

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT & RESTORATION DIVISION
January 2009 Status Report

Photo: Breakwaters off the Hilton, Tel Aviv, Israel.

Singer Island Erosion Control Project

The Erosion Control Line Public Workshop and Public Hearing have been scheduled for February 11th at 3:00 pm at the City of Riviera Beach, City Council Chambers. Certified mail with notices of Public Workshop and Public Hearing were sent to all coastal property owners on January 21st.

A response to US Fish and Wildlife Service's comments on both the Biological Report and the Numerical Modeling Report was submitted. A Response to DEP RAI#3 is in progress. A draft legal description of each individual breakwater segment has been prepared and submitted to the surveyor for review. The Contingency Plan for Downdrift Impact Mitigation was submitted to DEP. A conference call was held with DEP, County staff, and our engineering consultant to establish some consensus on the Contingency Plan.

County staff met with Board members of the Surfrider Foundation's local chapter to discuss some of their concerns and address some of the inconsistencies about the project posted on the Surfrider website.

Staff has been working with a FEMA representative to qualify the Singer Island project for additional funding through a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program. Currently FEMA is conducting a cost/benefit analysis to determine the eligibility of the breakwater project.

Jupiter/Carlin Structures

The County's consultant continues to work on the draft Task 5 (Model Setup, Calibration & Validation) Report. Work on Task 6 (Evaluate Design Alternatives) cannot proceed until Task 5 is complete. A draft report of Task 5 is expected in the near future.

Jupiter/Carlin Renourishment

During the month of January, the County's consultant initiated the data collection required for the beach fill and borrow area design effort. Layout of the baseline beach fill template and required fill volume computations (based on the 2008 monitoring survey) also began. The draft cultural resource survey of the borrow area was approved by the ACOE. A

copy of the draft was sent to the FDEP for review and approval.

The Jacksonville ACOE office sent a letter acknowledging receipt of the County's December 24, 2008 request to use the original SDM (Storm Damage Model) for the Section 934 Report. According to the ACOE, the County's request has been sent to higher ACOE authority in order to receive a final decision.

The Jupiter Inlet District will dredge the Jupiter Inlet sand trap in the near future. A dredge start date has not yet been identified but it is likely to extend into sea turtle season; Southwind Construction was selected to complete the work. JID expects to place approximately 60,000 cu yds of sand on the beach south of the Jupiter Inlet.

Ocean Ridge SPP

Draft reports for the 36 month post-construction biological and physical monitoring were sent to FDEP for review.

South Lake Worth Inlet

A Notice of Intent to Award was sent out to Lucas Marine Construction for the sand transfer plant/seawall /jetty project. A permit-required sea turtle protection meeting was held with the contractor. FDOT issued a permit to the County to replace the pipe hangers on the inlet bridge during the project. The Board approved Amendment 6 of the FDEP funding grant, increasing potential State cost-sharing by nearly \$240,000.

Juno Beach Renourishment

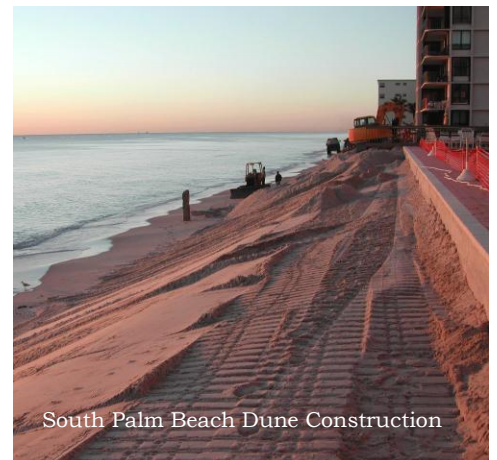
The Juno Beach Renourishment has been postponed until November 2009. All necessary permits have not yet been received. It is expected that all permits will be issued within the next 30 days. Once permits are in hand the project will be re-bid, and Construction is estimated to begin November 2009. The FDEP Notice to Proceed was issued January 28, 2009. A project update presentation was given at a recent Juno Town Council Meeting.

See

www.pbcgov.org/erm/coastal/shoreline/pdf/Juno-Renourishment_12-23-08.pdf for more information.

