

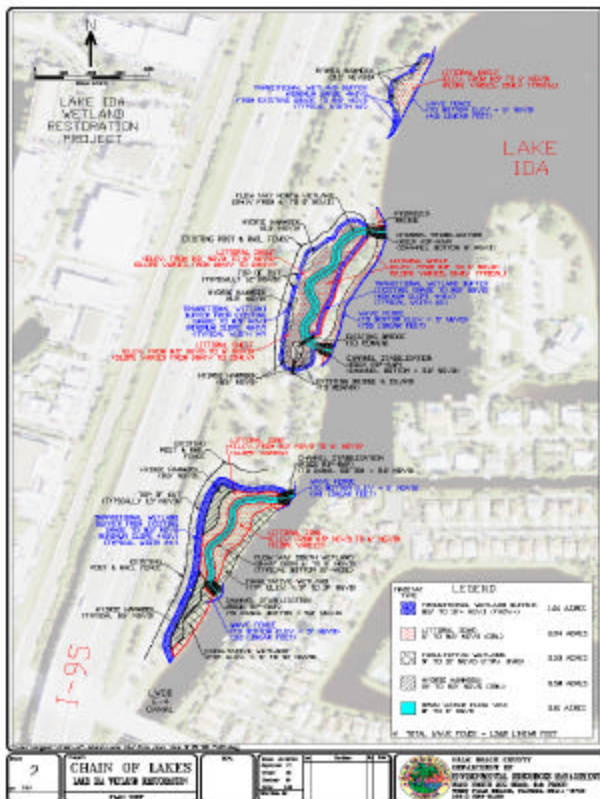
# Department of Environmental Resources Management Environmental Enhancement & Restoration Division

**October 2008  
Status Report**



## Lake Ida Restoration

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officially executed the \$400,000 grant for the Lake Ida Wetland Restoration Project on October 10, 2008. Annual contractors will be used to construct the restoration project which ERM would like to start as early as January, 2009.



## Jupiter/Carlin Structures

In the near future, the County's consultant will submit a draft data collection report to FDEP which details model calibration & verification as well as a critical assessment of the breakwater modeling approach.

## Jupiter/Carlin Renourishment

The County's consultant has begun the review of relevant project data for the design and engineering portion of the renourishment. County staff will present the Section 934 proposal to the BCC on December 2. County staff is still awaiting direction from the USACE on the preferred modeling software to be used for this study. The County Parks Department will begin installation of a seawall to protect the restrooms in November.

## Juno Beach Renourishment

A Notice of Intent to Issue and Draft Joint Coastal Permit have been received from the FL-DEP. The Construction Contract Invitation for bid will be advertised Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The tentative construction start date is early

February 2009; construction is expected to take approximately 80 days to complete.

## Singer Island Erosion Control Project

A meeting was held in Tallahassee on September 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the remaining permit issues with DEP. Some questions remain regarding use of the structures to mitigate the functional impacts to the natural nearshore reef. The Interlocal Agreement for the City of Riviera Beach to provide a 20% cost share of eligible project costs is scheduled for final approval at the December 2<sup>nd</sup> BCC meeting. An amendment to the State funding agreement to encumber the \$7M appropriation for the Singer Island breakwater project is also scheduled for BCC approval on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Task Order for the Erosion Control Line (ECL) survey has been executed by the consultant and work is scheduled to begin the week of November 10<sup>th</sup>.

## South Lake Worth Inlet

Repairs to the sand transfer plant motor are complete. Bid advertisement for the sand transfer plant construction/jetty rehabilitation/Bird Island seawall construction begins Nov 2. All state and federal permits have been acquired.

## Ocean Ridge Shore Protection Project

The 36-month post-construction biological monitoring is pending. Beach profiles for the 36-month post-construction physical monitoring are being finalized. Some areas were re-surveyed after tropical storms.

## Sea Turtle Compliance:

Lighting and beach obstruction (furniture) inspections have been completed for 2008. Notices of non-compliance were sent out to property owners. Disorientation reports are being summarized. Final disorientation numbers should be available in early December.



## South Palm Beach/Lantana

The County's consultant began working on the engineering & design of the breakwater project. In addition, a beach profile survey has been scheduled for early November in order to document existing shoreline conditions. The USACE has selected Taylor Engineering to produce the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) associated with the Breakwater project. The EIS takes approximately 18 months to finalize and is a critical part of the permitting process. County staff will meet with representatives of the USACE and Taylor in November to discuss the EIS scope.

