



news from the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association

November 2024

A Long Road to Recovery – Supporting Florida Coastal Communities Affected by the 2024 Hurricane Season

As we reflect on the 2024 hurricane season, our hearts go out to the many Floridians who have faced the devastating impact of storms. This year has been particularly challenging, with three severe weather systems wreaking havoc across our state. From the tragedy of lost lives to damaged homes and flooded communities, the effects of these storms are felt deeply and broadly.

Many of our member governments are navigating the complexities of recovery, repair, and rebuilding after Hurricanes Helene and Milton. We recognize the path to some semblance of normalcy can seem daunting. As local governments develop strategies to rebuild beaches and dunes, we want to emphasize the importance of communication, especially with state and federal agencies and with other communities.

Florida is currently under a 60-day [Executive Order](#) for a state of emergency in 51 counties to assist with immediate recovery operations. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is working to develop a post-storm coastal impact report to document damages and collected videography along the coastline from Pinellas

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Venice Beach, R117, Sarasota Co.



Manasota Key, R002, Charlotte Co.



Midnight Pass, R78, Sarasota Co.



Stump Pass State Park, R17, Charlotte Co.

Photos taken on October 11 and 12, 2024, courtesy of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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County to Collier County on October 11 and 12, which is available at <https://www.floridagio.gov/pages/video-hurricanemilton>. FDEP is also beginning to work on a Beaches Recovery Plan for the 2024 hurricane season and will need some assistance from local governments to determine the volume of sand loss and cost estimates to repair Florida's beaches. This information will be critically important in estimating the non-federal dollars necessary to restore the beaches and dunes following the impacts of Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Please be responsive to the department's requests. Its recovery plan is key to legislative funding for repairs to beaches and dunes outside of the traditional statewide beach management program.

FEMA and USACE are also accepting applications for assistance. Through November 16, the USACE is accepting written requests under the PL 84-99 Rehabilitation Assistance Program for eligible federal flood control projects. FEMA has conducted Preliminary Damage Assessments in several counties to initiate the assistance process but will rely on the survey data collected by local governments to determine damage to beaches and eligible repairs. This year's storms displaced an unprecedented quantity of sand landward into roads, back bays, and homes, and it will require additional effort to collect, screen, replace, track, and monitor the sand for a successful FEMA reimbursement.

In the coming months, we will continue to share information on recovery efforts and ways to assist our members. The 38th National Tech Conference in Panama City Beach will be an excellent opportunity to continue these efforts before the 2025 Legislative Session begins in March. We hope you will make plans to join us.

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Celebrating Success at the 3rd Annual Florida Resilience Conference

On behalf of the FSBPA Board of Directors and staff, we extend our appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of the 3rd Annual Florida Resilience Conference. With over 550 participants, this year's conference was a resounding success, and we couldn't have done it without the dedication of our presenters, attendees, volunteers, sponsors, and exhibitors. We would like to extend special thanks to Lee County, especially Commissioner Ray Sandelli, Steve Boutelle, Tamara Pigott and her generous team, for their support of the event.

By the Numbers:

