

Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management

Environmental Enhancement & Restoration Division

April 2009 Status Report



South Lake Worth Inlet: Lucas Marine Contractors LLC mobilized heavy equipment and supplies to the staging area this month and began construction of the crane platform near the sand transfer plant. From the platform, the crane will begin driving piles for the new plant. Staff provided an update on the project to the Manalapan Town Council at their recent meetings.

Lake Ida Wetland Restoration Project:

The north and south wetlands have been excavated to grade and the excess spoil has been hauled off site. The central area has been dewatered and work begins this week with capping the muck in that pond. The channels in the



central and south wetlands will be cut the first week of May and the ends of the cuts will be stabilized with rip-rap. Planting in the south wetland will begin next week with the central and north wetlands to follow soon after. Construction of the bridge in the central wetland will begin the third week of May and project completion is estimated to be the end of June.

Artificial Reefs: Work on the Riviera Beach nearshore mitigation reef is struggling due to poor weather conditions. To date, about 11 pods of limestone boulders have been constructed



totaling approximately 1500 tons of rock.

Juno Dunes Natural Area – FIND project: Excavation has been completed at the southern portion of the project site to create a wetland mangrove planting shelf, flushing channels and a shallow water pond. An estimated 25,000 cubic yards of sand and peat material has been generated from this effort and staged for future removal in the northern portion of the project.

Boynton/Ocean Ridge Breakwater: Construction is nearing 50% completion and the operation will soon move from the west side of the ICW to the east.

Ocean Ridge Shore Protection Project: The 3-year post-construction physical and biological monitoring reports are finalized. A new funding agreement was executed with the Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) for state cost-sharing in the amount of \$492,000 for the 3-year report costs and for design, permitting, construction, and monitoring of the mitigation reef required by the 2005 permit.

NENA Bluegill Trail : This project has been given a big boost by its selection as a federal stimulus project. The additional Florida Department of Transportation dollars will allow for construction of a new bridge across the South Florida Water Management District canal C-18 at the south end of Riverbend Park. The project is anticipated to receive a notice to proceed with the bid process in mid-June and be advertised for bid within 90 days of the notice.

Juno Beach Renourishment: Three bids were received on April 14th. Bids are currently being evaluated. North county ambient turbidity monitoring is underway in preparation for November's construction.

Singer Island Erosion Control Project: A teleconference was held with DEP to discuss the outstanding permitting issues regarding the monitoring and mitigation plans. DEP sent a Notice of Completeness on 4/22 which initiates the 90 day time period that the agency has to render a decision. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service delivered their 5th Request for Additional Information and staff is currently preparing a response. The Erosion Control Line (ECL) was denied by the State because the proposed line extended beyond the length of shoreline that is protected by the structures. The survey will be modified to shorten the ECL and a re-hearing will be scheduled.

Jupiter Erosion Control Structures:

Work continues on the evaluation of the four breakwater design scenarios and sediment transport evaluation simulations.

South Palm Beach/Lantana Shoreline Protection:

Design of the breakwater system is being refined with the intention of submitting a Joint Coastal Permit (JCP) application to the DEP and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) next month. The Board of County Commissioners approved a contract for an ACOE required Environmental Impact Study (EIS).

Completion of the EIS is a requirement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and will evaluate project alternatives as well as the environmental, historic, economic and social values that the proposed erosion control project may impact. Staff met with a new member of the SPB Town Council to discuss the project.

Sea Turtle Nesting Update:

Leatherback nesting continues to increase, and in most cases, is similar to or exceeding the trends seen during the record 2007 nesting season. Leatherback nesting at Juno Beach is 211% higher than the 9-year average, while nesting at Ocean Ridge and Jupiter Carlin is similar to that seen during 2007. Nesting at Singer Island North is similar to that recorded in 2007 and the 9-year average. Loggerhead crawls have also been recorded in Juno Beach, Singer Island, and Palm Beach

Jupiter/Carlin Beach Renourishment: The ACOE certified the Beach *fx* hurricane and storm damage reduction model, which is used to calculate the cost of the project as compared to its benefits. The County still awaits written guidance from the ACOE regarding use of Beach *fx* for the required federal funding decision document (Section 934 Report). Though work continues on the federally-mandated Environmental Assessment and design of the next renourishment project, submission of a JCP will be delayed until early 2010, pending reconfiguration of the borrow area, which is also the source of sand for the upcoming Juno Beach Renourishment Project.