South Palm Beach

Rough wave conditions during the month of November delayed the County's engineer from initiating & completing the hardbottom edge measurements required in the engineering & design scope of work. The same weather conditions also delayed the completion of the beach profile survey until December 2008. A draft



South Palm Beach Dune Construction

beach profile survey was submitted to the County at the end of January for review. The draft Joint Coastal Permit (JCP) application will be ready for County review at the end of February.

The County, ACOE and the County's consultant, Taylor Engineering, are working together to refine the EIS scope of work. Taylor Engineering and the County held a conference call on January 15th to discuss the scope. The EIS scope will go before the Board of County Commissioners on February 24th or March 17th.

The dune restoration project began on January 6 and ended January 20. Approximately 12,338 tons (9,870 cubic yards) of sand were placed throughout the project site. Approximately 80 tons of concrete and rebar debris were removed from the shoreline along the Town of South Palm Beach. Native dune vegetation will be installed in the near future.

Sea Turtle Monitoring: A contract with the Loggerhead Marinelife Center, Inc. was signed by the BCC on January 13th for sea turtle monitoring services at Jupiter and Juno during the 2009-2011 sea turtle nesting seasons. Contracts for monitoring at Singer Island and Ocean Ridge will be executed at the February 24th BCC meeting. The 2009 sea turtle nesting season begins on March 1st.

Sea Turtle Lighting Compliance: Final disorientation totals are not yet available, but preliminary totals indicate that approximately 10,700 sea turtle hatchlings disoriented in 2008. Staff has been creating educational material for the 2009 sea turtle nesting season. To request educational material please contact Jacey Biery at 561-233-2461.

Annual Marine Contractor:

The annual marine contractor (M&J Construction Company) has been mobilizing equipment and mining rock for the first two work orders that were approved. As of last week, approximately 7000 tons of rock had been produced. It is anticipated that actual on-water work may begin as soon as next week on the Boynton Beach/Ocean Ridge Breakwater in the ICW. work could start within two weeks, weather permitting.

Artificial Reef Sites:

ERM was informed by USACE that one of the newly permitted shallow water reef sites inside Lake Worth Lagoon was too close to a channel. The NOAA chart originally used to position the site did not show the channel. It is a private, unmarked and non-maintained channel in extreme northern LWL that was originally permitted in 1960. Staff is shifting the reef site to the west and will provide the Corps with a new position for the site.

Miss Lourdis Reef Site Survey:

CPE has completed a site survey of the Palm Beach County reef site where the supply ship, *Miss Lourdis* will be sunk. This survey fulfilled ERM's commitment in a joint venture with Broward County to sink a ship near the south County line. Broward is handling procurement and preparation of the vessel for sinking.

Riviera Beach Mitigation Site Survey:

A pre-construction survey was completed on the Riviera Beach mitigation reef site as per permit

requirements. Conditions were perfect for the survey; clear and calm water. No hardbottom was present within the reef site, nor within 50 feet of the border. A 50 ft buffer is required around existing hardbottom. Construction of the reef could start within two weeks, weather permitting.

Damage at the Breaker's Reef:

A popular fishing and diving reef: Breaker's Reef, named for its location due east of the hotel, was damaged by as yet unknown means in November. Upon completion of assessments, a window of calm seas allowed volunteers led by Bill Fay, Applied Technology & Management, Inc, to re-attach hard corals and gorgonians. ERM staff assisted this effort. A total of 60 hard corals were reattached on the first day of diving. One more dive day is scheduled to attach remaining hard corals and gorgonians. Marker pins were installed to assist in subsequent survivorship monitoring. FWC is investigating the cause.

Reef Monitoring and Management

The Reef Research Team surveyed Horseshoe and Paul's Reef this month but did not locate any staghorn coral (*Acropora cervicornis*) colonies. Due to the recent listing of this species as a "threatened" species by the Endangered Species Act, it is important to document its presence in our county. Many hard corals and a colony of Yellow Garden Eels were observed at Paul's Reef.