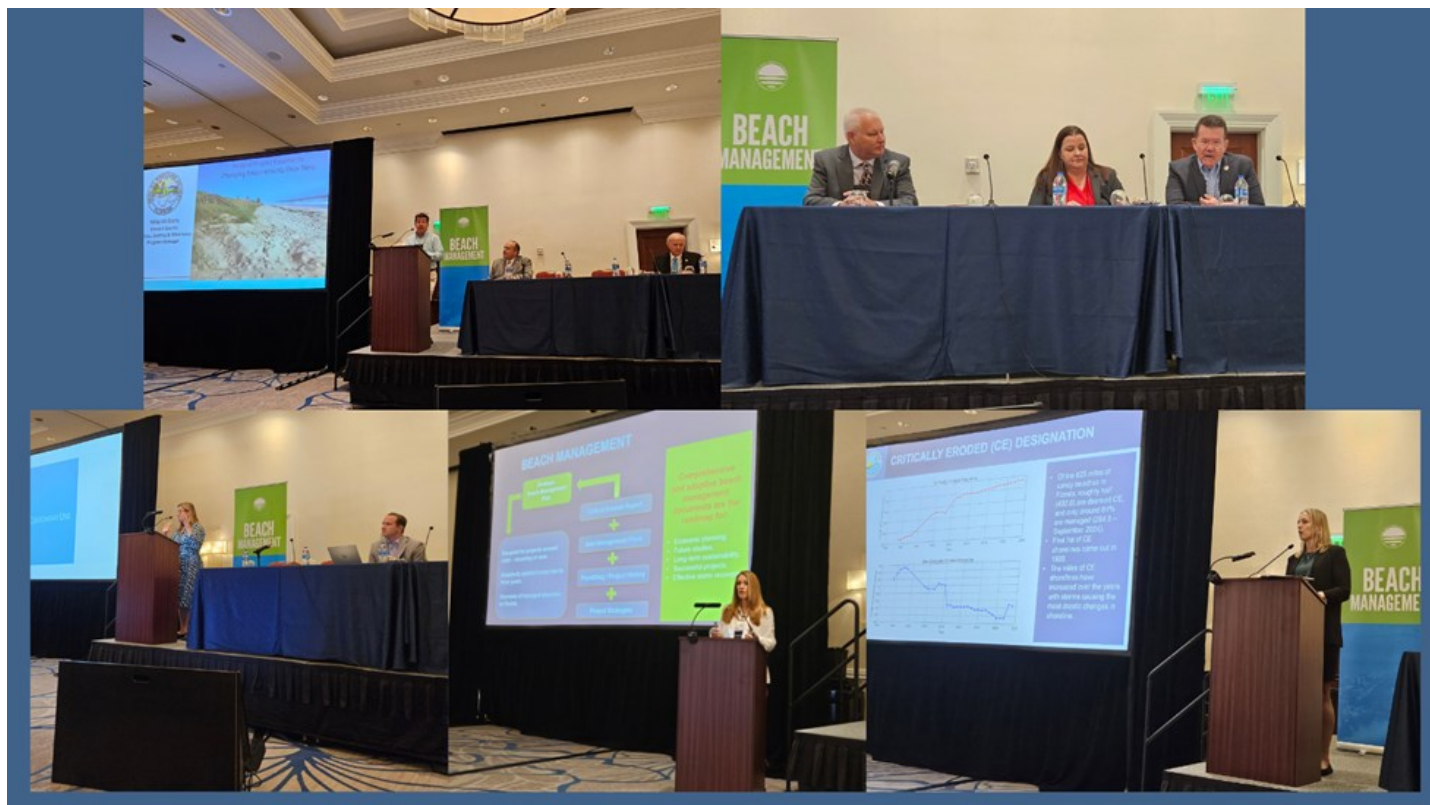
- **Four Tracks:** Covering a wide range of topics to enhance resilience strategies
- **100+ Speakers:** Industry leaders sharing their insights and expertise
- **13 Professional Development Hours:** Opportunities for attendees to gain valuable knowledge and credentials
- **40 Exhibitors:** Showcasing the latest innovations and services in beach management and other resilience sectors
- **41 Sponsors:** Generous support that made this event possible
- **Four Students Awarded Scholarships:** Investing in the future of beach management
- **Ample Networking Opportunities:** Facilitating meaningful connections among participants
- **A Memorable Evening Celebrating FSBPA's 2024 Awards Recipients:** Honoring those who have made significant contributions to the preservation of Florida's beaches

The energy and enthusiasm throughout the event were unmistakable, and we are grateful for the collaborative environment that brought our members together with those of Resiliency Florida's. We look forward to building on this momentum as we continue to advocate for and implement resilience initiatives across Florida.

Thank you once again for being a part of this incredible experience. We hope to see you next year for more opportunities to learn, connect, and celebrate!

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2024 FSBPA Award Winners

At this year's Awards Banquet, FSBPA recognized several of its members for their outstanding contributions to the preservation of Florida's beaches and coastal systems. Several of these deserving individuals were especially honored for their extraordinary hurricane response and recovery efforts after coastal storms battered coastlines and communities, leaving vast areas vulnerable to future storm events. Others were honored for longtime excellence in coastal engineering, marine resource protection, and leadership in beach preservation. The ceremony was an outstanding occasion that will be fondly remembered. Thank you, Brett Moore and Humiston & Moore for sponsoring the Awards Plaques, and Banquet Sponsors, Lewis Longman & Walker, APTIM, CPE, and EarthBalance.

To view all the pictures from the awards banquet, [click here](#).

Per Bruun Distinguished Service Award

Steve Boutelle, nominated by Michael Poff and Justin McBride



In grateful appreciation of your enduring and unwavering commitment to the preservation of Florida's beaches, especially your visionary guidance for Lee County's beaches and waterways and leadership of this Association

Jim Purpura/T.Y. Chiu Engineering Award

Vadim Alymov, nominated by Michael Poff, Steve Boutelle, Michael Campbell, and Mohamed Dabees



In appreciation of over 20 years of exceptional contributions to coastal engineering, especially recognizing your expertise in numerical modeling, which is instrumental in advancing complex projects for the preservation of Florida's beaches

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Suzi Fox Environmental Award

Lauren Floyd, nominated by Charlie Hunsicker and Tom Pierro



For your exceptional service and unwavering dedication as an exemplary environmental advocate for the protection of Florida's living marine resources and habitats

Local Government Award

Holly Milbrandt, nominated by Brett Moore



In recognition of your admirable leadership and efforts to restore the City of Sanibel's beaches following Hurricane Ian, providing critical storm protection, environmental habitat, and recreational areas for the community

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Outstanding Service Award

Pinellas County Public Works Department (represented by John Bishop, Zach Westfall, and Brendan Mackesey), nominated by Beau Suthard and Nicole Sharp



For your team's exceptional efforts to successfully expedite the repair of critically impacted beaches and dunes along Pinellas County's shoreline in the wake of Hurricane Idalia for the protection of the community you serve

Public Service Award

Chadd Chustz, nominated by Michael Poff and Steve Boutelle



In recognition of your outstanding efforts in successfully implementing a comprehensive beach management program for the Town of Fort Myers Beach and your leadership in restoring the town's iconic beaches following Hurricane Ian

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Public Service Award

Michael Campbell, nominated by Michael Poff and Steve Boutelle



In appreciation of your exemplary service and active involvement in the preservation of Lee County's beaches, and for your pivotal role in emergency response efforts and community outreach following Hurricane Ian



2024 FRC Student Travel Scholarship Award Recipients

Through the generous support of the Surfing's Evolution & Preservation Foundation, FSBPA awarded scholarships to four students from Florida universities to travel and attend the Resilience Conference. The scholarships are an important and necessary opportunity for the professional growth of Florida's future coastal scientists, engineers and policy makers. Special thanks to the committee of judges, Lainie Edwards, Lauren Floyd, James Gray, and Jimmy Sellers, for mentoring and inspiring the students at the event.



Introductions – shown left to right in the student photo:

Austin Scheinkman is a second-year PhD student in Geosciences at the Florida Atlantic University. Dr. Tiffany Roberts Briggs is his advisor, and he is researching coastal geomorphology with a focus on tidal impacts as well as dune impacts at Canaveral National Seashore.

Halaina Hahn is a second-year master's student at the Florida Atlantic University. Halaina's advisor is Dr. Tiffany Robert Briggs, and she is evaluating the dispersal of microplastics in the coastal environment regarding the variation of wave energy.

Elizabeth Royer is in her third year of her PhD studies working with Dr. Ping Wang in the Coastal Research Lab at the University of South Florida. Her research focus is on nearshore wave and current modeling, coastal resiliency using natural and nature-based features, and nearshore sediment transport.

Lara Novalvos Hernandez is a second-year master's student in the School of Geosciences at the University of South Florida. Her advisor is Dr. Ping Wang, and her research examines the influences of different beach nourishment designs and subsequent post-nourishment profile adjustment on the nesting of loggerhead and green sea turtle.

"The Florida Resilience Conference provided an invaluable platform for connecting with professionals engaged in similar projects and exchanging innovative ideas that directly inform my research. My work focuses on developing a 'turtle-friendly' beach nourishment design for Florida's east coast, where I am evaluating five different designs to assess their impact on the nesting patterns and hatching success of green and loggerhead sea turtles following sand placement. I look forward to attending next year's conference."

Lara Novalvos, Master's Student, Coastal Laboratory, USF

"The 2024 Florida Resilience Conference was an awesome opportunity to learn and see how professionals are not only prioritizing but creatively implementing resiliency in their coastal planning. This conference provided a different perspective more focused on incorporating collaboration and community input into resiliency planning. These skills can directly tie to my research that is focused on resiliency within Tampa Bay and the utilization of nature-based solutions. My research thus far has been more technical, focusing on numerical modeling, so seeing the importance and learning how to dive deeper and incorporate the community input in a practical way, has been extremely beneficial. I look forward to attending the FSBPA's Florida Resilience Conference next year."

Elizabeth Royer, PhD Student, Coastal Geology, Coastal Research Lab, USF



The four student recipients' with the judges.

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Funding Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (BUDM) When Costs Exceed the Federal Standard



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

by Matt Schrader, P.E. - South Atlantic Division's Regional Sediment Management Center of Expertise

Do you have a coastal project that could benefit from placement of dredged sediment from a Federal navigation project, but it costs more than the Federal Standard? Two Congressional authorities outlined below may be right for you!

As coastal storm impacts to communities and habitats increase, so do efforts to limit them through construction of nature-based solutions like beaches, dunes, and marshes. Sediment is the key ingredient for constructing these features, and it can be expensive to acquire, transport, and place. Beneficial use of dredged material (BUDM) from Federal navigation projects provides the dual benefit of maintaining navigation and keeping dredged sediments in the system by providing needed material for these types of features.

Federal Standard

The least costly dredged material placement alternative consistent with sound engineering practices and meeting the environmental standards established by the 404(b)(1) evaluation process or ocean dumping criteria.

33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR 2012)

Often, if the cost of a BUDM alternative is less than a navigation project's Federal Standard, the beneficial use can be accomplished without additional funding. However, if the cost of a BUDM alternative exceeds the Federal standard, the delta must be provided by a non-federal, or another source,¹ of funds. Two Congressional authorities now allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to contribute financially to costs exceeding the Federal Standard if specific criteria are met.

Section 204(d) of the 1992 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA'92), as amended

Section 204(d) of WRDA'92 was amended by Section 125(a)(2)(C) of WRDA'20 to allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to cost-share in costs above the Federal Standard if:

A non-federal sponsor is interested in cost sharing beneficial use of dredged material from a Federal navigation project.

The Federal share of costs exceeding the Federal Standard do not exceed \$10-million per event.

The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) provided implementation guidance on 7 November 2022, allowing for greater flexibility in evaluating and potentially cost-sharing the beneficial use of dredged material from construction or operation and maintenance of a Federal navigation project. Placement of dredged material under Section 204(d) may include a single or periodic application of sediment for beneficial use, and the beneficial use must be justified compared to its incremental cost above a project's Federal Standard.

¹ A Federal agency may request the placement of material on Federal land under the agency's jurisdiction if the Federal agency pays all incremental costs associated with the placement that exceed the Federal Standard.



Section 1122 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA'16), as amended

Section 1122 of WRDA 2016 established a pilot program for a limited number of projects to advance the beneficial use of dredged material for specified purposes. Later amendments have added to the total number of pilot projects allowed by the authority, with Section 125 of WRDA 2020 adding 15 projects that will be selected from a nation-wide pool of applications. For selected projects that beneficially use dredged material from Federal navigation projects, the authority provides that the incremental costs above the Federal Standard for transporting and depositing material will be borne entirely by the Federal Government. Any additional costs for other activities such as wetland plantings or mechanical shaping of dunes and beaches would be cost-shared.

