

PALM BEACH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT & RESTORATION DIVISION

JULY 2009 STATUS REPORT



Lake Ida Restoration Project

Construction of the pathway bridge across the central wetland channel cut is nearing completion. The once sediment-clogged central stormwater pond is now connected to Lake Ida, providing shallow sandy bottom for fish to nest. Park visitors have already noticed an increase in the fishing opportunities. Fish can be seen swimming around the pilings of the bridge and one visitor is already catching bass in the south wetland.



Mitigation Reef Construction

Changing site conditions off Singer Island site have limited placement options, prompting the need for a permit modification before work can continue. The delay became an opportunity to accelerate the schedule for deployment off Ocean Ridge, just south of the South Lake Worth Inlet.

Mooring Buoys at the Breakers:

The contractor has successfully installed 10 of the 12 pins (bottom attachment U-bolts). The pins needed at least a two-week curing time before attaching the balls, so in early August the last 2 pins will be installed and the mooring balls will be attached. This project is funded through a State Wildlife Grant administered by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission's Wildlife Legacy Initiative.

Ibis Isle Restoration Project

17,000 cubic yards of sand has been transported to the site from Juno Dunes Natural Area to begin construction of a perimeter berm around the muck flat. The berm is floated over filter cloth, which contains and compresses a majority of the underlying



muck. The berm then becomes a staging area for dispersing clean sediment over the flat until it too is cut down to an intertidal elevation. 6.9 acres of spartina and mangrove habitat, bordered by limestone oyster reef will be left behind as the machinery retreats.

Dubois Park Restoration

The County submitted to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) a response to their third request for additional information (RAI). ERM and Parks staff attended a meeting with Jupiter Inlet Condominium residents to discuss proposed park improvements and answer questions.

Jupiter/Carlin Beach Renourishment

An updated Section 934 Report proposal that includes the economic model Beach-fx will be presented to the BCC on September 1.

Jupiter Beach Erosion Control Structures

Two, one-month-long, computationally intensive simulations are being completed to ensure the numerical model reproduces observed morphological changes in the project area before placing any structural alternatives into the model.

Central Palm Beach County Erosion Control

On August 11, the Town of Palm Beach Town Council will consider approving an Interlocal Agreement between the Town and the County to cost share on the engineering, design & permitting of the proposed breakwater project as well as the USACE required Environmental Impact Study (EIS). The Interlocal Agreement would provide for a 37.7% cost share which represents the Town's proportional share of linear shoreline contained within the Project area. The portion of Town shoreline to be included within the project area extends an additional 2,000 feet north of the Town of South Palm Beach northern boundary. The EIS and



engineering and design proposals are presently being updated to include this portion of Town shoreline.

Loxahatchee Slough C-51 (west leg) Bridge

A new bridge over the C-51 canal now connects berm trails that make up a section of the Ocean-to-Lake trail.



Sea Turtle Update

Preliminary totals indicate that leatherback nesting set a new record this season, estimated to be 48% higher than the previous record set in 2007. Loggerhead nesting is 9% higher than the 5-year average, while green nesting is higher than the “low” year average, but lower than the “high” year average. Disorientation events involving an estimated 2,900 hatchlings have been reported in Tequesta, Jupiter, Juno Beach, North Palm Beach, Singer Island, Ocean Ridge, and Boca Raton. Sea turtle nesting season continues through October 31st.

Juno Beach Renourishment

Staff is currently awaiting contract related submittals before a Notice to Proceed can be issued.

Marine Mammal Protection and Rescue Basics Workshop

A joint marine mammal/law enforcement training workshop attracted more than 60 participants representing the U.S. Coast Guard, state and local law enforcement, lifeguards, biologists, private, local, county, state and federal agencies. The purpose of the workshop was to give an overview of



the role and responsibility of the enforcement community in protection of and emergency response to marine mammals (manatees, dolphins, and whales), to help ensure the safety of stranded marine mammals. As a state mostly surrounded by water, Florida has the highest rate of cetacean strandings with bottlenose, rough-tooth & spinner dolphins, pygmy, sperm & pilot whales and manatees being the most common.

South Lake Worth Inlet

Pile driving efforts have moved on from the plant itself to support for the plant's utility trench and the first in a network of piles that will create a new crib structure over the old jetty.



A temporary coffer dam protects the forms and the network of reinforcing steel that will soon become the base of the new plant.



A new sheet pile wall is being installed along Bird Island just inside the inlet.

Reef Monitoring and Management

The Reef Research Team surveyed the ZION TRAIN, MISS JENNY barge, Jupiter Concrete, and Governor's River Walk. Despite the 2-3 knot currents, unusual sightings were spotted eagle ray with a remora, several large goliath groupers hanging out in the wrecks and large schools of boga.

Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative Habitat Working Group

The Group met to discuss progress on a Public/Private Partnership initiative to encourage small-scale mangrove/oyster habitat projects and the complexity of determining relative fisheries habitats in potential project areas within the Lagoon. Sites were selected for a volunteer oyster habitat project being coordinated by the Outreach Group & an updated decision analysis framework was introduced by the Chair of the Water Group.

Singer Island Erosion Control Project

The ECL Resolution was passed by the BCC on July 7th and the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping submitted the Notice of Mean High Water Survey Filing on July 28th. The ECL public hearing has been scheduled for August 26th from 3-6pm at the City Council Chambers. There was some delay in getting the necessary

approval to use the council chambers, so the notices were held until the approval was received (8/5). The first batch of notifications were mailed on 8/5 and the remaining (>2000 total) will be mailed by Friday (8/7). The public notice will be advertised in the PB Post beginning Sunday (8/9).

RAI #6 was received from the USFWS on July 28th. We are currently working on a response and expect to have a draft complete by the end of this week. This is the only agency still requesting additional information, all others have deemed the application/file complete. On July 24th a meeting was held with members of the Surfrider Foundation to discuss many of their concerns about the project. Most of these concerns have already been addressed in responses to permitting agencies, but Surfrider's intentions are still unclear.

The beach and restored dune along the north mile of Singer Island continue to be holding up well and have been very productive this turtle nesting season. FEMA recently approved \$1.2M in response to TS Fay which will be used toward a future dune restoration.