County staff submitted to FDEP a Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) application for dune restoration and has received a Request for Additional Information. A response (including requested sand samples) should be ready for submission by November 7. Staff met on site with the contractors scheduled to complete the work to discuss the project. Dune restoration activities will be scheduled after the Board's approval on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Coastal Council Meeting

The next Palm Beach County Coastal Council Meeting has been scheduled for November 21st at 10:30 at ERM.

### **South Cove Restoration**

PBC has received notification that FDEP has scheduled the administrative hearing for the South Cove permit petition for February 3, 2009.

### **Peanut Island**

Storm activity and extreme high tides in September has further eroded away Peanut Island's southeastern shoreline. ERM is currently working on a plan to add additional sand to the eroded beach and is evaluating modifications to the swimming lagoon.

### **Juno Dunes Natural Area Project**

Palm Beach County staff will submit a project agreement with the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) for restoring a portion of the Juno Dunes Natural Area that is under lease with FIND. FIND will agree to cover the approximate \$2.5 million project costs that will include the restoration of mangroves and seagrass habitats, the construction of a boardwalk, floating docks, two story observation tower, picnic tables, kiosk and paved foot paths. This site will be accessible to the walking trails that connect the entire Juno Dunes Natural Area Property.



### **Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) awards grants for two County Projects**

The John's Island Oyster Reef Project will receive \$250,000 which will cover about 1/3 of the project costs for constructing 5 acres of oyster reef east of John's Island in the Lake Worth Lagoon. Including the \$265,000 grant from the Lake Worth Lagoon Partnership Program, about 2/3 of the costs of this project will come from outside sources of funding. The Snook Islands Public Use Facility will receive an additional \$559,575 which will save County funds that were previously earmarked for this project. Over 1/2 of the costs of this project will now come from outside funding sources.

### **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) awards grants for two County Projects**

The County will receive two \$100,000 grants to cover portions of two projects scheduled for completion in 2009. The Snook Islands and Juno Dunes Natural Areas Public Use Facilities will each receive \$100,000 to go towards the construction of docking facilities to accommodate water taxi services.

### **Work to begin on 3 new projects**

A marine contractor is expected to begin work in November on: 1) a breakwater project along the Intracoastal north of the Ocean Avenue Bridge in Ocean Ridge and Boynton Beach to protect mangroves; 2) a limestone boulder and pre-cast concrete module mitigation reef to be constructed just north of the City of Riviera Beach's Municipal Beach in 8-12' of water to mitigate for impacts in Juno Beach; and 3) a shallow water oyster reef project near John's Island.

### **Tequesta Bridge may become an artificial reef**

Staff received notice that officials would like to demolish the Tequesta Bridge and construct an artificial reef off the Jupiter coast. If the slab portions of the bridge are laid crossways on 2-3' high beams, this bridge could create significant ledges for snook and goliath grouper. The County has permits for a 30-40' deep artificial reef site near Jupiter Inlet that would be suitable for this type of material.

### **Reef Monitoring and Management**

The Reef Research Team surveyed two natural reef sites, Loggerhead and Bonnie's Reefs in the Jupiter area this month. These are two beautiful reefs with 4-6 ft. ledges and second "ledges" of 1-3 ft. on top of the reefs. Numerous hard corals are present and several large goliath groupers were observed. The Team submitted the final report for the 2 year FWC monitoring grant to ERM for review.

### **LWL Monitoring**

PBC ERM continues to strengthen its partnerships with SFWMD, FWC and universities. Projects in various stages on implementation include water quality sampling, sea grass monitoring, sediment sourcing, substrate characterization, and the preliminary stages of nutrient modeling.

### **NENA trailhead at Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail**

ERM continues work getting the trailhead ready for use during the Florida Trail Association's 17th annual Big "O" hike. Hikers will head north on the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST) from the Pahokee Marina at 8 AM on November 22. The LOST encircles Lake Okeechobee on top of the Herbert Hoover Dike. About half of the 110-mile long trail is paved. LOST is currently closed to the public between Port Myacca and Pahokee due to improvements being made to the Herbert Hoover dike, however, ERM is working with the Florida Trail Association and Bauer Foundation, Inc., contractors on this reach of dike, to make LOST and the trailhead available for this event.

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

At their October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Natural Areas Management Advisory Committee voted to support the multi-use trail concept with separate tread for different users, but not the use of asphalt for a hardened trail. The project is being redesigned and will be submitted to the MPO and FDOT as a two tread trail, with one ten-foot wide shell-rock tread and the remainder left unimproved for equestrian use.

*For more information on Palm Beach County environmental restoration projects, please visit: <http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm/>*