA's priority substantive legislative objective, allowing for future beach funding through the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF). This is the only trust fund recognized in the constitutional amendment. In doing so, both House and Senate substantive implementing bills eliminated the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust Fund (EMRTF), the beach funding trust fund for the last two decades.

Throughout the regular and special sessions the discussion, debate, and disagreement regarding allocations for land acquisition (Florida Forever) and the Everglades were ever-present. In addition, \$400M in

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General Revenue was redirected to the Low Income Pool (LIP) program to draw down federal healthcare dollars, thus reducing the amount of GR available for other purposes not addressed by the \$742M Amendment 1 coming fiscal year allocation. The chambers disagreed on whether to bond Amendment 1 dollars for land acquisition, the ultimate decision being not to bond. All of this kept any level of beach funding from GR in question and jeopardy until the bitter end. Securing over \$7M in GR in the end was quite an accomplishment in a tough budget year that included a perfect storm of extremely difficult and challenging policy and funding choices for the Legislature.

We can take some comfort that our expressed objective to ensure that beaches were part of Amendment 1 implementation was realized. We may not yet know its importance or value, but without it we could not have sustained any level of consistent funding for the beach program solely relying upon scarce General Revenue going forward. The extent of our shared success reflects the level of cooperation, coordination and the mutual efforts of FSBPA and the beach “governmental support team”. Over the years, beaches have enjoyed the support of an unusual mix of legislative champions and numerous stakeholders – and the end result, all things considered, should give each of us reason to celebrate. Other major resource management programs did not fare well in the special session, and several environmental groups, as you are likely aware, have already filed suit to challenge the Legislature’s implementation of Amendment 1. It is not yet clear what affect this may have on Amendment 1 programs during the next legislative session or beyond.

Total beach project funding for FY 2015/16 is **\$32,106,500**. Just over \$1.5M of this figure is for post-construction monitoring costs and activities for the upcoming fiscal year. When staffing and operations (now fully funded by Amendment 1’s LATF) are added to the projects total, the beach management line items equal **\$36,152,207**.



Beach Projects receiving new construction funding, design dollars, or reimbursement for Fiscal Year 2015-16, include: Venice Beach Nourishment/Sarasota County Shore Protection Project • Ft. Pierce Shore Protection Project • Brevard County Shore Protection/North & South Reaches • Broward County Shore Protection Project/Segment III • Blind Pass Ecozone Restoration • South Amelia Island Beach Nourishment • Upham Beach Groin Replacement • Longboat Key Beach Nourishment • Charlotte County Beach Restoration • Jupiter Island Beach Nourishment • Anna Maria Island Cortez Groins Replacement • Collier County Beach Nourishment • Bonita Beach Nourishment • Navarre Beach Nourishment • South Siesta Key Beach Nourishment • Broward County Shore Protection Project/Segment II • Central Boca Raton Beach Nourishment • Brevard County Shore Protection Project/Mid-Reach Segment • South Marco Island Nourishment • Bathtub/Sailfish Point Beach Nourishment • South Ponte Vedra/Vilano Beach/Summerhaven Beach Restoration Feasibility Study.

These projects received the amount of state cost-sharing requested or funding was adjusted downward as part of the appropriations process. Specific amounts are provided in the General Appropriations Act.

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**Just completed Venice Beach Segment/Sarasota County Shore-Protection Project
(#1 Ranked Project for 2015-16)**

These projects received \$25M as part of Amendment 1 implementation through the LATF. The Governor, Senate and House had the same identical \$25M recommended trust fund allocation. This was FSBPA's starting and ultimately ending point. Despite considerable discussion and press to the contrary, this reaffirms our position that beach nourishment is an eligible recipient of some portion of the Amendment 1 set-aside doc stamp allocation over the next 20 years, estimated to be \$22B. There is nothing to suggest this will be recurring, or will increase with doc stamp growth, or will be converted to a percentage in the future. This is simply a one year Amendment 1 allocation. There is no assurance how next session will unfold, but relative certainty the amount of funding for Florida Forever and the Everglades will take center stage.

While total beach project funding is down considerably year-over-year, there is a subtle but important positive for the beach program with this year's \$25M in trust funds. Of last year's \$45M in new funding, only \$19.7M came from trust funds. Combined LATF and GR funding for FY 15/16 provides for **21 specific projects, plus post-construction monitoring activities**. There is no funding provided for inlet management plans or activities for 2015-16. We should appreciate the Senate Appropriations Chairman's comments regarding the need to take a two-year perspective, beginning again in January 2016. This is particularly on point with regard to Amendment 1, pending litigation, and reallocating doc stamps over the 20 year life.



Broward Segment II (3rd and final year of construction funding)

The Governor was presented with the General Appropriations Act and 10 conforming bills including the Implementation of the Water and Land Conservation Constitutional Amendment on Friday, June 19, 2015. He took final action on Tuesday, June 23. Each individual beach project, and its funding amount as presented, was subject to his line-item veto authority. However, the Governor has been most supportive of beaches over the years, and that support has continued uninterrupted with the signing of the FY 15/16 budget, in that no individual project funding was vetoed. As has become the norm, the Governor's budget transmittal letter highlights beaches as one of the positive aspects of the budget that supports his "Keep Florida Working" agenda.

