

Palm Beach County
Environmental Resources Management
Environmental Enhancement &
Restoration Division



October 2006
Status Report

Singer Island Dune Restoration

Sand excavation began at the Winding Waters Natural Area on October 3rd. To date, approximately 20,000cy of material has been stacked and is ready for transport to the beach.



Placement on the beach is scheduled to begin the second week of November, pending receipt of the DEP permit.

On October 19th, the Eastpointe II Property Owners Association Board voted 41 in favor of granting a construction access easement. This easement will establish a beach access necessary to complete the dune restoration between the Reaches seawall north to the Sea Dunes Condo, where a seawall is currently under construction.

Singer Island Erosion Control

Staff is currently drafting a task order for the EIS. Post-processing of sediment transport and shoreline change modeling has been completed as well as the mapping of hardbottom exposure documented on historic aerial films from 1991, 1992, 1997, and 1998. The photo image files, CAD drawing files of the digitized hardbottom, and the GIS shape files of the hardbottom boundaries are being compiled.

Sea Turtle Nesting Update

Sea turtle nesting season ended on October 31st. Several County beaches reported lower than average loggerhead nesting numbers, however, Ocean Ridge and Jupiter beaches recorded above average totals. Jupiter recorded 931 loggerhead nests, a 28% increase over the 5-year average, while Ocean Ridge recorded 250 loggerhead nests, an 8% increase over 2005 totals. Unfortunately, loggerhead nesting totals on Tequesta (1,087) were 24% lower than the 5-year average; the increases seen at Jupiter and Ocean Ridge do not make up for the loss of loggerhead nesting at Tequesta.

State and countywide nesting totals will be available in mid-December.

Jupiter/Carlin

The 24-month post-construction monitoring report was approved by DEP. The 36-month post-construction monitoring report is under review. Starting in November, the Jupiter Inlet District (JID) will replace armor stone along Jupiter Inlet's north and south jetties. Most of the work will be performed from a barge, although the materials and equipment will be staged at the south jetty.

Juno Beach

A new agreement with DEP is being drafted to provide funding for projects awaiting reimbursement. A proposal by ATM to provide engineering design and permitting services for the Juno Beach renourishment (scheduled for next fall) is currently undergoing review.

South Palm Beach

During October, CPE submitted the results from their draft environmental characterization report and jet probe study. The field



investigations revealed that area contains two ridges of hardbottom which are biologically and topographically distinct and that the limestone elevations appear to be adequate to support segmented breakwaters or other erosion control structures. An analysis of sea turtle & shorebird utilization of the beaches was included in the report.

Supplemental dune planting took place on October 13th along the restored dunes of the Lantana Public Beach and Town of South Palm Beach. A variety of salt-tolerant, native, dune vegetation, such as sea oats and railroad vine were planted.

South Lake Worth Inlet

Final plans for sand transfer plant reconstruction were submitted to the Facilities Development to prepare bid package.

51 Canal Sediment Management Project

Dredging of the C-51 Canal is progressing on schedule with over 52,700 cubic yards of material dredged to date. Over 1,800 truckloads of the material have been moved off site and currently, the material is being trucked to the Winding Waters Natural Area where it is being utilized for environmental restoration of the site.

Further information about the project can be accessed at: www.pbc.gov/erm/enhancement/c51.asp

Lake Worth Lagoon Partnership Grant Program

The Town of Ocean Ridge Stormwater Improvements – Phase II project was completed. The project treats stormwater of a 70-acre residential area in the southeast portion of the Town.

Ocean Ridge Natural Area



A volunteer group from Forest Hill H.S. finished up the last of the mangrove planting. A pair of manatees was recently spotted

feeding at high tide on the salt tolerant plants planted along the edge of the water.

The contractor recently completed repair work on the floating dock pilings. ERM staff will install signs, kiosk information, bike racks, and a vehicle access spot. As of now, the project is open to the public.

Juno Dunes Natural Area Mangrove Restoration

The environmental permitting process is underway to restore a 30 acre parcel under lease from the Florida

Inland Navigation District. A site visit with the South Florida Water Management District is scheduled for the end of this month.

Hurricane Wilma Vessel Recovery Program

All vessels that were tagged as derelict or abandoned after hurricane Wilma have been removed from the water. The initial billings were sent to the last three owners of those vessels to cover the expense for removal and disposal.

M/V Celtic Crusader

Staff is currently preparing a Contract and vessel clean-up plan to try and secure the 265 ft. vessel for reefing. Testing for asbestos and PCBs must be completed before the ship can be cleared.

Artificial Reef Site Permit Application

The multi-site permit application has been submitted to the agencies for processing.

Reef Monitoring and Management

The Reef Team completed monitoring dives on the BUDBAR and Ragg's Reef. Rag's Reef is a limerock boulder reef that was deployed 3 months ago. On this visit 48 species of fish were noted. The Team noted 65 species of fish on the BUDBAR and numerous Bluebell tunicates covered the hull. Staff completed monitoring of the limerock boulder corridors deployed at Governor's River Walk Reef. Fish counts for the limerock corridor deployed in 2005 were 49 species



compared to the newer boulders deployed in 2006 which showed 44 species. Benthic growth on the older boulders included the octocoral, carmen sea spray.

Mahogany Snapper and tomtates
Photo by Lin Creel