Selected projects will, to the extent practicable, be located in different geographic areas of the U.S. and serve different purposes. The authority also directs the thorough evaluation of project submissions from rural, small, and economically disadvantaged communities. Of particular interest to coastal communities, the authority directs that selection priority will be given to at least one project for the utilization of thin-layer placement of dredged fine and coarse grain sediment. Analysis and construction of selected projects will result in decision documents reflecting compliance with NEPA and other applicable environmental laws that are appropriately scaled to the size and complexity of the projects.

Implementation guidance for this authority is still under development, but it is expected that a notice will be published in the Federal Register with instructions for submitting project proposals. There is no limit on how many eligible projects may be submitted by a non-federal sponsor, and all information provided in a proposal is public information. Final project selection will be made and announced by the ASA(CW). As was done for the first round of 1122 projects, it is expected that USACE Headquarters will establish a website with additional information and instructions for submitting project proposals.

For more information regarding these authorities or to get your request for beneficial use of dredged sediment initiated, please reach out to Matthew Schrader, P.E., USACE Deputy Director, South Atlantic Division Regional Sediment Management Center of Expertise at Matthew.H.Schrader@usace.army.mil.

1122 Project Purposes

Proposed projects should meet at least one of the purposes listed in the authority which include, but are not limited to:

- reducing storm damage;
- promoting public safety;
- protecting, restoring, and creating aquatic ecosystem habitats;
- stabilizing stream systems and enhancing shorelines;
- promoting recreation;
- other innovative uses and placement alternatives that produce public economic or environmental benefits.

**see the authority for a full listing*

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Get ready for an unforgettable experience from **February 5-7** at the new Embassy Suites, nestled on the pristine sandy shores of **Panama City Beach**. With breathtaking views right across from the Panama City Public Beach Access Point 54, you'll find the perfect backdrop for networking and learning. Plus, indulge in fantastic shopping and dining options at nearby Pier Park!

The buzz is already building as our Planning Committee dives into the development of the conference program. We received an impressive array of presentation abstracts, and scoring is underway this month. Stay tuned for our program reveal in early December!

For the latest updates and important deadlines, be sure to check out [FSBPA's website](#). Don't miss out on securing your stay at the Embassy Suites, where we've locked in a special group rate of **\$129/night**. Remember, the cut-off date for reservations is **January 7**, and please only reserve the number of rooms you can use, as cancelled rooms won't be returned to our block.

Mark your calendars—conference registration and sponsorship opportunities will be on our website starting **mid-November**. This is your chance to be part of an outstanding professional gathering. We can't wait to see you there!

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**Florida
Ocean
Alliance**

Leadership Meeting and Luncheon
Florida's 21st Century Coastal Transformation:
 A Focus on the Ocean Economy, Technology, and the Environment

Photo by Miami Dade County

Thursday, November 14, 2024

12:00pm - 4:00pm

Coral Ridge Yacht Club - Fort Lauderdale

Registration: <https://www.floridaoceanalliance.org/november-14-2024>

For more information, email laura.stayshich.foa@gmail.com



Key segments will be on marine industries and their work on corals, seagrass, aquaculture, and resilience
 Speakers include:



Glenn Wiltshire, FOA President
 Deputy Port Director
 Port Everglades



Jim Murley, FOA Founder
 Resilience Consultant
 Retired Chief Resilience Officer
 Miami Dade County



Chip LaMarca
 Representative
 Florida State House of
 Representatives District 100
 Broward County



Kelly Skidmore
 Representative
 Florida State House of
 Representatives District 92
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Lisa Symons
 Regional Response
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Becky Prado
 Coastal Resilience Lead
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Office of Ocean Economy
 Florida Atlantic University



Paul Hindsley, Ph.D.
 Chief Economist
 Everglades Foundation

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Shoreline

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FSBPA Events

February 5-7, 2025

38th Annual

**National Conference on
Beach Preservation
Technology**

**Embassy Suites by Hilton
Panama City Beach, FL**



September 17-19, 2025

4th Annual Florida Resilience Conference

Sunseeker Resort, Charlotte Harbor, FL

Other Events

Florida Ocean Alliance's

Coastal Resilience Leadership Meeting

November 14

Fort Lauderdale, FL

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