FSBPA needs to envision, promote and suggest changes to orchestrate an improved project ranking and selection process going forward. Coming out of the 2015 Session, the perception remains that the current process is not recognized or supported by decision-makers. And yet dating back to the Legislature's storm damage recovery response in 2013, this lack of acknowledgement or agreement with the agency's process and rankings perversely seems to have a positive impact on overall beach funding. This makes the course forward challenging for the Association and each local government member, but collectively we must get it right for Florida's beaches.

With this June Special Session just ending and the early fall start for the 2016 Session, there is little opportunity to reboot, but at the very least we have to move the discussion forward. FSBPA will continue to examine current concerns regarding the statewide beach management program and how to "kick the can" forward. The entire beach project selection process is increasingly irrelevant. The program is currently sustained because of decision-maker support at the state and local level, an overriding philosophy of "there is no such thing as a bad beach project" and "it's all about the economics," but clearly not because of its recognized policy framework, process or administrative structure. It is not by accident Florida has the best statewide beach program in the nation. Now is the time to remind folks of that.

LEGISLATION: Final Bill Status

Amendment 1

SB 2516-A is a budget conforming bill that provides the legislative framework to implement Article X, section 28 of the Florida Constitution, commonly referred to as Amendment 1. It has passed both chambers and was approved by the Governor. The bill restructures trust funds to implement the constitutional requirement that documentary stamp taxes directed for environmental purposes must not be commingled with the General Revenue Fund. The bill also ensures that these revenues are not commingled with other revenue sources and can be tracked from distribution to expenditure. The bill terminates certain trust funds currently receiving documentary stamp tax intended for expenditure on environmental programs, such as the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust Fund, and redirects those dollars to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF) and other appropriate trust funds.

The statewide beach management program is an authorized recipient of Amendment 1 dollars, and beaches received \$25M in nonrecurring LATF funds in the 15/16 budget.

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Water and Environmental Policy

The House and Senate each put forward comprehensive water and environmental policy bills this session, and they differed significantly. SB 918 focused heavily on springs and trails, while HB 7003 focused heavily on water supply issues. Additionally, as the bills progressed, the Senate amended provisions relating to the creation of a Florida Water Resources Advisory Council and a pilot project program for the largest three water management districts that never surfaced in the House bill. Although there were amendments to other bills near the end of session, no legislation passed.

Peril of Flood

SB 1094 passed both chambers and was approved by the Governor. This bill requires local governments to include development and redevelopment principles, strategies, and engineering solutions that reduce flood risks and losses within coastal areas when drafting their comprehensive coastal management plan. The bill also creates new requirements related to flood elevation certificates and creates a new type of flood insurance called “flexible flood insurance.”

Artificial Reefs

HB 559 and SB 846 would have exempted from public records personal information contained in site files or records which identifies the location of artificial reefs funded with private contributions. Neither bill received a hearing.

Administrative Procedures

HB 7023 replaces the biennial summary reporting requirement that currently exists in Chapter 120, the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), with an expanded, annual regulatory plan. It passed both chambers and has been approved by the Governor.

HB 435 would have made a number of changes to chapter 120 that relate to a state agency’s reliance on adopted or invalid rules and the provision of notices and information to the public. Among other provisions, the bill would have increased the amount of information relating to agency rulemaking which must be published in the Florida Administrative Register, placed the burden on the agency to demonstrate the validity of a proposed rule, and provided that the decision of an administrative law judge on the validity of a rule or adopted rule is a final agency action in proceedings initiated by a party challenging a rule or adopted rule. HB 435 passed both chambers but was vetoed by the Governor.

HB 7025 and SB 7058 would have amended the public notice requirements and provisions related to the preparation of statements of economic regulatory costs (SERCs) in the APA. These bills did not pass.

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2015 FSBPA Annual Conference September 23-25 Hawks Cay

We hope you are making plans to join us for the 59th Annual Conference which will be held at Hawks Cay in Duck Key, Florida. [Conference registration](#) and [hotel reservation information](#) are now available online.

Remember to **RESERVE YOUR ROOM EARLY!** The group rates outlined below are guaranteed through August 21, 2015, or as long as rooms remain available in our room block, which unfortunately could occur before the 21st.

The hotel is offering several different types of accommodations, so you might want to consider bringing the family along! There are rooms with bunk beds, Islandview and Waterview rooms, and a 2 bedroom Sunset Villa equipped with all the amenities. For complete descriptions of the room types and pictures, [click here](#).

- \$169 Islandview Hotel Room
- \$169 Standard Hotel Room with a King and Bunk Bed
- \$169 Standard Hotel Room with 2 Queen Beds
- \$209 Waterview Hotel Room
- \$259 2 Bedroom Sunset Villa



Standard 2 queen beds, hotel room

We are anticipating another great program line-up with topics to get us all refocused on why Florida invests so much financially and programmatically in sustaining our beaches, and how we all can contribute going forward. There will be a tribute to the legacy of FSBPA's Chair Emeritus, Dr. Bob Dean; a provocative discussion and presentation on community resilience, and important policy addresses regarding regional sediment management and refocusing on inlet management.

We look forward to welcoming and hearing from the new U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District Engineer, Colonel Jason Kirk, other Corps contributors, a number of new partners from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, local government members, coastal engineering experts and industry representatives.

The conference brochure with program will be mailed out in mid-July and available on our website immediately thereafter.

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The past few issues of *Shoreline* have noted different things to do while enjoying Hawks Cay. We will be surveying past attendees shortly to see if they might be interested in a diving and/or snorkel trip on Thursday afternoon.

Also there are plenty of restaurants to try while in the Keys and in a future *Shoreline* we will highlight some of them for you to visit!

More information on events and the conference program will be made available in our August Conference Edition of *Shoreline*, on-line at www.fsbpa.com/publications.html, and registrant e-mails. Please plan to join the FSBPA Board of Directors and staff September 23-25 for our Annual Conference and to have a little fun while enjoying the Keys. It's all casual and relaxed -- with Hawks Cay T-shirts to boot.

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Key Dates to Remember

- **August 7 - Awards Nomination DEADLINE**
- **August 21- last day Hotel Room Reservations guaranteed at \$169**
- **Through August 21 - Early Conference Registration**
- **After August 21 - Regular Registration**

Go online to www.fsbpa.com/annual-conference.html for complete details, registration information, and hotel reservations.



Lagoon Sunset at Hawks Cay

2015 Annual Award Nominations

Deadline is Friday, August 7, 2015

**Awards Banquet ♦ Thursday, September 25, 2014
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

Awards Committee

**Jim Trifilio, Chair
Bill Smith
James Gray**

The Awards will be presented during the Annual Awards Banquet on Thursday evening, September 24, 2015. However, this year's program will be a luau and with a setting sun at 7:30 p.m. which is not conducive to an outside awards program. We are kindly asking you to keep award nominations for 2015 to those that for various reasons are time-sensitive, too long overdue, or appropriate for this location. In other words, if it can wait, without minimizing its significance, until 2016 when we return to a traditional Naples venue, please consider holding the nomination until then.

Listed below are the award categories. **For complete details on submitting an award nomination, as well as the nomination form, visit www.fsbpa.com/annual-conference/awards.html.**

Stan Tait Award

For truly outstanding contributions in the preservation of Florida's beaches over a period of many years. These contributions may be for political, administrative, scientific, engineering or environmental achievements. This is FSBPA's highest award, named after the long-time leader of FSBPA. Non-Floridians are eligible.

Per Bruun Distinguished Service Award

For significant contributions in the cause of beach preservation. Unlike the Stan Tait Award, this can be awarded for a single noteworthy project or accomplishment. Non-Floridians are eligible. This award is named after the first Director of Coastal Engineering, University of Florida and founder of FSBPA in 1957.

Bob Dean Coastal Research Award

For outstanding research into beach and coastal processes which contributes to improved beach management. This award is named after the University of Florida distinguished research professor and FSBPA's Chair Emeritus.

Jim Purpura/T.Y. Chiu Engineering Award

For outstanding contribution to coastal engineering that enhances beach preservation. The award may be in recognition of innovative scientific research or for long excellence and contributions in coastal engineering. Non-Floridians are eligible. This award is named after the two scientists who pioneered Florida's coastal construction control line program.

The Richard E. Bonner Award

Recognizing outstanding service by an individual representing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Local Government Award

For a local government official who has contributed significantly to beach preservation and enhancement. Only Floridians are eligible.

Legislative Award

To the state or national lawmaker who has provided outstanding leadership in terms of funding or program support for managing our beaches.

Environmental Award

For outstanding contributions toward protection of the coastal environment.

Member of the Year Award

To a member of FSBPA, for outstanding service to the association.

Public Service Award

To a public employee whose service reflects admirably on the governmental sector, specifically in the area of beach management.

Ralph Sexton Private Citizen Award

For a private citizen who has made a significant contribution to the cause of beach preservation in Florida. Only Floridians are eligible.

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USACE Jacksonville District Federal Project Status Updates - July 2015



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of Engineers®**

[Click here for the USACE
Jacksonville District website](#)

FEDERAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES – June 2015

FEASIBILITY STUDIES:

- **St. Johns County** – St. Johns County feasibility study includes shoreline areas in South Ponte Vedra Beach, Vilano Beach, and Summerhaven. Re-scoping efforts were completed in FY-14 to modify the study to current Corps feasibility study 3x3x3 standards. Unexpected federal funding was received in the amount of \$525,000 to move forward with the study in October 2014. Under 3x3x3, consistent funding should be received to finish the study within 3 years. The District continues to actively move forward with the feasibility study. Alternatives Milestone meeting was held in March 2015. The next milestone is for the Tentatively Selected Plan upon evaluation of the alternatives that will provide hurricane storm damage reduction in highly erosive areas along the shoreline. The restart comes at a time when all three reaches of the project area are seeing increased erosion threatening structures and State Road A1A.
- **Flagler County** – The Chief of Engineer's Report was signed by Lieutenant General Thomas Bostick on December 23, 2014. With this signing, the Corps is certifying that the beach and dune project is environmentally sound and economically beneficial to the nation. The Chief's Report is currently under review by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), and then will go to the Office of Management and Budget for review. After these reviews, the report goes to Congress for future authorization. The local sponsor has agreed to move forward with the pre-construction, engineering and design phase (PED) using contributed funds. This phase is scheduled to kickoff in October 2015.
- **St. Lucie County** – Re-scoping efforts were completed in FY2014 to modify the scope of the study to current Corps feasibility study 3x3x3 standards. Vertical team concurrence that the St. Lucie feasibility study is in compliance with the new policy was received on October 21, 2014. Unexpected federal funding was received in the amount of \$414,000 to move forward with the study in October 2014. The team has resumed work on the study and will begin the intermediate screening of alternatives leading to the final array of alternatives being identified in November 2015. Alternatives identified will provide hurricane storm damage reduction in highly erosive areas along the shoreline in St. Lucie County. The Chief of Engineers Report is currently scheduled for July 2017.