On April 20th the Jupiter Inlet District (JID) completed dredging of the sand trap. Approximately 63,300 CY of material was placed throughout Jupiter Beach Park.

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Monitoring Grant: A two-year monitoring grant with FWC has been approved by the BCC. This grant will cover monitoring of 25 artificial reefs and 5 natural reef comparison sites over the next two years. The PBC Reef Research Team will perform the monitoring activities and collect the data.

Ibis Isles Restoration Project: After a site visit with staff from SFWMD, a response to the second request for additional information was provided and SFWMD permit approval is now scheduled for the May Governing Board meeting. ERM

submitted an application for Federal funding under the NOAA Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Project Grant for this project and will be submitting another request in May for federal funding through the ACOE. Site preparation will be scheduled for early June, with construction to start mid-June.

Reef Monitoring and Management: In a month of more rough than flat seas, the Reef Research Team made it out to survey and found no visibility on their intended site, Royal Park Bridge. They then visited Governor's River Walk Reef to the south and had better conditions. The exotic cup coral, *Tubastraea coccinea*, has blossomed out all over the stern of the ST. JACQUES since the last visit. Numbers of large predators were noted: large goliath grouper booming, and several cobia and nurse sharks, and a large school of crevalle jacks.

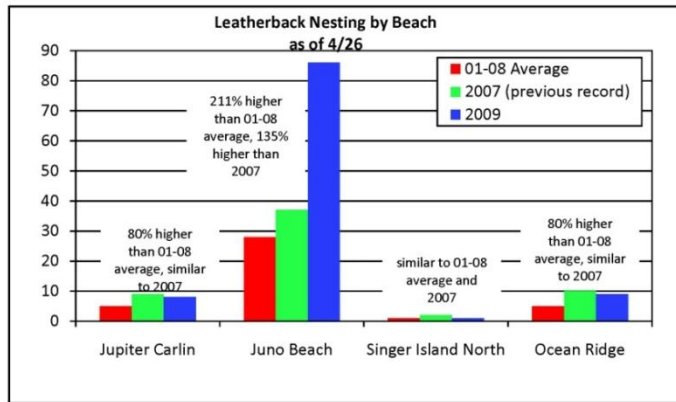
NENA Pântano Trail: ERM's application to the Metropolitan Planning Organization to fund Phase 1 of this trail is one of fifteen, countywide, that are in competition for Transportation Enhancement funds in this year's cycle. The Bicycle Greenways and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to the Metropolitan Planning Organization will be ranking all of the projects early in May.

NENA Jesup Trail: Additional in-house planning is in process for the portion of Jesup Trail proposed through the Cypress Creek Natural Area.

NENA Historic Jupiter-Indiantown Trail: Design and permitting work is underway for the segment of this trail that runs through Cypress Creek Natural Area. The project is eligible for federal stimulus dollars, which would accelerate the date funds are available for construction by two years. The route it follows is historically significant in the development of PBC and it is anticipated that the project will be bid out by the end of the County's centennial year.


Program Management: Members of the Tri-Party group (PBC, Port of Palm Beach and Town of Palm Beach) met to discuss Lake Worth Inlet management issues. Staff participated in a two day tour of the ICW through Palm Beach County organized by the Florida Inland Navigation District and the ACOE, which highlighted a number of environmental restoration projects. Staff outlined the County's beach program and discussed cooperative efforts with the Town of Palm Beach Shore Protection Board.

Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative: The Public/Private Partnership Subcommittee began work on developing strategies in coordinating existing programs and mapping potential work sites.



DARK SKIES
SAVE
SEA TURTLES'
LIVES

LIGHT'S OUT
March 1 - Oct 31

 Department of Environmental Resources Management
561-233-2400 ~ www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm 