

Shoreline

March 2013

news from the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association

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2013 Session Preview: READY, SET and GO

By Debbie Flack (3/1/13)

When the 2013 Session of the Florida Legislature begins Tuesday (March 5), FSBPA will be prepared to follow a specific governmental strategy for beach funding that has evolved over the past several months with the formal involvement of the Association's Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and also with the frequent input of many of our local government members impacted by Hurricane Sandy and Tropical Storm

Debby. FSBPA staff and consultants have devoted five of the last six weeks to legislative committee meetings, especially appropriations subcommittees in the House and Senate, and we have had extensive meetings with Committee Chairs and affected lawmakers regarding storm-damaged beaches.

This update is simply a general overview to bring you up to date as session approaches. Our governmental agenda is ambitious, with a costly funding objective, but clearly important. Like in 2004 and 2005, FSBPA with



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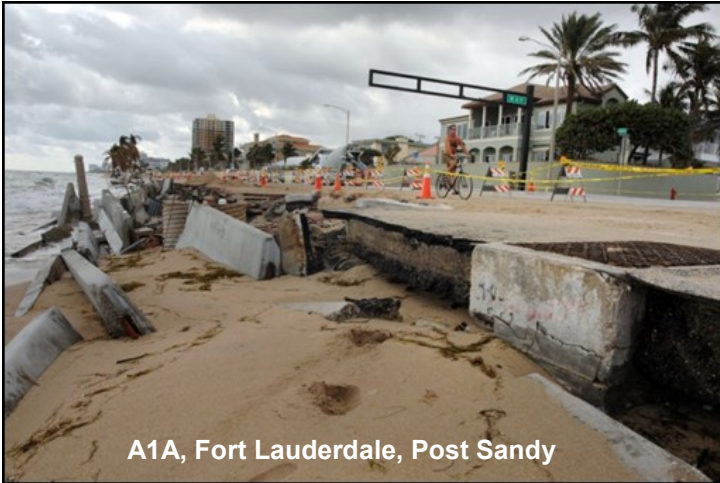
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Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association

considerable help from each of you, especially our local government members, has a responsibility to get the message out once again and do everything within our abilities and resources to make sure it is heard clearly by new members of the Legislature and current House and Senate leadership.



A1A, Fort Lauderdale, Post Sandy

As appropriate we are asking you directly, or through other involved interests, to **encourage the Legislature to consider a separate appropriation or otherwise identify additional dollars under Statewide Beach Management for 2013-14 to address substantial damages to our beaches on the East Coast from Hurricane Sandy and major sand losses to a handful of federal beach nourishment projects on Florida's Southwest Coast impacted last summer by Tropical Storm Debby. As the "voice of Florida's beaches"**

it is FSBPA's responsibility to effectively make the case that Florida cannot afford to leave our beaches in a state of disrepair without risking an adverse impact on record-level tourism that is leading the economic recovery in our coastal communities and statewide, and further leaving miles of beaches, public infrastructure and upland development vulnerable to the next storm event.

The Governor provided us a very positive starting point, even without benefit of knowing the extent and cost of recent storm damages. His budget recommendation includes **\$25 million** for statewide beach projects (a \$3 million increase over the current fiscal year), and is in keeping with his appreciation of the importance of beaches to Florida's economy.

Unfortunately, because of the timing of both Hurricane Sandy and DEP's September deadline for submittal of local government funding requests (LGFR), the Governor's recommendation and DEP's legislative submittal of the 2013-14 LGFR with project priority lists does not take into consideration storm damages or the corresponding need for increased funding and in some cases even recognize the correct project phase (design vs. construction) for needed state dollars. The department has indicated these shortcomings as part of its submittal to the Legislature today. Most critically from a legislative perspective is the failure of the submitted project lists to capture the importance of potential 100% federal rehabilitation assistance (PL 84-99) for storm-induced sand losses with FCCE (Flood Control & Coastal Emergencies) funds and the further possibility of additional federal cost-sharing for supplemental Construction (CG) funding to bring the project back to its design profile. As history has shown, leveraging of federal

cost-sharing funds is a very big deal to the Legislature, which must and will be part of appropriation deliberations during the 2013 Session.