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OTHER MAJOR PLANNING REPORTS:

- **Indian River County** – The County Board of Commissioners meeting was held on 02 June 2015 and two alternatives were presented to the Board:
Alternative 1: Abandon Feasibility Cost Share Agreement with the USACE.
Alternative 2: Execute the Feasibility Cost Share Agreement with the USACE and proceed forward with the General Reevaluation Report study.
The Board chose Alternative 1 to not pursue with the FCSA and Federal project. The District followed up with the County and Commissioners to determine what/if there are any additional concerns that can be addressed to change this decision but the decision remains final.
- The **Draft Ft. Pierce Shore Protection Project GRR** seeks an additional 50 years of Federal participation in the project. Alternative analysis is ongoing by the sponsor and consultants. Once complete, findings will be incorporated into a draft GRR, which will undergo review by Jacksonville District. The District was asked to evaluate the real estate values in the structure inventory, which was completed and provided to the non-federal sponsor.
- **Jupiter/Carlin Shore Protection Project** - Palm Beach County has submitted a draft Section 934 report and NEPA document for the Jupiter/Carlin Segment to extend Federal participation for the next renourishment and out to 50 years of Federal participation. Following review of the data and report, revisions were recommended to the Beach-fx model. Having received Federal funds for Palm Beach County projects, the model revisions and completion of the 934 report are being conducted at the Jacksonville District.
- **Broward County Shore Protection Project - Segment II 2nd Renourishment** – Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) – Issues from NMFS during public release have been resolved and a biological opinion was received in November 2014. EFH consultation has also been completed. The final LRR, including EA, was submitted by the County in December 2014. SAJ has submitted the final report to South Atlantic Division and awaiting approval.
- The **Dade County Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) and Environmental Assessment (EA)** will evaluate the use of a new sand source for the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project. The draft report has completed the agency technical review (ATR) and is now under review by SAD. Public review is scheduled to kickoff in mid July 2015.
- **Lee County, Gasparilla** – A Section 934 report has been initiated to determine the Federal interest in extension of Federal participation in cost-sharing from the current 10 years to a 50-year period of Federal participation, or an additional 40 years. On-going efforts focus on the Beach-fx model setup.

REGIONAL SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT (RSM):

- The Jacksonville District has been officially named the South Atlantic Division's Center of Expertise (CX) for RSM. With this designation, SAJ will lead a virtual team of subject matter experts from SAD

to further operationalize RSM throughout the District. Work has begun to quantify the value of RSM provided by jointly managing navigation, coastal storm damage reduction, and ecosystem restoration projects.

- The **Nassau and Duval Counties RSM** effort continued with funding from the Corps' national RSM program. A technical report will be published by the Corps' Engineer and Research Development Center (ERDC) in FY15, documenting the findings.
- Jacksonville District's "**Ship to Shore: Fate of Fines in the Dredging and Placement Process**" effort gathered data from FY14 navigation O&M and beach nourishment dredging and beach placement events in order to quantify the loss of fine sand as material is dredged and transported from dredge sites to placement areas. Samples collected from several dredging projects in Florida were collected and processed in FY14. FY15 will see a continuation of these efforts with analysis of the sample findings.
- **Turbidity Compliance for Beneficial Use of Sand Dredged for Navigation** – As part of SAJ's CX role, they will be working with the Corps' Mobile District to collaborate with FDEP on turbidity requirements for beneficial use of dredged sand.

ENGINEERING AND DESIGN:

- **Nassau County** – The permit application for the next renourishment was submitted to FDEP and a request for additional information received in August 2014. The additional information has been provided to FDEP. Final permit is expected in mid April 2015. FY15 efforts will focus on completing the permitting, plans and specifications for a 2016/17 renourishment event.
- **Duval County** – A borrow area survey was completed in August 2014 to support the next renourishment planned for 2017/18. FY15 efforts will focus on updating NEPA documentation for the new proposed borrow area adjacent to the Jacksonville Harbor ODMDS.
- **St. Johns County, St. Augustine Beach** – The engineering team is currently evaluating monitoring data to revise the erosion rates and quantities for the next renourishment event. Investigation into potential offshore sand sources is ongoing. The next renourishment is scheduled for 2017.
- **Sarasota County, Lido Key** – The Jacksonville District submitted a JCP application to FDEP on 11 March 2015. The Draft EA and FONSI were released for public comment on 30 March 2015. A NEPA public meeting was held on 15 April 2015 at City Hall City of Sarasota. The public comment period for NEPA closed on 15 May 2015 and the Jacksonville District is currently addressing more than 300 public comments. In addition, the District is addressing FDEP's RAI received on 15 April 2015.

