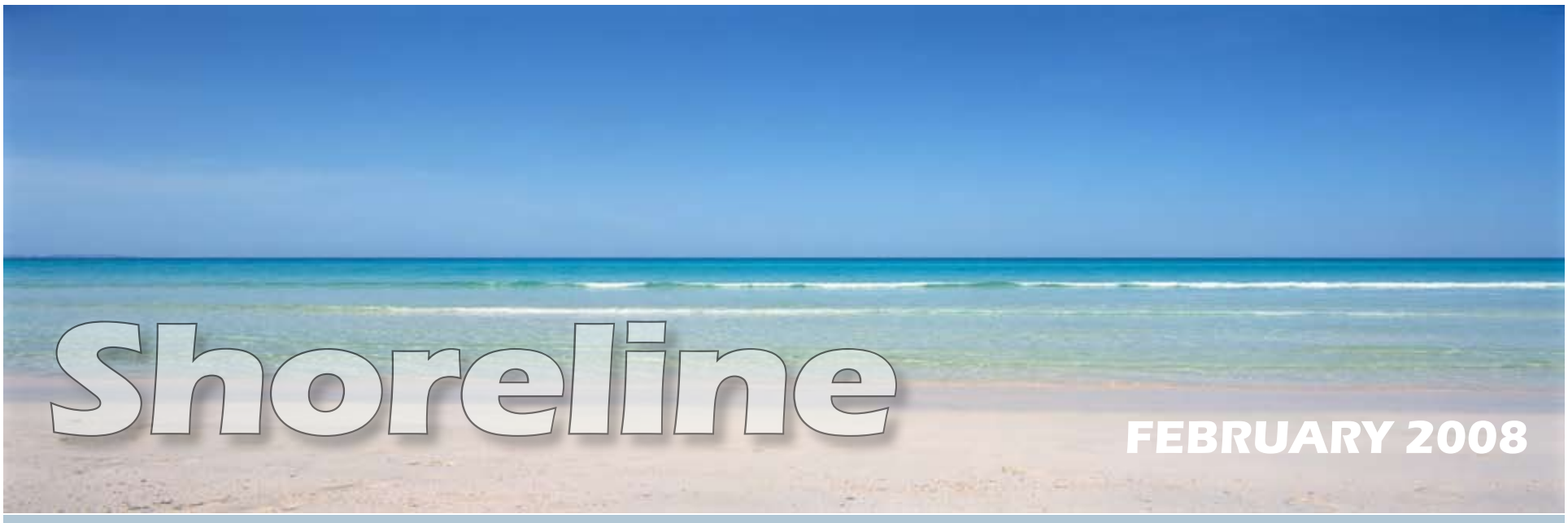
Your monthly newsletter from the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association



Inlet Management/ Inlet of the Year A Legislative Initiative

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The Scientific/ Technical Evolution of Beach Nourishment and Sand By-Passing Projects in Florida

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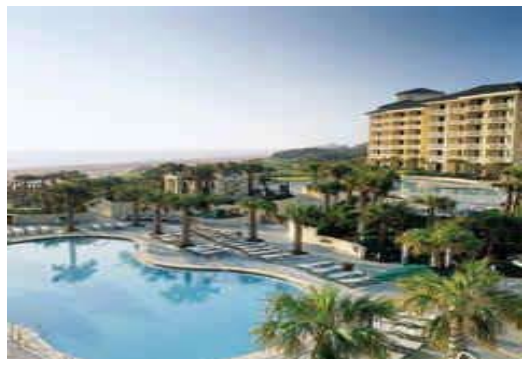
For those with an interest in Palm Beach County's beach management activities ... read full story



Amelia Island Plantation

2009 FSBPA Annual Meeting

You spoke and we listened.

If the results of our informal polling are correct, then Amelia Island Plantation is where our members would most like to hold the 2009 FSBPA Annual Meeting.

Mark your calendars for September 16-18, 2009 and plan to join us for the 2009 FSBPA Annual Meeting at Amelia Island Plantation.

DEP Unveils Comprehensive Sand Source Inventory

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently completed its statewide, comprehensive on-line tool ...read full story

Inlet Management/Inlet of the Year
A Legislative Initiative

By Debbie Flack, with contributions from Dr. Bob Dean and Lisa Armbruster[1]

Sometimes you have a gut feeling. Sometimes you hear, but you don't listen. You just hope you can ignore it.

Most of us are aware that Florida has a well-recognized inlet management component of our statewide beach management program. It has clear statutory direction. Years ago the Florida Legislature recognized that our improved inlets, while necessary for commercial and recreational navigation, were interrupting the natural flow, or more precisely, the longshore transport, of sand and have contributed significantly to erosion on adjacent beaches. With Dr. Dean crafting the words, and me repeatedly offering the simple warning that "inlets were virtually starving Florida's downdrift beaches", legislation was passed in 1986 to address this concern.

The result, Florida has an inlet management program and has for over two decades. Then why is it now time to reexamine it? We could discuss that "gut" feeling that Florida isn't putting the emphasis on inlet management it deserves. However, a sufficient short answer is the growing cost of beach restoration, an increasingly limited supply of beach quality sand, and support from other coastal stakeholders who greatly prefer inlet sand bypassing to beach nourishment using offshore sand sources and its associated environmental impacts.

The need to recommit and redirect our efforts in support of addressing the erosional impacts on Florida's beaches caused by inlets was further reinforced for many of us who heard Dr. Dean's presentation this past fall at FSBPA's 50th Anniversary Conference.

For those that didn't, it has been put to paper by Lisa Armbruster in this issue of Shoreline. We have a responsibility to insure all beach quality sand is placed on the state's eroding beaches. **Senator Dennis Jones**, our number one legislative beaches champion, agrees.

As announced at the close of the annual conference, FSBPA committed to revisit and revitalize inlet management planning, pursuant to Chapter 161, F.S. It began with considerable program review, discussions with DEP personnel, and guidance from Dr. Dean and other expert Association members. The product of these efforts is Senate Bill 1672 (Jones) and an identical House Bill by **Representative Stan Mayfield**, Chairman of the House Environment and Natural Resources Council.

Our timing, given the dramatic revenue shortfalls the 2008 Legislature must address, is questionable. Nevertheless, FSBPA will be championing this legislation during the upcoming session, which convenes March 4. It's timely, it's the right thing to ensure our beach sand is maintained in the system, and appears to enjoy considerable support among various interests.

Let's look at where we are and where we want to be!

CURRENT LAW

Existing statutory language provides a simple declaration of public policy relating to inlets (section 161.142,F.S). It begins "the Legislature further recognizes that inlets alter the natural drift of beach-quality sand resources." It states, using the word "should", that construction-related and maintenance dredging of beach quality sand be placed on downdrift beaches; and that a quantity of sand being placed on adjacent eroding beaches be "equal to the natural net annual longshore sediment transport". In section 161.161, the department is instructed to evaluate each inlet and determine whether it is a significant cause of beach erosion. This evaluation, or "inlet management plan", is to include an estimate of the extent of erosion caused by the inlet, recommendations to mitigate the inlet's erosive impacts, cost estimates to undertake corrective measures, and, finally and often forgotten, "recommendations regarding cost-sharing among the beneficiaries of the inlet."

WHERE ARE WE TODAY

Using this 1986 legislation as the baseline, and fast forwarding to 2008, how does Florida's statewide beach management program measure up in terms of satisfying this clearly stated legislative charge? Let's agree the number of inlets in Florida is 56, recognizing that while the number fluctuates, it is certainly close enough for "government" work. Only 17 Inlet Management Plans (IMP) plans have been adopted, the last adoption occurring nearly 8 years ago. Of these 17 plans, many have only been partially implemented, and in a number of cases very little inlet sand bypassing is occurring. Most telling, over the last 8 years, when the statewide beach management program has enjoyed unprecedented state funding, only about 7% of the fixed capital outlay appropriations have been allocated to inlet sand bypassing and other inlet management projects. The Department's $30 million project priority list for FY 08-09, not yet considered by the Legislature, includes a single IMP, Sebastian Inlet, for $675,000. This "quick and dirty" assessment (of DEP-provided data) of current program efforts certainly explains, in part, the Association's response, and Senator Jones' and Representative Mayfield's desire, to move forward with Legislation now, even with knowledge that the 2008 session will have its own special and difficult set of challenges. Visibility and redirected attention to the importance on inlet management as a significant component of Florida's beach management efforts is clearly a worthwhile pursuit.

[1] We are especially grateful to Mike Barnett, Chief of Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems, DEP, and Gary Appelson, Caribbean Conservation Corporation, for their guidance and insight.

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CAN WE DO BETTER AND WHY NOW?

We can argue about the numbers, but not the correlation or relationship. Dr. Dean, Florida's resident coastal processes expert, often states that inlets (sand removed from the system or blocked by jetties) may be the cause of as much as 80 to 85% of the beach erosion along Florida's East Coast. While the longshore sediment transport on our West Coast is far less, I don't think anyone would disagree that inlets are a measurable cause of erosion there as well. Added to the debate were Dr. Dean's recent estimates, rough, that 55 million cubic yards of sand have been removed from inlet areas (lost to our beaches) at the same time 70 million cubic yards of sand have been placed on Florida's beaches as part of beach nourishment projects. These frighteningly similar estimates of sand lost at inlets and sand placed on eroding beaches should not go unnoticed. Remarkably, Dr. Dean believes improved sand management at inlets could potentially reduce annual beach nourishment needs by as much as 1.4 million cubic yards of sand. (FSBPA's National Technology Conference, Jan 30, 2008)

With the limited success over the last two decades to fully develop and implement inlet management plans for all of Florida's improved inlets, it is clearly time to recommit and redirect our beach management efforts to comprehensively address the critical beach erosion caused by inlets. This is the sole intent of SB 1672 (Jones) and the identical House Companion (Mayfield).

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Section 1: Policy (amends section 161.142)

- Declares the ***Legislature's intent to redirect and recommit the state's beach management efforts to address beach erosion caused by Florida's inlets***
- Declares that it is in the ***public interest to replicate the natural flow of sand at inlets and for all levels of government to make all reasonable efforts to do so***
- Directs that ***all beach quality sand associated with inlet construction and maintenance dredging, including that at federal inlets, must be placed on adjacent beaches***, and that this is considered the least-cost disposal method for this sand
- Acknowledges the immediate responsibility to approximate the ***natural net annual transport volume*** of sand at all inlets, and ***directs that these volumes must be placed on adjacent eroding beaches***
- Removes the current statutory exemption for the state's 12 deepwater ports, while recognizing that ***deepwater ports may require relief from fully satisfying this volume requirement***, it ***encourages these ports to make all reasonable efforts to place beach-quality sand on adjacent eroding beaches***
- ***Provides for undertaking studies and assessments for determining the cost-sharing responsibilities among entities associated with the extent of erosion caused by inlets***
- ***Allows the state to protect its investment in beach nourishment projects*** within an inlet's zone of influence by taking all reasonable action to reinstate the natural flow of sand

Section 2: The Details (creating a section 161.143)

This creates a new section in Chapter 161 specifically for inlet management. It addresses plan development; establishes annual funding priorities for studies, projects, or other activities relating to inlet management; provides separate ranking criteria exclusively for inlet management and specific funding provisions; and provides for the designation of an Inlet of the Year. What follows are selective highlights of the actual bill.

- Studies, projects and other activities to mitigate the erosive effects of inlets on adjacent beaches shall be supported by inlet management plans or inlet components of the statewide beach management plan.
- The ranking criteria to used by the Department to establish inlet management funding priorities must include consideration of:
  - the annual quantity of sand reaching the inlet boundary
  - the severity of the erosion caused by the inlet on adjacent beaches
  - the anticipated success of the project in reinstating the natural flow of sand and addressing the sand deficit on adjacent beaches
  - the degree to which existing bypassing activities would benefit from modest cost-effective improvements
  - interest and commitment from local government(s) associated with the project to cost-share in the project and future maintenance
  - previous completion and adequacy of an inlet management plan or study, and the degree to which the project may enhance the longevity of proximate beach nourishment project
  - *an inlet management project priority list* submitted annually to the Legislature *shall include at least ten separate inlets*
  - *studies to determine or refine annual inlet sand transport volumes and to appropriate responsibilities amongst inlet beneficiaries will be 100% state funded*

- Inlet management projects may receive up to a 75% state cost share and

  - the top three ranked inlet management projects shall receive a minimum of 10% of the total statewide beach management appropriation in each fiscal year
  - at least 50% of all feasibility and design dollars in the department's fixed capital outlay budget request for beach management shall be available for any inlet management plan, study, design, or development work
  - all available funds for statewide beach management that are not encumbered or allocated to specific local government beach management projects, may be used to implement any of the inlet management projects on the priority list, consistent with s .216.301 (2)(a).

