



*news from the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association*

**December 2024**

## A Message from Our Incoming Chair

Dear Members and Friends of the FSBPA,

As the incoming Chair of the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association, it is an honor to continue our work alongside each of you as advocates for the preservation and resilience of Florida's beaches. This association has a long and dedicated history of working with the Florida Legislature, Congress, and local, state, and federal agencies to advance effective beach management practices that safeguard our coastal communities, protect our economy, and conserve our natural resources.



This past hurricane season was a stark reminder of the vulnerabilities our coastlines face. The devastation to Florida's west coast beaches highlighted, once again, the importance of our mission and the incredible resiliency of our coastal communities. These storms reaffirm what we have known for decades: that well-planned and executed beach and dune projects are efficient, cost-effective ways to enhance coastal resilience, reduce storm impacts, and support recovery efforts.

In the months ahead, FSBPA will continue to monitor closely any legislation related to beaches, coastal management, and environmental protection in the upcoming legislative session. We remain committed to ensuring that the voices of those who care deeply about Florida's coasts are heard at every level.

*Continued on next page*

## Inside this Edition

**2025 National Conference on  
Beach Preservation Technology**  
February 5-7, 2025  
Embassy Suites by Hilton  
Panama City Beach, FL  
....Page 5

**Announcing the 2025 Outlook  
on Florida Coastal Dredging  
Projects Workshop**  
....Page 6



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

**Flagler County, FL Coastal  
Storm Risk Management  
Project Completes Initial  
Construction: A Long-Awaited  
Milestone Finished  
in Record Time**  
....Page 7



**FDEP Office of Resilience and  
Coastal Protection**  
December 2024  
....Page 10

**Florida's Oceans Day**  
....Page 12

**Upcoming Events**  
....Page 13

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Together, we will ensure a thriving future for Florida's beaches and coastal communities. I look forward to seeing each of you at the National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology, scheduled for February 5-7, 2025, at the Embassy Suites in Panama City Beach, Florida.

Together, we will continue to make a difference!

Warm regards,

Janet Zimmerman  
Chair, Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association

---

## FSBPA 2025 Officers and Directors

We are pleased to introduce FSBPA's 2025 Officers and Board Members. Officers were recommended by the Board of Directors and voted upon by members at the September 2023 general membership meeting.

They include:

Janet Zimmerman (Florida Inland Navigation District), **Chair**  
Andy Studt (Palm Beach County), **Vice-Chair**  
Mike McGarry (Brevard County), **Secretary/Treasurer**

*Officers plus the past-chair, Steve Boutelle, will serve as the 2025 Executive Committee.*

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

John Bishop, Pinellas County  
Steve Boutelle, Lee County  
Alan Dodd, City of Fort Lauderdale  
Jessica Fentress, Volusia County  
Jessica Garland, Martin County  
James Gray, Sebastian Inlet District  
Michael McGarry, Brevard County  
Charles Mopps, Town of Longboat Key  
Joshua Revord, St. Lucie County  
Dan Rowe, Bay County  
Andy Studt, Palm Beach County  
Matthew Spoor, Pinellas County  
Janet Zimmerman, Florida Inland Navigation District

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

Cheryl Miller, Coastal Eco-Group  
Brett Moore, Humiston & Moore  
Lynn Nietfeld, Great Lakes Dredge & Dock  
Lainie Edwards, Florida Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Jenny Jacobson, USACE Mobile District  
Milan Mora, USACE Jacksonville District

Thank you for agreeing to serve.

## Meet FSBPA's Newest Board Members



**COL (R) Alan Dodd**, Public Works Director for the City of Fort Lauderdale, was elected to the FSBPA Board of Directors by members on September 12, 2024. In this role he is responsible for the City's water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure, as well as the sustainability and resilience programs. Alan served as the District Engineer for the Jacksonville District, US Army Corps of Engineers from 2012 to 2015, where he was involved in Everglades restoration and several beach renourishment projects throughout the State of Florida. He is a retired Army Colonel, with five combat deployments (Desert Storm in 1991, Afghanistan in 2004 and 2010, and Iraq in 2007 and 2008). Alan holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the United States Military Academy, a Master's degree in civil engineering from the Pennsylvania State University, and a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the United States Army War College. Alan is a first-time board member.