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• **Brevard County Mid-Reach** - With approval of the approval of the General Reevaluation Report in September 2014 by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, a Design Agreement was executed in October 2014 and Pre-Engineering and Design (PED) kickoff meeting was held in December 2014. PED efforts have commenced on Poseidon DMMA (land use agreement) and reef mitigation feature (data collection, plans and specifications).

CONSTRUCTION:

• **Sarasota County, Venice** – Dredging commenced in January 2015. Project was physically completed on 12 Apr 2015 and approximately 740,000 cubic yards was placed. A ceremony to celebrate the completed beach nourishment project was held on 05 June 2015 where Congressman Vern Buchanan was in attendance. Below are before and after nourishment pictures of Venice Beach.



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Let's Welcome Jane Herndon, Deputy Director for the Division of Water Resource Management



Fred Aschauer, Director, Division of Water Resource Management, was kind enough to let me share with you his staff welcome of the new Deputy Director. (DF 6/25)

Please join me in welcoming Jane Herndon to the Division of Water Resource Management. Jane will serve as Deputy Director beginning July 13th. Jane brings a unique combination of skills and leadership to the Division. She will be supervising the Beaches programs (BIP, CCCL, and Field Services and Support), EHG, Mining and Mitigation, and SLERC programs.

Jane was the Assistant Commissioner of Environmental Management for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection from 2011 through June 2015. She was responsible for programs that cover air quality, radiation protection, release prevention, pollution prevention, quality assurance and solid and hazardous waste. Jane holds a B.A. from Colgate University in geology (1982), a M.S. from the State University of New York at Albany in geology (1985) and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School (1992).

Again, join me in welcoming Jane to the Department.

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Update: FY 2016-17 Local Government Funding Request Application Submittal



On June 1, 2015, the Department sent the solicitation for projects to be included in the Department's FY 2016-2017 Local Government Funding Request (LGFR) for the Governor and the Legislature. The planning is challenging this year since the FY 2015-16 budget was recently finalized during special session and due to the early Session scheduled for 2016. In order have the prioritized list ready when budget discussions begin this Fall, staff is planning an more interactive process. Staff hosted a webinar on June 17, 2015 that was well attended and hopefully provided needed clarification for the application process for this year. The webinar and application templates have been posted to the program's main webpage. <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/programs/becp/index.htm>

Project managers are in the process of reaching out to each sponsor to offer guidance and assistance where possible. If you are planning on submitting an application for a new project, please inform the project manager in your area so that we can provide guidance and begin the engineering review process.

Program staff is proposing several modifications to the application protocol to streamline the process.

- Unfunded or partially funded projects in the FY 2015-16 LGFR can submit the FY 2016-17 Application Supplement, which is a much simplified version of the application. The supplement will allow the sponsor to verify the contact information, update the project description, update the use of funds, and make minor adjustments to the funding table, without submitting an entire application package. Additional information for ranking consideration can be submitted as an attachment.
- Complete application forms must be submitted for projects that were not in the FY 2015-16 LGFR or for projects that have significant changes/additions to the FY 2015-16 application.
- Several key elements of the application do not need to be re-submitted if the information has not changed from last year. Mapping elements, federal Project Cooperative Agreements/Participation Agreements, interlocal agreements, designated long term funding source documentation, and FEMA documentation are some examples.
- Documentation/licensure for Public Lodging Establishments can be provided as links to the specific licenses on the DBPR webpage. Printouts of the licenses or other verifying information are not needed. If you have difficulty with this process, please consult your project manager for easy methods of obtaining links.
- There will be no formal Request for Additional Information period (RAI). Department staff can assist you by reviewing your application prior to the submittal deadline to ensure all required information has been provided.

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- The current local government resolution signed by the governing board must be submitted by September 30, 2015, for the project to be included in the final LGFR.

Applications can be submitted via email to: Beaches_Funding@dep.state.fl.us, or via upload to the Department's public server through the following link: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/programs/becp/submit.htm>. The deadline for application submittal will be July 31, 2015.

Name	Position	Phone	Region/Counties
Alex Reed	Program Administrator	(850) 245-2980	Dade/Monroe
Catherine Florko	Environmental Specialist III	(850) 245-2979	Pinellas, Central Atlantic (Brevard through Martin)
Vince George	Planning Consultant	(850) 245-2972	SW Gulf (Manatee through Collier)
Tom Edwards	Planning Consultant	(850) 245-2976	Panhandle & NE Atlantic (Nassau through Volusia)
Rob Buda	Environmental Specialist III	(850) 245-2975	Palm Beach & Broward

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ROSSI: A COASTAL MANAGEMENT TOOL FOR OFFSHORE SAND SOURCES

By: Jennifer L. Coor, Ph.D., FDEP Division of Water Resource Management

The loss of sand from Florida's beaches and coastal systems is a serious problem that affects not only the coastal system, but also the economic livelihood of Florida's coastal communities. Beach erosion is a chronic problem in Florida that is influenced by sea-level rise, natural coastal processes, storms, and inlet management (Clark, 1993). Florida has 409.9 miles of critically eroded sandy shoreline, 8.7 miles of critically eroded inlet shoreline, 93.9 miles of non-critically eroded sandy shoreline, and 3.2 miles of non-critically eroded inlet shoreline statewide (FDEP, 2015). Traditional sources of readily-available beach quality sand resources adjacent to the beaches along southeast Florida for nourishment and restoration projects have been exhausted (Ousley et al., 2014). Identifying offshore sand resources that are suitable for future beach restoration projects is critical in order to sustain Florida's Atlantic beaches.