And then there is the finale! Each year, from the top three projects on the Department's priority list **the Legislature shall designate an Inlet of the Year** - - to demonstrate their support for, and involvement, in this initiative.

We hope you will lend your support to our sponsors, Senator Jones and Chairman Mayfield to help pass this legislation. It's good for Florida's beaches and enjoys widespread support from many sources.

To the extent that I have introduced my own personal bias and opinion in this article, my apologies. FSBPA owes Bob and Lisa for the reasoned justification for, and many of the creative implementing provisions in this legislation.

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The Scientific/Technical Evolution of Beach Nourishment and Sand By-Passing Projects in Florida Celebrating FSBPA's 50th Anniversary of Beach Preservation, Dr. Bob Dean, September 12, 2007

by Lisa Armbruster

(Highlights of Dr. Bob Dean's presentation at FSBPA's 50th Anniversary Conference held in Boca Raton in September)

Dr. Dean opened his presentation by crediting the Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems (and its many predecessors!), Florida Sea Grant, and the University of Florida for funding, data resource support, and numerous opportunities, which provided him and his students the opportunity to study and work on Florida's beaches.

In honor of FSBPA's 50th anniversary celebration and reflecting on Florida's beach management history, Dr. Dean recalled that in 1966, the State program consisted of only one "beach" employee, and at that time six employees in the Coastal Engineering program at the University of Florida conducted all of the non-federal coastal engineering work for beach projects in the state. By contrast, today there are numerous firms with at least 200 employees that work on such beach projects and the State has approximately 80 employees. He credits not only the consultants for monitoring and interpreting projects, but also the Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems (and again, its many predecessors), the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association, and universities for educating students and conducting beach nourishment and inlet management research with the advances in Florida's beach projects.

Florida saw its first large beach nourishment projects at Miami Beach between 1971 and 1976, where 10 million cubic yards (mcy) of sand restored 10 miles of beach; Delray Beach in 1973, where 1.63 mcy restored 2.7 miles of beach, and Jupiter Island in 1973, where 2.4 mcy restored 3.2 miles of beach. These projects served as groundbreaking large-scale nourishment projects and indeed, effectively established a model for the State's beach management program. The frequency that Miami and Delray Beaches pre- and post-nourishment photo comparisons are used as poster-children for the benefits of beach nourishment is a testament to the success of these projects. Since these initial large projects, approximately 70 mcy of sand have been placed on Florida's beaches. Dr. Dean views each beach project as an experiment in nature, and credited much of the technical advancements and understanding of the coastal system from project monitoring, the valuable shoreline position database developed and maintained by the Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems, and coastal engineering theory. In addition, a great deal has been learned about the natural system, and this new knowledge is key to understanding the altered, or nourished, systems.

Dr. Dean then pointed to Delray Beach, one of the state's landmark projects, to illustrate a sampling of what we have learned about beach nourishment through effective monitoring. Monitoring data collected for the Delray Beach project, which has been renourished a handful of times since its initial construction, illustrates well the theory that renourishment intervals increase with time, as the beach system is continually infused with sand. Delray Beach sea turtle nesting data also indicates that while in the year following sand placement, nesting may decrease, overall, the larger beach invites increased nesting.

The above are only a couple of examples of the scientific and technical advances associated with, as well as understanding of, beach nourishment projects. Dr. Dean noted several others. These include the determination that spreading of a beach nourishment project takes much longer than profile equilibration (spreading in the cross-shore); and over time, good quality sand remains in the nearshore system and the project spreads to the neighboring shorelines, serving as a feeder beach. The role of sand size in performance of beach nourishment projects has advanced significantly, and the capability to predict the performance of beach nourishment projects has matured. The state's successful beach nourishment projects have also dispelled many rumors associated with beach restoration – namely, the rumor that sand placed as beach nourishment "will just wash away in the first big storm." As evidenced most recently during the 2004-2005 storm seasons, beach nourishment projects provide a wide beach and serve as an excellent energy absorbers for moderate storm tides and high waves.