**Jessica Fentress** is the Director of Volusia County's Coastal Division and has been with the County since 2016. Ms. Fentress oversees the public's beach access, capital construction, and beach operations for over 37 miles of coastline. This includes 17 miles of beach driving, 174 public beach access points, 15 beach parks, two inlet parks, and over 3000 county-maintained off beach parking spaces. Ms. Fentress also oversees the operation of the Ponce de Leon Port District, which serves as the local sponsor for the Federal Navigation project at Ponce de Leon Inlet. As part of this program the County partners with local, state, and federal agencies on efficient operation of the inlet and regional sediment management practices.

Before coming to Volusia County, Jessica worked with The City of Virginia Beach as a coastal and stormwater project manager and before that in private land development along the beaches of southeastern North Carolina. She holds multiple professional engineering licenses in various states

as well as Bachelor of Science Degrees in Engineering from both Elon University and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Jessica resides in New Smyrna Beach with her husband, Matt, and two daughters and they can often be found near the New Smyrna Beach Jetty enjoying a tide pool.







**Jessica Garland** is the Coastal Program Manager for Martin County where she has been employed for over 18 years. Jessica oversees the Coastal Program which includes 21 miles of beach, the St. Lucie Inlet management, the northern end of the Kristen Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area and Artificial Reefs. Jessica was born and raised in South Florida and graduated from Indian River State College with a Bachelor's of Applied Science in Organizational Management. Outside of work she enjoys cooking and kayaking with her husband and sons.

**Matthew Spoor** is the Director of Strategic Initiatives and Intergovernmental Affairs. After working for the City of Safety Harbor for the last 20 years, 17 as City Manager, Matt joined the Pinellas County team in 2024. Matt has his Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from USF and currently serves as the District Seven (D7) Director for the Florida City and County Management Association (FCCMA) and the Chairman of the Pinellas County City and County Manager Consortium (PCCMC). Matt has experience managing and leading all aspects of municipal government service delivery and legislative/intergovernmental affairs. Matt recently took on a role of Adjunct Professor for St. Petersburg College, teaching a local government class for the Public Policy and Administration Program.

A lifelong resident of Pinellas County, Matt loves to spend time outdoors with his family (including dog Buddy), exercising, playing sports, and enjoying the record number of "sunshine days" in Pinellas County!



[Back to Main Page](#)

## 2025 National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology



FSBPA is delighted to host the 38th Tech Conference in Panama City Beach! We invite you to join us for three days of valuable instruction on the latest research and innovations in beach management, as well as networking opportunities with colleagues and peers from around the country.

The Planning Committee is finalizing the program, which will be announced next week. We will send a separate email as soon as it is available, so stay tuned.

New this year, FSBPA is partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to hold a workshop presenting an overview of Florida coastal dredging projects slated for bidding or construction over the next year. The workshop will provide attendees with a clearer understanding of coastal projects in the pipeline and explore opportunities to regionalize equipment for these initiatives. This session will take place on Wednesday morning, prior to the start of the conference. More details are provided on the next page.

We are also excited to announce that on Thursday evening [Visit Panama City Beach](#) will host a bonfire for us on the beach! Attendees will board a charter bus for a short five minute ride to enjoy s'mores, charcuterie, live music, and beverages by a warm fire at sunset - it is sure to be a memorable beach experience. Buses will run from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**REAL** **BEACH**  
**FUN**  
PANAMA CITY BEACH

Visit our [website](#) to make your plans to attend today. Early [registration](#) ends on January 7, 2025. [Exhibit booths](#) and [sponsorships](#) are still available.

**Back to Main Page**

## Announcing the 2025 Outlook on Florida Coastal Dredging Projects Workshop

The Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association is pleased to announce its first-ever workshop, offering a comprehensive overview of coastal dredging projects set for construction in the next 12-18 months.

This workshop will feature federal and state/local project overviews, with presentations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. It provides a unique opportunity for industry professionals, coastal engineers, scientists, and beach managers to gain valuable insights into upcoming project schedules, equipment requirements, and more. Participants will leave with a greater understanding of the scope of impending projects—from bidding to construction phases – and explore opportunities for more efficient, cost-effective regional project collaborations.