If we do not address funding outside of, or partially in lieu of, and inarguably at a higher funding level than the traditional DEP annual beach funding program, as well as provide an expedited state regulatory process, we may leave substantial one-time only, time-sensitive federal funding for storm repair on the table for our federally-



authorized Corps projects on Florida's East Coast and Southwest Coast. That includes 8 federal projects on the East Coast, and 4 on the SW Coast that received positive Corps of Engineers reports (PIRs), the threshold for FCCE federal dollars. Just to give you an idea of the magnitude of damage and the potential for federal funds consider estimated total costs of over \$150 million for these federally-authorized Florida projects, and a maximum federal cost-share that could optimally exceed \$100 million. This number as the

formal review process proceeds in Washington may go down, even substantially, but our state strategy must be responsive to assist local governments with nonfederal sponsor's project cost-share. It is worth the effort and benefit to the State, and we should be optimistic that the Legislature will ultimately agree.

FSBPA also plans to seek state cost-sharing for a few highly-ranked federally-authorized projects on DEP's traditional 2013-14 project list that have the potential to leverage substantial federal Construction (CG) dollars. Fortunately, picking up these few projects following the LGFR ranking reinforces the beach project's list overall integrity, with the same projects rising to the top whether the assessment is based on 2012 storm damages and potential federal cost-sharing, or ranking by the statutory criteria in Chapter 161. This is fortunate because as long as can be remembered leveraging federal dollars for beach nourishment has been and remains an overriding consideration of the Florida Legislature.

I am increasingly optimistic there will be a federal response to Florida's beach damages in 2012 despite the obvious and justified focus on unprecedented Sandy damages in the Northeast and the unknowns surrounding sequestration. As I have stated on more than one recent occasion, regardless of the outcome, the State and this Association should be most appreciative of the efforts made by our federal beach management partners at the Corps of Engineers, and a number of members of Florida's Congressional Delegation. It is fairly certain that Florida would not even be in the mix without their commitment.

While the level of funding may fluctuate as the state's appropriations process for FY2013-14 proceeds, it is a safe assumption that significant state cost-sharing will be made available to draw down federal dollars for those federally-authorized projects damaged by Sandy and Debby.

What is far less certain is what to do for all those **non-federal** beach nourishment and dune restoration projects, from Brevard through Broward counties, damaged by Sandy that historically would have received (Category G) FEMA funding for repair. With the recent final FEMA denial of the Governor's appeal, these projects with estimated damages of roughly \$40 million will either be left in a state of disrepair, the full cost burden of coastal communities, or the State must step forward to partner with impacted local governments to at least provide some level of financial cost-sharing. After discussion with each of these affected communities, identification of their critical needs, some cost refinement from original FEMA Project Damage Assessments, and

an expressed willingness to share the financial costs with the State associated with going forward without FEMA funding, FSBPA is promoting a funding proposal for this select group of storm-damaged beaches. To get this issue into the deliberations, 50% state funding for a number of non-federal beach and dune restoration projects that would have otherwise been eligible for FEMA Cat G funding is being put forth. It is a heavy lift (from a routine state beach program contribution of 6.25% to 50%) but clearly justified. Each of our affected coastal governments needs to make the case to local legislative delegation members. An additional \$20 million plus in a year of exceptional need for storm-damage recovery of Florida beaches is a difficult request in the absence of any federal cost-sharing and in terms of precedence for the State stepping in when FEMA doesn't. Regardless of the outcome, but truly encouraged by the initial interest of many lawmakers, it is worth the effort. We hope our individual local government lobbyists, the League of Cities, and Florida Association of Counties will join the cause. Member reinforcement will certainly help.



Brevard County, Post-Sandy



Indian River County, Post-Sandy

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This is a preview of our 2013 session appropriations framework once we add traditional post-construction monitoring and inlet management to the mix. Be assured Diana Ferguson, legislative services, Rutledge & Ecenia, Lisa Armbruster, FSBPA, Governmental Affairs, and I are ready to get started.