Dr. Dean then referenced his and his students' 1998 Florida atlas of shoreline change rates based on the DEP shoreline data base which provides the framework for his overall assessment of the state's beach management program. The fact that nourishment sand spreads to adjacent beaches and reduces nourishment needs at these locations is evidenced in the atlas results. Prior to the implementation of our beach management program, Florida's east coast was eroding at 0.08 ft/yr, Florida's west coast was eroding at 0.11 ft/yr, and the statewide average was 0.093 ft/yr of erosion along Florida's 634 coastal miles analyzed. After the beach management program, which has placed approximately 70 mcy of sand on Florida's beaches, Florida's east coast has gained 4.24 ft/yr, Florida's west coast has gained 1.21 ft/yr, and Florida's entire coast has experienced an overall average gain of 2.95 ft/yr. With this analysis, Dr. Dean concluded that Florida's beaches are actually nearly in balance on average; however, variability in the patterns of shoreline change remains and requires consideration!

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Despite Florida's success with beach restoration projects, addressing Florida's inlet problem has proven more difficult. Many of Florida's 56 inlets have been constructed or modified for navigation, including jetties and/or artificially deepened channels; these features often interrupt the longshore sediment transport and cause downdrift erosion of the adjacent beaches. Dr. Dean estimates that a total of 55 mcy of sand has been removed from the east coast nearshore system in conjunction with inlet navigational entrances. And, in fact, he estimates that inlet sand removal combined with the sand blocked by jetties, can explain about 80-85% of the beach erosion along Florida's east coast beaches. While some inlet management projects have been undertaken, such as channel dredging with placement on the downdrift beaches or sand bypassing plants, inlet management is frequently a more difficult problem to address due, in part, to the diversity of the stakeholders. However, in light of the many beach nourishment projects accomplished, Dr. Dean encouraged more effort and resources now be directed to managing Florida's inlets. Given the growing demand for and the increasingly limited supply of beach quality sand for Florida's beach nourishment projects, along with the costs to construct these projects, the state must confront the issue of more effective inlet management. The state has already turned to innovative approaches to locate sand resources for its beach nourishment projects; therefore, now is the time to focus on managing existing resources as around our inlets.

Dr. Dean closed by commending Florida for its great strides in beach management and for providing leadership to many of the nation's other coastal states in their management programs. Florida has made much progress in restoring its beaches – a great deal of "catching up" has been accomplished– and many of its beach nourishment projects are performing well. Florida should take stock of past accomplishments to identify the most effective future directions. The focus must shift now to managing Florida's limited existing resources and addressing inlet management. In addition, Florida should continue to conduct studies to provide a basis for educating the general public on natural and altered beach systems and to begin to understand and address sea level rise. Dr. Dean cautioned that we must keep in mind that although beach nourishment has been effective, the procedure is relatively young and there will be no "silver bullet" to the future maintenance of Florida's beaches.

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The Budget Outlook for FY 08-09

by Debbie Flack

Usually the last few committee weeks leading up to the Legislative Session are highlighted by workshops on major legislative packages and budget discussions of agency funding priorities. Numerous individual member bills are heard. But this year discussion is increasingly framed by growing revenue shortfall projections and pending budget cuts. There is considerable spin on a few programs slated for special funding and attention, like reducing greenhouse emissions, but it is not diverting the concern over the extent of budget cuts and just how long Florida's economic downturn will last.

The week of February 18-22 will largely be spent identifying a second round of budget reductions for the current fiscal year (2007-08). Beaches, having escaped any cuts in the fall's Special Session, should be in a position to absorb any across-the-board cuts, or trust fund sweeps unless there are extensive unencumbered dollars. Our focus is, instead, on the Legislature's $2 billion budget reduction exercise for next fiscal year funding, and the Governor's corresponding recommended budget for FY 08-09.

The Governor's recommended budget for statewide beach management is troubling on two fronts. The extent of the recommended funding reductions for beach projects, while extremely significant, is not nearly as disturbing as the conforming legislation formally reducing the documentary stamp tax allocation for statewide beach management of $30 million annually, pursuant to Chapter 201, F.S.

Now to the specifics. The Governor's recommended budget reduces the doc stamp allocation from $30 to $25 million for FY 08-09. This alone requires conforming legislation for Ch. 201, changing the statutory allocation. Many of us remember how hard fought securing dedicated annual funding for beaches was during the decade of the 90's. This year presents the most serious challenge to date. Maintaining a dedicated annual funding level of $30 million from doc stamp revenues is the foundation of FSBPA's advocacy efforts. We will be put to the test this year. We will need the support of each of you and your local government officials!

The actual loss of specific local government project funding is more than $5 million if the Governor's position prevails. Bureau staffing/ operations which totals just over $5 million must now come from the actual doc stamp allocation as well. In recent years, program administration has been paid for with interest earnings, which have been drastically reduced with declining tax revenues. That leaves just $20 million for actual "projects". DEP's priority and alternate project lists for FY 08-09 have not been formally released. But I think I can make you appreciate what just $20 million for projects will mean:

- The first $4 million plus will go to post-construction monitoring
- Approximately $2.5 million to feasibility/design studies
- Almost $2.5 million for program support and special studies (in addition to the off-the-top $5 million to fund the entire Bureau)

That does not leave much for individual local government projects. Look what gets left behind! $20 million funds a dozen or so projects, with less than half of those receiving more than $1 million. If priority list funding is reduced from $30 to $20 million we lose two large initial Panhandle restoration projects in Okaloosa and Destin, not to mention the long-established renourishment of Longboat Key. I am fairly certain we can forget, under any scenario, projects on whatever is ultimately the final alternate list for the coming year -- like Walton, Singer Island, Wabasso, and South St. Lucie. Don't assume the Department will have the flexibility to transfer money among projects as it currently does. Should the worst case scenario, a $20 million priority list for FY 2008-09, look like the inevitable, be assured FSBPA will examine and question just how these limited dollars are to be spent! We will ask for your input.

FSBPA will do all we can during the up coming Legislative Session to:

- PROTECT THE EXISTING DOC STAMP ALLOCATION OF $30 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR BEACH MANAGEMENT
- SECURE $30 MILLION AT A MINIMUM, FOR PROJECTS ($25 million) AND BUREAU STAFFING/OPERATIONS ($5 million)

Our work will be just that much harder if DEP reduces its project priority list to the Governor's recommendation of $20 million. I could be wrong but I think it would be the first time they have ignored the statutory intent of Chapter 201, calling for $30 million annually for statewide beach management. I expect DEP's Beach Management Funding Assistance Program, Fixed Capital Outlay, Local Government Funding Requests for the coming fiscal year to be on line very soon, www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches. Each of you will have to make the case for your community's project- specific funding request -- alert your local elected officials and legislative delegation members. Funding has become so institutionalized and predictable since securing dedicated funding in 1998 everyone will need a quick course in "why now". Be assured FSBPA will do all it can in support of our member projects. However, our overriding priority will be to preserve the integrity of a statewide program supported by statutorially-mandated dedicated funding source at its current level of $30 million.

We sincerely hope to have the support of the Florida Association of Counties, several environmental advocacy groups, and the lobbying reinforcement of our many BeachWatch member governments.

We will need to overcome an "image" issue, raised in presentations of the Governor's budget recommendations that the program doesn't use the money it has. The current trust fund balance is a staggering and disturbing figure. We must address our dreadful project spending rates and the causes - - too much bureaucracy and intolerable permitting times come to mind. All of us will need to be part of the solution if we expect the state's beach management program to continue to enjoy the legislative support it has "earned" over the years.

What a shame it would be to have to reduce statewide beach management funding at a point in time when we have enormous support from many different sources to refocus Florida's efforts to effectively bypass inlet sand and address the significant erosion caused by our inlets on adjacent beaches. This will take money that we all have recognized must come from existing appropriations.