### Who Should Attend:

- Government Agencies
- Local Government Beach and Coastal Managers
- Inlet and Navigation Districts
- Dredging Companies
- Coastal Engineering and Science Firms



### Workshop Details:

- **When:** February 5 | 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST (*prior to the Tech Conference*)
- **Where:** Panama City Beach, Embassy Suites
- **Format:** 90-minute presentations followed by 15 minutes of Q&A
- **Registration:** No registration required – simply attend!
- **Lunch:** Time to enjoy lunch on-site before the 2025 National Conference on Beach Preservation begins.

This workshop presents a valuable opportunity to engage with experts and learn about upcoming coastal dredging work in Florida. We look forward to seeing you at this important and informative event!



# Flagler County, FL Coastal Storm Risk Management Project Completes Initial Construction: A Long-Awaited Milestone Finished in Record Time



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

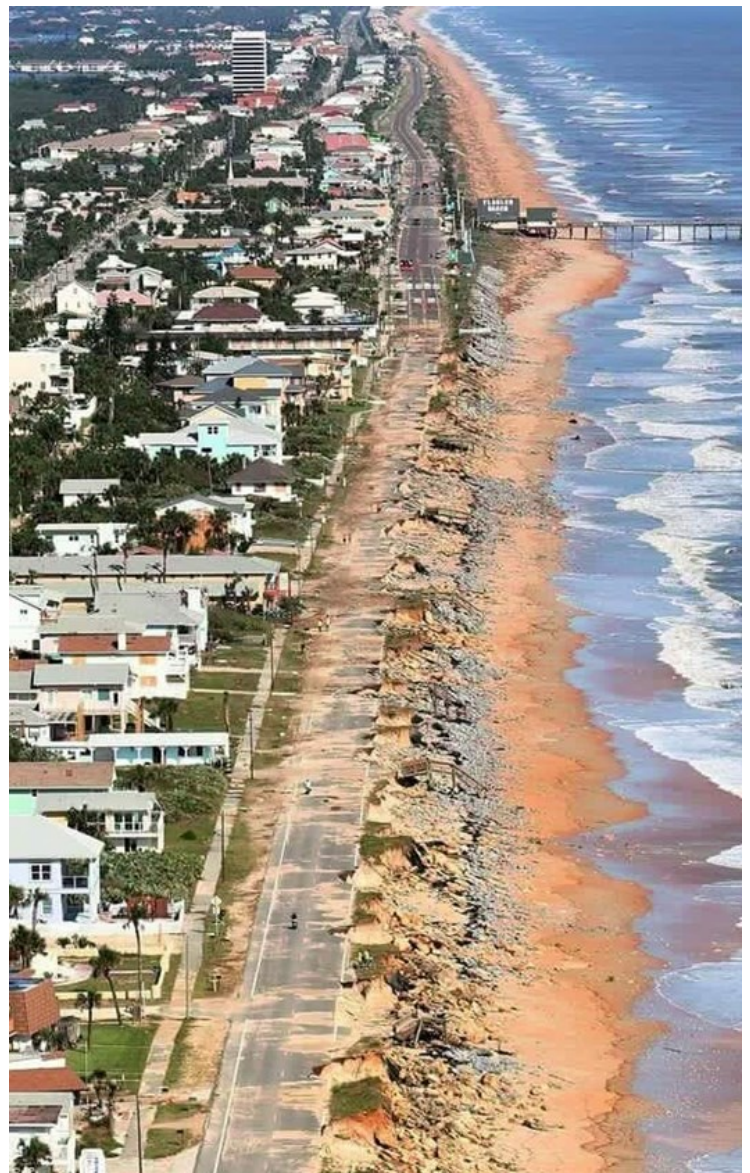
**by Jason Harrah, Senior Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

A score of years ago on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004, the Department of the Army and the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners celebrated the long-awaited signing of the Flagler County, Florida Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) which kicked off a lengthy study, design, permitting and initial construction.

Flagler County, like many other coastal areas in Florida, has long been vulnerable to the devastating impacts of coastal storms and climate change. Over the years, hurricanes and nor'easters have battered the shoreline causing severe beach erosion, property damage, and disruptions to the local economy. This erosion, compounded by sea-level rise, has also threatened critical infrastructure, including State Road A1A, public utilities and recreational space that serve both locals and tourists.

Responding to these ongoing challenges, Flagler County, in partnership with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and many other federal, state, and local agencies, developed a comprehensive solution designed to mitigate future risks while improving overall community resilience. The study however would take over a decade to complete due to lapse in federal appropriations among other things and predated the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 which directed USACE by law to complete future feasibility studies not later than three years after signing of the FCSA for a total of \$3 million.

On December 23, 2014, the Chief of Engineers, Lieutenant General Bostick signed



Flagler Beach Post Hurricane Matthew – October 2016  
(Photo Credit Flagler County)

the Chief of Engineers Report which recommended a 10-foot dune and beach profile extension along 2.6 miles of shoreline in Flagler Beach. The recommended plan would significantly reduce future damages to vulnerable areas of State Road A1A which serves as a historic byway and major evacuation route for over 2,300 residents (2014 statistics). Initial construction of the project would be followed by 4 renourishments approximately every 11 years.

Another 2 years would pass before the project was authorized for construction as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 signed into law by President Obama on December 16, 2016, only 2 months prior Florida was devastated by impacts from Hurricane Matthew. However, as we've all learned by now through various USACE Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association (FSBPA) presentations, authorization doesn't equal appropriations and another 2 years would lapse until federal funding would be provided for pre-construction, engineering, and design (PED) and construction as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BBA18). Fast forward another year before execution of the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) on July 23, 2019, which outlines the federal government and non-Federal sponsor responsibilities during and after construction and provides the go-ahead for the non-Federal sponsor to obtain the necessary lands, perpetual beach storm damage reduction easements, rights of way, relocations, etc. Another 3.5 years would pass before all lands would be certified for construction by Flagler County on January 31, 2023, after a valiant effort.

And finally on May 2, 2024, after redesign of the project template (due to numerous storms and continued erosion), receipt of all required permits, construction contract advertisement, bid opening, etc. the initial construction contract was awarded to Weeks Marine, Inc. for \$27,095,900 (split 65% Federal and 35% non-Federal).



City of Flagler Beach September 2024  
(Photo Credit Marks Photography)



Now assuming you're still reading this article, you must be asking yourself...the title makes no sense.... "Finished in Record Time". Well, I'm getting to that. The awarded construction contract required placement of 1.6 million cubic yards of sand to construct the beach and dune template along approximately 3-miles of shoreline using an offshore borrow area approximately 10 nautical miles off the coast of Florida. Several challenges also faced Weeks Marine to include a critically eroded shoreline with minimal dry beach at low tide, the construction of multiple equipment access ramps with road closures along State Road A1A and the daily interest of the public who patiently waited for this day for over 20 years and eagerly watched construction activities from every walkover. They even wrote a song to commemorate the project!

Sand placement officially started on July 3, 2024, and 58 short days later August 30, 2024, the project was completed. ***Less than 60 days of work, 1.6 million cubic yards, 20 plus years in the making.*** The contractor's secret sauce....Well you'll have to ask them at the next FSBPA event.

The seamless construction phase of the project was made possible by so many hard-working people from the City of Flagler Beach, Flagler County, Volusia Turtle Patrol, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, National Marine Fisheries, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, our USACE hard working team, Weeks Marine, Inc., Eastman Aggregates and may other sub-contractors.

In summary, I'll leave with a quote from the great Dwight D. Eisenhower "What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog". We fought many years...and prevailed. Enjoy the new beach Flagler County!



City of Flagler Beach September 2024 (Photo Credit Marks Photography)

# Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection December 2024 Updates



## Governor DeSantis Appoints Alexis A. Lambert as Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

After 17 years of dedicated service to the state of Florida, DEP Secretary Shawn Hamilton announced that he will be transitioning to the private sector. Governor DeSantis has appointed Alexis A. Lambert as the new Secretary.

Ms. Lambert has served as Chief of Staff for the Florida Division of Bond Finance since 2018. Prior to that, she served as the Chief of Staff for the Florida Department of Health, Communications Director for the state's Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater and in leadership roles in the departments of Children and Families, Business and Professional Regulation, and Community Affairs.

Ms. Lambert will officially join the department in early December.

## Shorebird Monitoring Update

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) *Imperiled Beach-nesting Bird Species (IBNS) Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines* went into effect on Oct. 1, 2024. Projects currently under construction already include the conditions they are required to follow. New requirements will only be added to permits if the project extends into bird nesting season and requires a permit modification.

A key distinction between regular bird monitors and IBNS-certified bird monitors is that the latter are required under an incidental take permit issued by FWC. These permits authorize specific activities that may result in incidental take, including harassment, while ensuring compliance with conservation measures.

FWC has indicated a need for more IBNS-certified bird monitors. It is recommended that all bird monitors complete the training. For more information and resources, visit <https://myfwc.com/license/wildlife/ibnb/resources/>.

## Recent Inlet Management Plans

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection recently adopted three new Inlet Management Plans (IMPs):

- Pensacola Pass IMP – Based on a study sponsored by Escambia County, adopted in August 2024.
- Big Carlos Pass IMP – Based on a study sponsored by Lee County, adopted in October 2024.
- Passage Key IMP – Based on a study sponsored by Manatee County, adopted in November 2024.

All IMPs are available for review at: <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/beaches-inlets-ports/content/strategic-planning-and-coordination#IMP>.

## Next Quarterly Resilience Forum

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025

Time: 9 - 11 a.m. EST

Register to attend: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5247371308453179995>.

Presentations:

- Topobathymetric Lidar Mapping in the State of Florida — Emily Klipp, Dewberry.
- Advancing Nature-Based Solutions: A Landscape Analysis of Barriers & Opportunities in Florida — Eve Cooke, Environmental Defense Fund.

Join us to explore the latest advancements in resilience and nature-based solutions in Florida!

**Back to Main Page**



## *Save the Dates for Ocean's Day and Reception*

Oceans Day 2025 will take place from Monday, March 31 to Tuesday, April 1, in Tallahassee. The event will commence with the FOA Luncheon at the Governors Club on Monday. On Tuesday, the day's activities will feature the FIO's Member Exhibits and Fish Fry at the Capitol Plaza, followed by the Mote Legislative Reception at 5:30 p.m. at the Historic Capitol later that evening. Florida Oceans Day is an annual event focused on convening members, stakeholders, officials, and legislators united by a shared commitment to the preservation of Florida's marine and coastal resources and their critical contribution to sustaining a robust ocean economy. This year's conference will focus on *Florida's Ocean Economy: Building a Sustainable Future*, emphasizing the ongoing efforts to ensure long-term health and vitality of the state's oceans. Florida Oceans Day is organized and hosted by the, Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium, and the Florida Ocean Alliance.

[Back to Main Page](#)

## Shoreline

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

### Officers

#### Chair

Steve Boutelle, Lee County

#### Vice-Chair

Janet Zimmerman, FIND

#### Secretary-Treasurer

Andy Studt, Palm Beach County

#### Past-Chair

Emily Lewis, Charlotte County

### Directors

John Bishop, Pinellas County  
 Marina Blanco-Pape, Miami-Dade County  
 Damon Douglas, St. Johns County  
 James Gray, Sebastian Inlet District  
 Mike McGarry, Brevard County  
 Charlie Mopps, Town of Longboat Key  
 Joshua Revord, St. Lucie County  
 Dan Rowe, Bay County  
 Rob Weber, Town of Palm Beach

### Chair Emeritus

Allen Ten Broek

### President Emeritus

Deborah Flack

### Ex Officio

USACE Jacksonville District, Milan Mora  
 USACE Mobile District, Jenny Jacobson  
 FDEP, Lainie Edwards  
 Dan Hussin, Manson Construction  
 Nicole Sharp, APTIM  
 Angela Schedel, HDR

### FSBPA Staff

**President:** Pepper Uchino  
**Executive Director:** Jackie Larson  
**Technical Director:** Lisa Armbruster  
**Office/Conference Manager:** Teri Besse

Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association  
 PO Box 13146, Tallahassee FL 32317  
 Phone: (850) 906-9227  
[www.fsbpa.com](http://www.fsbpa.com) • [mail@fsbpa.com](mailto:mail@fsbpa.com)

## 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

March 25-27, 2025

**2025 ASBPA Coastal Summit  
 Washington, DC**

March 31 - April 1, 2025

**Florida's Oceans Day  
 Tallahassee, FL**

Follow us on



**The FSBPA Board of Directors and staff are  
 grateful for your support this year and  
 want to wish you and your families a very  
 merry holiday!**



[Back to Main Page](#)