Our monitoring and tracking list of substantive bills for this session is just taking form. So far there doesn't appear to be any legislation of direct impact to Chapter 161, and the Association does not have its own initiative this session like last session's beach permit reform bill. However, we will be tracking throughout session in case we need to offer a permit, project ranking or funding-related amendment – but we more likely will be on the lookout for unfriendly amendments in the most obscure places.

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The 2013 Tech Conference Another Outstanding Meeting

FSBPA as sponsor and organizer of the 2013 National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology wants to thank the Executive and Planning Committee as well as Lisa Armbruster for planning another outstanding meeting! We greatly appreciate the time and effort it takes them to review abstracts and compile the program, so thank you very much!

The conference sessions had great presentations and speakers. You'll want to check the FSBPA website within the next week for power point presentations from speakers who gave us permission to post their presentation online.

To the attendees, thank you for joining us. We greatly value your attendance and want to know your thoughts on the meeting, so if you have not yet completed the survey which was emailed to you on the last day of the conference, please take a few moments to complete it now. Your responses to the survey questions are important to us and help us to better serve your needs. If you can't find the email with the survey link, contact mail@fsbpa.com to have the link emailed to you.

A big thank you to the conference sponsors and exhibitors. Their support is most important to a successful conference! Attendees enjoy and appreciate the items they provide, the professional breaks, the welcome reception and luncheon. Networking is an important part of the tech conference and the breaks provided in the exhibit hall offer a chance for attendees to interact with colleagues while also providing an opportunity to learn about available services and products exhibitors have to offer.

Once again, to our planning committee, speakers, attendees, sponsors, exhibitors, and volunteers who assist us, thank you for making the Annual National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology a great success. FSBPA's Board of Directors and staff greatly appreciate your continued support.

Mark your calendar now for the 2014 Annual Tech Conference. **It will be February 12-14, at the Hutchinson Island Marriott in Stuart, Florida.**

2013 Planning Committee

Executive Committee

Michael Barnett, P.E.
Tetra Tech, Inc.

Kevin Bodge, Ph.D., P.E.
Olsen Associates, Inc.

Douglas Mann, P.E.
Coastal Planning & Engineering, Inc.

Planning Members

Kenneth Banks, Ph.D., P.E.
Broward County, Florida

Lynn Bocamazo, P.E.
USACE, New York District

Richard Bouchard, P.E.
FSBPA and St. Lucie County, Florida

Bill Curtis
USACE Research and Development Center

Robert Dean, Ph.D., P.E.
University of Florida

Jason Engle, P.E.
USACE, Jacksonville District

C. Scott Hardaway, Jr.
Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Karl Havens, Ph.D.
Florida Sea Grant

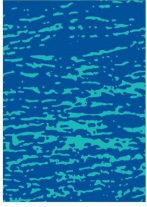
Todd Walton, Ph.D., P.E.
Coastal Technology Corporation, Inc.

and

Lisa Armbruster
FSBPA, Conference Program Coordinator

2013 TECH CONFERENCE SPONSORS

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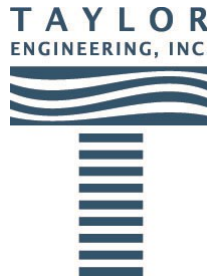
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2013 TECH CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

We would like to thank the following companies for exhibiting at the conference.

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Boynton Beach, FL

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Bradenton, FL

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US Army Corps
of Engineers

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Planning Transformation: One Year In

On February 8, 2012, Major General Michael Walsh kick-started the Army Corps of Engineers Planning Transformation with a memorandum outlining a modern process that emphasizes efficient execution, instills accountability, and improves management and operations to ensure consistent quality. The “3x3x3 Rule” mandates that Feasibility studies will be scoped for completion within 3 years and \$3 Million, integrate the 3 levels of the vertical USACE chain (Headquarters, Division, District), and produce a reasonably sized report. One year later, SMART Planning (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Risk Informed, and Timely) is in full swing in every USACE Division. By rescoping Feasibility studies within the constraints of the “3x3x3 Rule” this past year, USACE has the potential to avoid \$75 Million in costs.



Major General Michael Walsh

This success was accomplished by using SMART Planning Principles: balancing the level of uncertainty and risk with the level of detail, integrating the USACE vertical team and full sponsor engagement, identifying the Federal interest early in the study, and fully funding and resourcing studies for their duration. Throughout the study, all team members ask themselves:

- o What is the decision we are going to make?
- o How are we going to make the decision?
- o What criteria will we use to make the decision?
- o What are the key drivers (data, uncertainty, etc.) that will affect the decision?
- o What data is immediately available? Will getting more data change the decision outcome?
- o What are the decision risks (probability and consequence of making an undesirable decision) of using the available data?
- o How does the data influence the decision?

When these broad questions are applied to the coastal environment, USACE can acknowledge the many uncertainties involved with sea level change, climate change, storm activity, environmental impacts, economic analyses, models, and more. Acknowledging uncertainty allows USACE to agree upon tolerable levels of risk for different aspects of the study and tailor the level of detail accordingly. This balance in the level of detail is what allows greater efficiencies in cost and time to complete a feasibility study.

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FDEP Division of Water Resource Management Report for February 2013

JOINT COASTAL PERMITS

Final Orders - Beach Restoration and Nourishment Projects and Other Projects of Interest:

Venice Inlet Flood Shoal Impoundment Basin and Snake Island Stabilization (Sarasota County) – request to create an impoundment basin (primary area) within the flood shoal region of Venice Inlet, with placement of the dredged material in the nearshore disposal area or the Snake Island stabilization area. The project also includes subsequent dredging of sand captured by the basin and placement of the dredged material in either the beach placement area or the nearshore disposal area (according to the suitability of the sand). Additionally, a (secondary) borrow area northeast of Snake Island will be dredged one-time only for advanced maintenance, and the dredged material will be placed within the Snake Island fill template, the beach placement area or the nearshore disposal area. Snake Island will be stabilized by the installation of two terminal groins, with a breakwater in between. These structures will be backfilled with approximately 2,000 cubic yards of dredged material, and native wetland vegetation will be planted as additional stabilization. The final order was issued January 9, 2013.

Wiggins Pass Navigation Channel Expansion and Maintenance (Collier County) – request to straighten and expand the Wiggins Pass navigation channel by dredging a new alignment and filling the existing channel meander within the flood shoal and to conduct periodic maintenance dredging of the authorized navigation channel location. The final order was issued on January 2, 2013.

Miami Beach Experimental Reefball Project (Miami-Dade County) — request to install an experimental erosion control system consisting of submerged “reefballs” near 63rd Street in Miami Beach. The final order was issued on December 13, 2012.

Longboat Pass Flood Shoal Impoundment Basins (Collier County) – proposal to create two impoundment basins (Cut 1 and Cut 2) within the flood shoal of Longboat Pass, with placement of the dredged material on the beach or nearshore area, on the northern end of Longboat Key. During the initial excavation, Cut 1 will yield approximately 30,000 cubic yards of material and Cut 2, which straddles part of the Federal Navigation Channel, will yield approximately 70,000 cubic yards of material. This includes approximately 8,000 cy of sand from the Federal Channel, or a net volume of 62,000 cy for Cut 2. The project also includes the subsequent dredging of sand captured by the basins and placement of the dredged material in one of the placement locations on the north end of Longboat Key or in the Coquina Beach template. The final order was issued December 5, 2012.

South Lake Worth Inlet Maintenance Dredging (Palm Beach County)—request to expand the sand trap dredge limits to improve inlet management and maintenance dredging activities to more effectively bypass sediments deposited within the flood shoal areas onto the beach. The permit modification was issued on November 16, 2012.

Sailfish Point Navigation Channel Maintenance Dredging (Martin County)—request to continue periodic maintenance dredging of 25,000 cubic yards of material annually from the Sailfish Point Navigational Channel and Harbor Entrance Channel, with placement of dredged material into the beach dune. The final order was issued on November 8, 2012.

Upham Beach Permanent Groins (Pinellas County) – request to replace five temporary geotextile tube structures at Upham Beach, located immediately south of Blind Pass, with four permanent groin structures using limestone rock boulders. The final order was issued on October 30, 2012.

South Marco Island Nourishment (Collier County) – request to nourish 4,730’ of Gulf of Mexico shoreline using approximately 104,000 cubic yards of beach compatible fill to be removed from the Caxambas Pass borrow area. The final order was issued on October 11, 2012.

Notice of Intent/Draft Permits Processed:

Panama City Beaches Nourishment (Bay County) - request to nourish 17.5 miles of shoreline. The nourishment events will use approximately 3.0 million cubic yards of dredged material from seven offshore borrow areas. When smaller nourishment events (requiring less than 200,000 cubic yards of fill) are conducted to repair hot spot erosion, upland sand sources will be used. The Notice of Intent and Draft Permit were issued on December 10, 2012.

On-going Project Construction

Canaveral Harbor Federal Maintenance Dredging (Brevard County, USACE)—Maintenance dredging of sediment from the federally-authorized Port is under construction. Anticipated date for completion is August 2013.

Western Destin Beach Restoration Project (Okaloosa County) – Restoration includes placement of beach quality sand along two reaches of the Okaloosa County shoreline immediately east of Destin’s East Pass is under construction. Anticipated date for completion is March 2013.

Delray Beach Nourishment Project (Palm Beach County)—a 10 year permit authorizing nourishment of 1.9 miles of beach fronting the Atlantic Ocean using approximately 1.2 million cubic yards of sand from two offshore borrow areas was issued on January 27, 2012. Project construction is expected to begin in March 2013.



Photograph of the Western Destin Beach Restoration Project taken February 2, 2013, courtesy of Taylor Engineering

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Beach Management Agreement Update

The final unexecuted draft BMA was published on the Department’s website on February 8. A GovDelivery email was sent to Stakeholders, kicking-off a 30-day comment period that ends on March 11.

Rule 62B-36, Beach Management Funding Assistance Program

The Department received nine written comments after the December 18, 2012 workshop which can be viewed at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/rule-dev.htm>

Staff reviewed all verbal and written comments to produce a final draft for upper management review and initiation of formal rule development. Once the proposed rule notice is approved by upper management, a Notice of Proposed Rule will be published in the Florida Administrative Register (FAR).

Sediment Assessment and Needs Determination Study Update

The Department and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are conducting a Sediment Assessment and Needs Determination Study of the supply of offshore sand resources and the demand for this sand to conduct beach nourishment in southeast Florida. The five (5) coastal counties (St. Lucie through Miami-Dade) are actively participating in the study to determine the regional supply and demand for beach quality sand for all shore protection projects over the next 50 years.

A peer review of the of the Corps **Southeast Florida Sediment Assessment and Needs Determination (SAND)** report is being conducted by Coastal Planning and Engineering, and the Department forwarded the review memorandum on this document to the stakeholders on Thursday, February 7th. The SAND group reconvened from 1-4 PM on February 12, 2013, at the Omni Hotel in Jacksonville to discuss findings.

The Department has contracted with Coastal Tech/URS to add the SAND Study data to the Reconnaissance Offshore Sand Search (ROSS) data base so that the data is accessible via the Web in a GIS format. There will be a direct link to the SAND Study project data on the ROSS homepage.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FSBPA Conferences

September 25-27, 2013

FSBPA Annual Conference

Marriott Delray Beach, FL

February 12-14, 2014

National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology

Hutchinson Island Marriott, Stuart, Florida

OTHER DATES OF INTEREST

March 5 thru May 3, 2013

2013 Legislative Session

October 22-25, 2013

ASBPA National Coastal Conference

South Padre Island, TX

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