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Jacksonville District's Project Status

Feasibility Studies:

- St. Johns County Feasibility Study is underway. Preliminary Beach-fx data is being entered, and the draft Geotechnical report and borrow source delineation have been completed.
- Volusia County Shore Feasibility Study is in progress. Minimal effort is expected in fiscal year 2008 including surveys and updated project management plan. Seeking sponsor contributed funds.
- St. Lucie County Feasibility Study cultural resources work and State Historic Preservation Office coordination are ongoing with fieldwork expected to end in January 2008. Most of the study work is expected to be done by the non-Federal sponsor.
- Flagler County Feasibility Study is expected to receive fiscal year 2008 funding for initiation of data gathering.

Other Major Planning Reports:

- The Brevard County Mid Reach General Reevaluation Report (GRR) is in the plan formulation phase. A tentatively selected plan has been approved by senior management in the Jacksonville District and independent technical review has been completed. The Alternative Formulation Briefing meeting was held in November 2007. The next step for the team is to address the comments brought by Headquarters at the meeting and complete the draft report. The document will be available for public review and comment after coordination with Headquarters concludes.
- The Captiva Island Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Project Information Report has been approved. The project is in the design phase and the intent is to start construction this winter.
- The North Boca Raton Second Periodic renourishment Limited Reevaluation Report was sent to the Corps' South Atlantic Division (SAD) office in October 2007. Comments were received in December 2007. The project team is addressing the comments and revising the final report.
- An addendum to the April 2006 Nassau County, Florida Shore Protection project GRR has been competed. The addendum identifies 6 new structures added to the project inventory which increase the Federal percentage of cost sharing.
- The Draft Ft. Pierce Shore Protection project GRR completed by the non-Federal Sponsor is undergoing review at the Jacksonville District.
- 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 Federal and non-Federal funds to be provided to the Jacksonville District. A Design Agreement was executed in 2006 with the city of Deerfield Beach in order for the Jacksonville District to initiate preparation of the document.

Other:

- Material was placed on Fernandina Beach in November from the Fernandina Harbor/Kings Bay maintenance dredging contract.
- Brevard Independent Coastal Expert Letter Report was signed by Col. Grosskruger on October 1st and is currently awaiting SAD endorsement to move further.

Borrow Site Investigations:

- Martin County and Sarasota County borrow area investigations are underway. Geotechnical field work is complete on Martin and Sarasota. Bathymetric surveys will be completed in the near future for Martin County so that the numerical wave modeling can commence. Bathymetric surveys for Sarasota will commence after the completion of the Martin County survey.
- Hard bottom mapping for Martin County is scheduled for this summer.
- A revised version (per Headquarters comments) of the Dade County Sand Source Letter Report has been sent to SAD and to Headquarters. On 10 December 2007, the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) sent a memo to the Director of Civil Works recommending a three-tiered approach to meet Dade County's beach renourishment needs:
    1) Consider use of emergency sand reserves in current borrow area SGC-Ext 1 and remaining material in other traditional borrow sources offshore of Dade County.
    2) Examine the viability of non-domestic sand sources for intermediate and longer-term renourishment needs.
    3) The remaining Florida coastal domestic sand sources should be evaluated through a comprehensive Regional Sediment Management (RSM) plan to address long term needs along Florida's Atlantic coast.

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 first Regional Sediment Source Report was contracted out in October, focusing on Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties. This report will evaluate the volume of beach quality material in current domestic borrow sources and compare that volume with material needs of current Federal and non-Federal beach nourishment projects in the region. Future collaboration with the state and stakeholders is planned.

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2008 National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology

If you weren't one of the 260 or so who attended the 2008 National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology at the Hyatt Sarasota, January 30 to February 1, you missed some great weather and some of our best presentations ever.

For those of you who were able to attend – attendees, exhibitors and sponsors – Thanks! We know travel dollars are scare right now and we appreciate your support.

Kudos to the staff of the Hyatt Sarasota who did a masterful job of disguising a major renovation of large portions of the hotel, including the main lobby and about half the guest rooms. We were more than a little skeptical when Hyatt announced the renovations too late for us to move or reschedule our conference. However, they promised we'd be satisfied and we were.

