

**Department of Environmental
Resources Management
Environmental Enhancement &
Restoration Division**

**September 2008
Status Report**



Lake Worth Lagoon Partnership Grant Program (LWLPGP): The LWLPGP Selection Committee convened on September 5th to allocate State funds to projects that benefit habitat and water quality in the Lake Worth Lagoon and Chain of Lakes. PBCERM South Cove Restoration Phase II was awarded \$415,000 and a \$165,000 grant will assist the PBC Parks and Recreation Department John Prince Park Campground Sewer Project. The funding request for this fiscal year totaled \$2,493,600 million.

Jupiter/Carlin Structures: The ADP (Acoustic Doppler Profiler) instruments deployed on August 14 to capture summer wave conditions were retrieved a few weeks early in order to avoid losing the instrumentation during the anticipated passing of Hurricane Ike. The data is currently being processed and it will soon be determined whether or not enough summer wave characteristics were captured. In the mean time, work continues on calibration of the wave model.

Jupiter/Carlin Renourishment: The engineering & design scope of work and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Grant Agreement were approved by the BCC on September 9. The County's consultant submitted a draft Section 934 proposal which staff is presently reviewing. Completion of the 934 report is necessary in order to receive continued federal participation on the project.

South Palm Beach/Lantana: Recent storm activity washed out



the remaining dune along the project area and damaged a number of beach access structures. A Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) permit application for dune restoration is in preparation and State funding to support the work is pending. The final engineering & design scope of work for the erosion control project will go before the BCC for approval on October 7.

Staff attended a SPB Town Council meeting to provide an update on the project. FDEP & USACOE staff also gave a presentation on the Joint Coastal Permitting (JCP) process. The Council voted to cost share on 20% of eligible dune restoration costs.

South Lake Worth Inlet:

Sand transfer plant/Jetties/Seawall. Final plans and specifications for construction of the new sand transfer plant, installation of a seawall at Bird Island, and north & south jetty rehabilitation have been submitted to the Planning Zoning & Building Dept. to complete the building permit applications. State and Federal permits for the seawall and plant are in place.

Ocean Ridge Shore Protection Project: Field work for the 36-month post-construction biological monitoring & performance monitoring is underway.

Sea Turtle Lighting Compliance: Lighting inspections have been completed for all of Palm Beach County and follow-up discussions with property owners helped to raise awareness of the problem. An estimated 8,921 disoriented sea turtle hatchlings have been reported so far this season.

Sea Turtle Nesting Update: After the record low 2007 nesting season, it is encouraging to record an increase in loggerhead nesting; loggerhead nesting is 20-75% higher than during this point last year and 5-25% higher than the 5-year average. Though lower than the record 2007 nesting season, green and leatherback nesting is generally 10-20% higher than the 5-year average. Sea turtle nesting season continues through October 31.

In-water Sea Turtle Monitoring: During the fall nearshore inwater turtle monitoring sampling event, seven juvenile green sea turtles were observed on transects established in the vicinity of the Jupiter Carlin, Juno Beach, and Singer Island Shoreline Protection Project areas.

Singer Island Erosion Control Project:

Funding agreements with the City of Riviera Beach Staff for periodic dune restoration and Erosion Control Structure construction remain pending. Staff met with FDEP officials in Tallahassee to discuss outstanding permit issues.

Juno Renourishment: Heavy seas eroded the beach along the southern end of the project area, affecting both the berm and the dune. Draft plans and specifications, along with a Biological Opinion from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been submitted to FDEP. Construction is expected to begin in December 2008. Of the estimated project cost of \$12M, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will contribute \$3M to offset erosion caused by hurricane Frances. FDEP is preparing a funding agreement to share 50% of the construction costs.

Sediment sourcing study in the Lake Worth Lagoon (LWL) and the drainage canals of the C-51 and L-8

Basins: Stormwater runoff is a major source of sediment input to the LWL and the C-51 Canal contributes approximately half of that flow. A project is underway to monitor and assess sediment sources that are discharged through the Canal. This year long study is part of the monitoring efforts described in the revised Lake Worth Lagoon Management Plan. Analysis of data

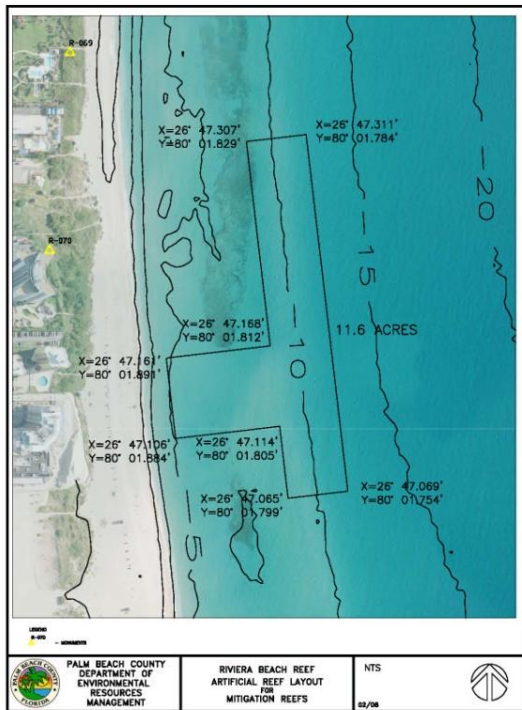
generated will be used to develop management strategies to reduce sediment loading, and for the development and prioritization of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce pollution. Funding for this monitoring effort will be provided through the South Florida Water Management District and the Lake Worth Lagoon Partnership Program.

Manatee Protection Plan: New agreements with Palm Beach County Sheriff Office, Jupiter, Lantana, and Tequesta Police Departments for additional on-water law enforcement in the County's waterways have been executed for the up-coming manatee season (November 15th - March 31st).

Reef Monitoring and Management: The Reef Research Team surveyed two natural reef sites, Briny Breeze and Lynn's Reef in the Boynton/Ocean Ridge area this month. Minimal cyanobacteria, *Lyngbya* sp., was observed; however, there appeared to be about 6 in. of sand "washed" up onto the edge of Briny Breeze Reef. Lots of fish were present, including several blue-spotted coronetfish. Several star corals were bleached, probably as a result of the really warm water.

Annual Marine Contract Receives Three Bids

M&J Construction of Pinellas County, Inc. has been awarded the annual marine contract. Initial work will include breakwater projects along the mangrove areas north of the Ocean Avenue Bridge in Ocean Ridge and Boynton Beach and a limestone boulders 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.



NENA trail head at Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail: Ocean Gate General Contractors, Inc. is substantially complete with construction of the trail head facilities. ERM is now working on getting the trailhead ready for use during the Florida Trail Association's seventeenth annual Big "O" hike this November. Meanwhile, the segment of LOST between Port Myacca and Pahokee remains closed as the Army Corps of Engineers continues work on the Herbert Hoover Dike. Just next to the trailhead, the ACOE contractor is installing a 500 foot test strip wall in the dike.

NENA Historic Jupiter-Indiantown Trail, Phase 1: ERM has revised its application for Transportation Enhancement funds to include side-by-side hardened and soft surfaced paths.

NENA Bluegill Trail (C-18 Levee between Riverbend Park and Sandhill Crane Park: As with the Historic Jupiter-Indiantown Trail, instead of one multi-use trail for hikers, equestrians and bicyclists, side-by-side hardened and soft surfaced paths will better accommodate these diverse user groups.

Coastal Council Meeting: The next Palm Beach County Coastal Council Meeting has been scheduled for Friday November 21st at 10:30 am. The meeting will be held at the PBC Environmental Resources Management office located in the Vista Center.

Juno Dunes Natural Area (JDNA) Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Parcel Enhancement and Mitigation Project

A new Lease Agreement and funding Agreement for the construction of this project has been sent to our partner, FIND for review and approval. A grant agreement to provide \$100,000 from the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the design and construction of water taxi docking facilities has been finalized. The project includes creation and enhancement of mangrove and seagrass habitat as well as a public use facility consisting of a day use boat dock with a boardwalk over wetlands and an observation tower. The final environmental permit was received from the USCOE in September. Construction plans and specifications are now being reviewed by staff

Lake Ida Restoration: The Board of County Commission approved a \$400,000 grant from the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the construction of the Lake Ida restoration project. The project will include flowways through two created wetlands to improve water quality in the Chain of Lakes system. The constructed wetland system will consist of native plantings and a reconstructed channel designed to slow flows. The redesigned channel slows down the water flowing through the system, providing an opportunity for the vegetation to filter out pollutants. The project is slated to begin construction in early 2009 and be completed by the summer.

Ocean Ridge Natural Area:

The third annual site visit was



highlighted by the success of the maritime hammock plants and trees installed around the public use facility. Species such as gumbo limbos, mastics, paradise trees along with wild coffee and beauty berries all appear healthy and are thriving at this site.

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