In January 2001, the Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) developed a geologic model and report of sand sources offshore of the Florida Panhandle known as SandPan. Existing geologic and geophysical data that represented the beach, nearshore, and offshore regions of the Panhandle were collected to facilitate understanding of the geologic evolution of the Florida Panhandle. Following the completion of SandPan, additional geotechnical studies were completed by URS, at the request of FDEP, in both the Atlantic and Southwest Florida coastal regions. Both the Southwest Gulf Coast Project and the Atlantic Coastal Sand Search Project acquired and incorporated offshore geological and geotechnical data into the ROSS database system, and constructed a geologic model to identify potential sand resources for beach nourishment.

These regional studies, in addition to data acquired through the permitted process, were developed by FDEP and URS into the online components of the Reconnaissance Offshore Sand Search (ROSS) database. The Offshore Sand Source Inventory (OSSI) project was instituted in 2007 after the Florida Legislature created Chapter 161.144, Florida Statute (F.S.), requiring the FDEP to develop and maintain a comprehensive inventory of identified offshore sand sources. As the project has progressed past the reconnaissance level, it has been renamed the Regional Offshore Sand Source Inventory (ROSSI) to better reflect the current purpose of the system as a repository of offshore geotechnical and geophysical data and borrow area locations.

The goal of the current project improvements is twofold; encompassing modernization involving system updates and enhancements to the ROSSI database, and populating ROSSI with more comprehensive data of existing and potential borrow areas.

Website Updates

The style of the website had not been significantly updated since its development in the early 2000s. The original website for the ROSSI project was designed over a decade ago and required significant updates to streamline the user experience, be compatible with upgraded operating systems and software, and to create a more modern appearance. Several enhancements were completed including security updates, enhanced search features, updated references, and an overall "refresh" of the website (Figure 1). Many of the current updates have been made possible with funding from the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM) in a cooperative agreement with FDEP.

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Several feature datasets comprise the base map on the ROSSI web service. Out of date feature datasets have been replaced with the most recent available versions where practicable. Adding shapefiles of competing features and linking to reports of those features will streamline the process of evaluating borrow areas. The features will be displayed on the map and the user will use the identify tool to view the attributes of a specific element. An information box will include a link to various reports (i.e. full cultural resource, hard bottom, or biological). There were previously no links from the Joint Coastal Permits (JCPs) to ROSSI. Linking the JCPs to the borrow area information box and the project list will add functionality to ROSSI; the list is linked directly to the individual ftp folders and JCP permits to further enhance ROSSI.

ROSSI
Regional Offshore Sand Source Inventory


Florida Department of
Environmental Protection

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Our purpose is to enable users to make the most informed decision possible when it comes to management of our Florida beaches and coastlines. Data that is both current and easily accessible are the key ingredients that facilitate the management process. Two basic types of data will be used in this effort. Spatial data will be used because the environment is geographic in nature. Tabular data will be used to store information about events which take place at locations stored as spatial data and referred to as spatial features.


The database stores information about sand samples. Information associated with sand samples includes, but is not limited to, granulometric data, bathymetry, seismic and sidescan sonar images, core photos, core logs, core descriptions, Munsell Color, metadata (information about the original data), and associated project information.

▶ ||




ROSSI Map
Query, analyze and create a customized view of a large range of geoscientific data.

[View Map](#)



Preliminary Inventory Report
A report organized by Borrow Area type and subdivided by county that lists in tabular format selected information from the ROSS database.

[View Report](#)



Submit Your Own Data
Online data submission coming in 2015.

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Figure 1. Screenshot of the modernized ROSSI database website, <http://rossi.urs-tally.com/>.

AECOM (formerly URS Corporation), the consulting company responsible for designing and implementing the website and database, is also creating a data submittal system that will allow consultants to upload electronic data deliverables via a password-secured web page on the ROSSI website. Currently, consultants provide data to FDEP in electronic format via email, the data are reviewed by FDEP, then finally delivered to AECOM for upload to the ROSSI database. Keeping track of this process is time consuming, and has the potential for datasets to be missed, or for duplicates to be uploaded. In the new workflow, data files will be stored on the server in their original format and made available for download by FDEP and AECOM employees. The system will log who submitted the files, which project the files are associated with, and the permit to which the data pertain. This log will allow FDEP and AECOM employees to track where data resides in the work flow.