If you were unable to make this year's conference, by all means plan to join us next year. We are pulling out all the stops to bring you the nation's best speakers and the most compelling topics. We promise you won't be disappointed.

We haven't locked in the 2009 site yet, but are close and should be able to announce our destination and meeting dates in the next month or so.

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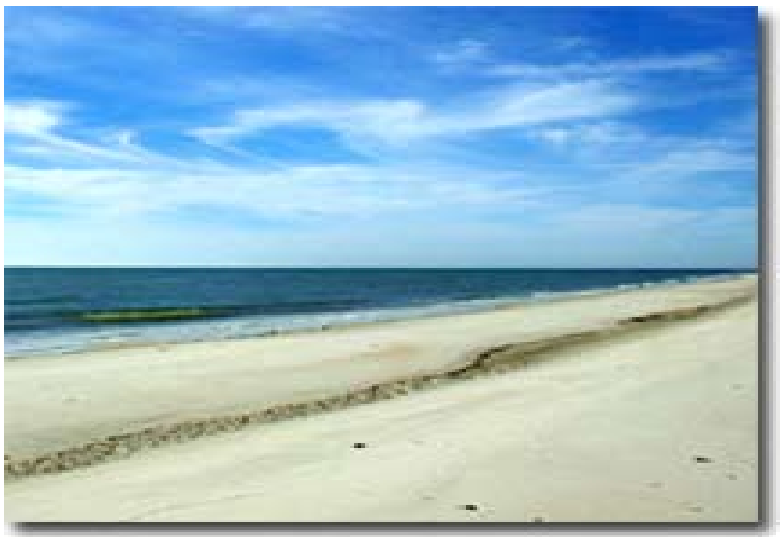
DEP Unveils Comprehensive Sand Source Inventory

Editors Note: This tool is related to legislation from last session by Senator Dennis Jones and Representative Stan Mayfield, championed by FSBPA, with the active support of several of our member counties.

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently completed its statewide, comprehensive on-line tool for identifying suitable sand sources from Florida's coastal waters, making this database the first of its kind in the nation. The database includes comprehensive information about offshore sediment and geological features and is to support the design and construction of beach restoration and nourishment projects.

"With this new database, both the state and local beach managers will be better equipped to evaluate and protect our precious coastal resources," said DEP Secretary Michael W. Sole. "DEP continues to look for innovative tools and technologies to enhance our abilities and protect Florida's environment."

Named the Reconnaissance Offshore Sand Search, or "ROSS," the database is publicly available on the internet. ROSS is a comprehensive tool for coastal engineers, project managers, and regulators as they design and construct beach restoration and nourishment projects, that encourages better sand management practices. The database will help reduce the costs of locating sufficient quantities of quality sand, and assists DEP in regional sand management for the protection of Florida's coastal communities and habitats.



"With this new database, both the state and local beach managers will be better equipped to evaluate and protect our precious coastal resources."

~ DEP Secretary Michael W. Sole

"State, federal and local governments invest millions of dollars annually to restore and maintain critically eroded beaches along Florida's coastline," said Mike Barnett, a licensed professional engineer and Bureau Chief of DEP's Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems. "Having an up-to-date tracking system of available offshore sand sources statewide will help beach restoration and nourishment projects move forward more quickly."

Florida's beach and dune system acts as the first line of defense during hurricane season. Beach restoration and nourishment can prepare the coastline to better withstand the forces of hurricanes while providing recreational and economic benefits. To date, more than 190 miles of beach have been restored and maintained through the State program.

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Calendar of Events

February 27-29, 2008
2008 Coastal Summit, ASBPA
Washington, DC
Registration Information:
www.asbpa.org

March 4-May 2, 2008
Regular Session of the Florida Legislature
For Information:
http://www.leg.state.fl.us/

March 31-April, 2008
30th Annual National Hurricane Conference
For Registration Information:
http://www.hurricanemeeting.com/

August 31-September 5, 2008
International Conference on Coastal Engineering
Hamburg, Germany
For Registration Information:
http://icce2008.hamburg.baw.de/

September 10-12, 2008
FSBPA Annual Meeting
South Seas Plantation, Captiva Island, FL
http://www.fsbpa.com/index.html

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A monthly electronic publication of the
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