Ibis Isles Restoration

Staff met with a representative of the Audubon Society at the site on January 13th to discuss the project's impact on wading birds. She indicated that the proposed habitats should greatly increase the foraging productivity for wading birds in the area and was supportive of the overall project. On January 22nd, the Town of Palm Beach and ERM co-sponsored a public meeting for the project at Town Council Chambers. Several posters detailing the project were displayed and interested parties were given an opportunity to ask questions regarding the project. The project will next be presented at the February 3rd Town Council meeting.

South Cove Natural Area

PBC has received notification that the administrative hearing for the South Cove permit petition has been rescheduled for June 15, 2009.

Peanut Island

ERM and Parks staff approved a plan to remove sand from the area surrounding the fishing pier and boat docks. The removed sand will be used to stabilize the south-eastern eroded shoreline and also used to re-contour to the swimming lagoon to create 0.4 acres of spartina intertidal habitat. This modification is designed to help improve the tidal flushing of the snorkel reef and swimming lagoon.

Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative

Over the past decade, partnership efforts have been the key to restoring, enhancing, and protecting the Lake Worth Lagoon. Now a new Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative (LWLI) formally recognizes partner commitments and brings new attention to this valuable natural system. The LWLI Executive

Committee was formed on January 9, 2009. The Committee adopted guidelines and established four program areas for agency staff, community leaders, and stakeholders to focus efforts: Water, Habitat, Pollution Prevention and Public Outreach.



Photo Caption: The Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative Executive Committee (l-r) Environmental Resources Management Director Richard Walesky, County Commission Chairman Jeff Koons, Palm Beach Town Council Member Susan Markin, Jack Long, DEP southeast district director and Patrick Rooney of the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

On January 23, the LWLI Executive Committee hosted the LWLI Kick-off Event to announce the new effort to more than 100 community leaders, local governments, agency staff, organizations, businesses and residents. We invite you to learn more about our work, the Lake Worth Lagoon Management Plan, and to join us in supporting efforts and projects to enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve and protect water quality, and increase public awareness and involvement. Get involved and discover your role by visiting www.LWLI.org.

Grant Awards:

ERM received official notification from FWC that artificial reef construction and monitoring grants that were applied for during 2008 were awarded. The grants will provide funds of \$60,000 for construction and \$19,000 for monitoring.

NENA trailhead at Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST)

The Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail circles Lake Okeechobee on top of the Herbert Hoover Dike. LOST is currently closed to the public between Port Myacca and Pahokee due to improvements being made to the dike, however, Bauer Foundations, Inc., the contractor working on the section of the dike immediately next to the trailhead, will be permitting the Florida Trail Association access for their sixth annual Ocean-to-Lake Trail hike coming up in February. A group of hearty backpackers will be making the journey this year starting from the lake and hiking to the ocean in six days. More information about the event is available at: <http://lox.floridatrail.org/>. More information about the status of the Herbert Hoover dike improvements can be found at <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Divisions/Everglades/Branches/HHDProject/hhdike.htm>

NENA Bluegill Trail (C-18 Levee between Riverbend Park and Sandhill Crane Park)

Following the recommendation of the Natural Areas Management Advisory Committee last October, the design of the multi-use portion of this trail was revised. The County has applied to South Florida Water Management District for a Right-of-Way use permit for this trail.

NENA Jesup Trail

Jesup Trail is the NENA connector being planned to provide hikers, off-road bicyclists and horseback riders a route from Riverbend Park to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Field scoping for the first segment of this trail took place in December with personnel from ERM, the County's Park and Recreation Department, Jonathan Dickinson State Park and the Northeast Everglades Trails Association (NETA) participating. The first step is to incorporate Jesup Trail into the management plans for the multiple conservation lands the trail crosses. The target date for completion of this crucial step is January, 2010. In the meantime, hikers, bicyclists and equestrians will all have an opportunity to preview parts of the future Jesup Trail during the Ocean-to-Lake Greenway Celebration next month. More information on these special events can be found at: <http://www.oceantolake.org> or send an e-mail to: info@ocean.lake.org to be placed on the list to receive up-to-date information on event schedules.

Coastal Council Meeting

The next Palm Beach County Coastal Council meeting will be held on Friday, February 13 at the ERM office building; 2300 N. Jog Road, in the first floor conference room. An agenda will be available shortly on the Council website at: <http://www.pbcgov.org/erm/coastal/coastalcouncil.htm>