API Platform

The existing ROSSI map server interface is based on a sample viewer originally written by Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), with extensive customization by AECOM. ESRI is no longer developing or supporting this sample map viewer, and only provided minimal documentation with the initial release. The sample map viewer was based on an outdated version of the ESRI JavaScript application program interface (API) for ArcGIS Server (JSAPI), which supports fewer features and functions than more recent versions of the JSAPI.

In early 2015, the existing ROSSI mapping system was upgraded to the new AECOM map viewer (Figure 2). AECOM developed a custom, JavaScript-based map viewer using on the most recent version of the JSAPI to replace the outdated ESRI platform. This custom map viewer incorporates the jQuery framework to simplify coding across multiple browser platforms and the jQueryUI toolkit for form controls, dialogs and other user interface elements. A key advantage to replacing the map viewer is improvements to the user interface. The Dojo dialogs used by the existing viewer, while stylistically very attractive, have operational issues.

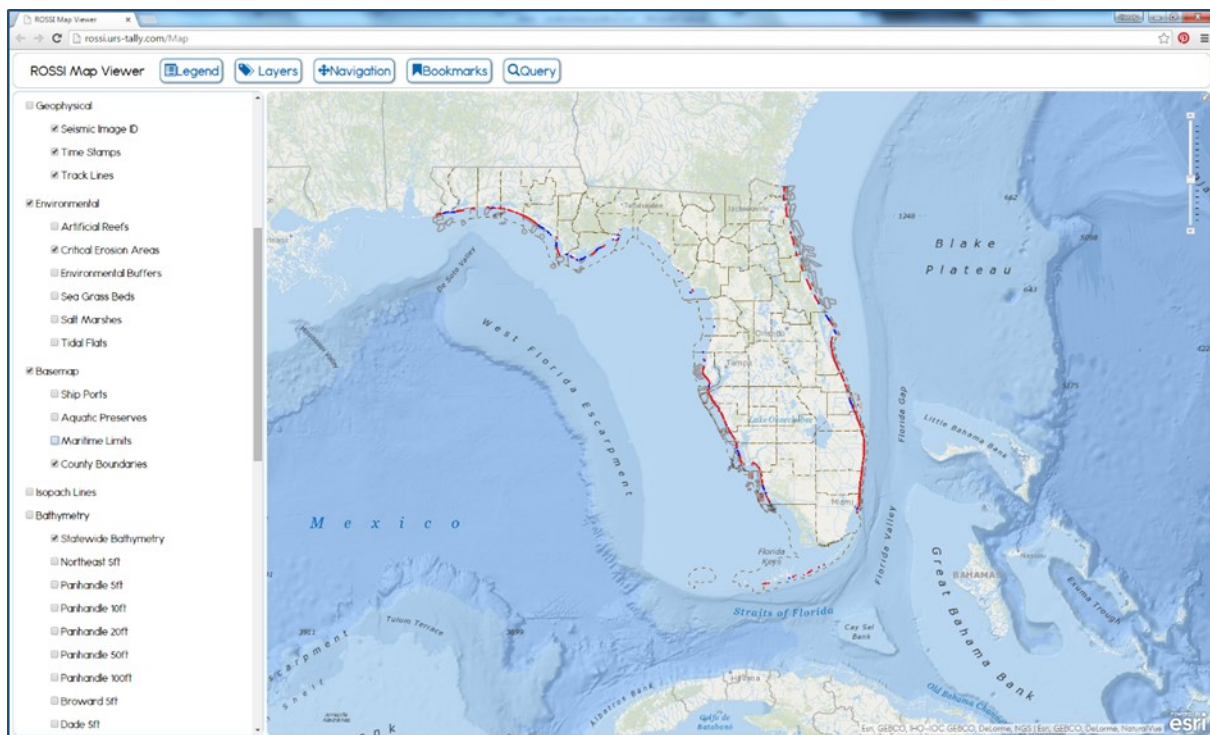


Figure 2. Screenshot of the updated API and ROSSI mapping utility.

Replacing these dialogs with jQueryUI dialogs would allow for an enhanced user experience while still maintaining an attractive, modern interface.

With the completion of the new map view, the user is able to utilize a combination search/identify tool, export data from the query builder, view a wait cursor, link from the identify button to the secure file transfer protocol (FTP) site to view geophysical data, view a dynamic legend, display coordinates, toggle between the individual ROSSI layers, and zoom according to county, FDEP R-monument, project identification or name.

Multiple enhancements were included in the website modernization and upgrade: all internal and external links were verified and updated, the reports page was updated and linked to available reports, search and query capabilities have been expanded to allow multiple selections and data export, a secure file upload and delivery system for JCP deliverables was created, and the site received an overall cosmetic redesign – including a rotating photo gallery of FDEP permitted coastal restoration and dredging activities. Population of ROSSI for southeastern Atlantic counties with data collected from the Southeast Florida Sediment Assessment and Needs Determination (SAND) Study was completed in 2014. However, the enhancements include the population of ROSSI with data for all coastal counties and borrow areas.

The SAND Study, completed in 2014, utilized ROSSI to its full extent to achieve two main purposes: updating sediment needs determinations with project performance and improving sediment volume estimates by adding geotechnical data, cultural and environmental resources, incorporating updated bathymetry and seismic data, and moving unverified sources into the potential and proven categories. The scope of the sediment assessment portion of the SAND Study included three primary phases, all of which extensively utilized and added to the data available in ROSSI: a desktop study, geotechnical investigation, and sediment volume analysis.

By utilizing ROSSI, it has been possible to identify regions within both State and Federal waters offshore Florida where geotechnical data does not exist on a reconnaissance level. As such, regional data collection will continue to be a part of maintaining and modernizing the ROSSI database. Maintenance of the ROSSI project includes the incorporation of new data from delineated borrow areas being utilized for beach nourishment, which will be used to build on previous studies between Florida Geological Survey (FGS), BOEM Marine Minerals Program (MMP) – formerly Marine Minerals Service (MMS), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and FDEP.

Data within ROSSI may be used to quantify and qualify the extent to which beach compatible sand resources may exist throughout previously investigated state and federal waters. The existing geophysical and geological data may be correlated with existing and future vibracores using an interactive seismic workstation to create top of rock and sediment thickness maps and potentially identify future sand sources. These sand deposits may be used to maintain the beaches along the Florida Atlantic coast and help coastal communities recover from future storm impacts by protecting the infrastructure.

The population of ROSSI for the remaining Florida Gulf coastal counties is currently in progress. A comprehensive study of sand availability offshore of southwest Florida and a needs determination of beach-compatible sand for southwest Florida shore protection projects is recommended.

Summary

The objectives of this project were to complete various improvements, updates, and enhancements to the ROSSI database (formerly ROSS/OSSI), in addition to populating ROSSI with data from Florida's coastal counties. The modernization of the ROSSI webpage and API mapping utility will provide coastal scientists and managers with a more user-friendly, reliable database to describe existing borrow areas and geotechnical and geophysical data.

A webinar will be hosted by FDEP on July 22, 2015 at 10:00 am to demonstrate the updates and enhancements to the ROSSI database. Please contact Jennifer.coor@dep.state.fl.us for additional information.

Acknowledgements

We appreciate the cooperation and efforts of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM), URS Corporation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District (USACE-SAJ), and Coastal Tech.

For additional information, or to see this article in its entirety, please see:

Coor, J.L., Beauvais, C., Ousley, J.D. (2015) "ROSS/OSSI: A Coastal Management Tool for Offshore Sand Sources," *The Proceedings of the Coastal Sediments 2015*, San Diego, California, USA, 11 May – 15 May 2015.

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NOTICE of July 23rd FDEP Hearing on Rule 62B-49

FDEP will be holding a hearing meeting/webinar regarding Rule 62B-49, Joint Coastal Permits and Concurrent Processing of Proprietary Authorizations on July 23rd at 2 pm. FSBPA has participated in the process on this rule over the past couple of years. Most notably, this rule implements the 2012 expedited permitting for maintenance projects and permit-life legislation. FSBPA has gone on record at previous hearings with a few remaining minor concerns. Lisa Armbruster and Linda Shelley, on behalf of FSBPA, will be participating in this webinar. An update will be provided in a future Shoreline.

You can find the official FDEP notice here: https://www.flrules.org/gateway/View_Notice.asp?id=16136064.

A link to the webinar registration is provided below, along with a description of the hearing subject matter.

The Division of Water Resource Management announces a hearing to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, July 23, 2015, at 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: 2600 Blair Stone Road, Room 609, Tallahassee, FL, 32399. If preferred, a live Webinar will be available.

Participants may register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8050780636584814337>

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: On February 7, 2014, the Department published in the Florida Administrative Register (Vol. 40, No. 26) a Notice of Proposed Rule for proposed revisions to Chapter 62B-49, F.A.C., which concerns the Joint Coastal Permit program. A public hearing was subsequently held on March 3, 2014, at which the Department received timely comments on the proposed rule revisions. These comments were considered, and revisions will be proposed at the second hearing to address the comments as appropriate. The purpose of this second public hearing is to solicit additional input concerning all of the proposed rule revisions, including changes resulting from comments received at the first public hearing and additional language to be proposed by staff at the hearing.

Activities that would have required both a coastal construction permit and an environmental resource permit are authorized by a single joint coastal permit. The Department proposes to amend Chapter 62B-49 to: (a) add new language to implement certain provisions of Chapter 2012-65, Laws of Florida; (b) clarify language in order to reduce confusion in the permitting process and reduce Requests for Additional Information (RAIs); (c) add conditions and amend the rule to expedite the permitting process; and (d) amend procedures to require electronic submittal of applications.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: Nici Todd or Evie Crosby at (850)245-8336. The agenda and other relevant material will be available 7 days prior to the public hearing at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/programs/envpermt.htm>

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Updated Strategic Beach Management Plan has been released to the public

The UPDATED Strategic Beach Management Plan (SBMP), dated June 2015 has been released to the public and is located on FDEP's web page at the following link.

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/publications/index.htm#SBMP>

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Shoreline

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS**FSBPA Conferences**

September 23-25, 2015

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Exhibit & Sponsorship
Information will be
available soon.

OTHER DATES OF INTEREST

October 13-16, 2015

ASBPA 2015 National Coastal Conference

New Orleans, LA

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