

Palm Beach County
Environmental Resources Management
Environmental Enhancement &
Restoration Division

Status Report September 2006

Jupiter/Carlin

ERM has reviewed the revised scope of work and cost proposal from Taylor Engineering for the Jupiter/Carlin structures feasibility study and will send both to FDEP for approval. A revised 24-month monitoring report by Taylor Engineering was sent to FDEP August 4 and we are awaiting approval. The 36-month monitoring report by Taylor Engineering is nearly complete.

Juno Beach

Staff received the final draft of the Juno Beach Renourishment scope of work from ATM and met with ATM staff to discuss several issues relating to the scope.

Singer Island Dune Restoration



Staff is in negotiations with multiple condominiums to secure construction access easements along Singer Island. Without multiple access points to the beach, existing seawalls may prevent passage and limit the project boundaries. The Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) permit application has been submitted to DEP. Sand excavation is set to begin at the Winding Waters Natural Area the week of October 2, 2006.

Sea Turtle Netting Study

InWater Research Group conducted the 7th sampling event in the Lake Worth Lagoon in September. Four green turtles were captured and several turtles (including two loggerheads) were spotted during the three day event. Of the four captured greens, all were severely afflicted with fibropapillomatosis, two of which required transfer to rehabilitation facilities. One of these was subsequently euthanized. The next sampling event is scheduled for January 2007.



This turtle had to be euthanized due to fibropapillomatosis

Sea Turtle Nesting Update

Though several beaches in Palm Beach County are reporting lower than average loggerhead nesting numbers, two beaches monitored by ERM (Ocean Ridge and Jupiter/Carlin) have recorded above average loggerhead totals. Jupiter/Carlin loggerhead totals have increased 28% over the 5-year average and are the highest recorded since this beach was renourished in 2001. Ocean Ridge recorded an 8% increase in loggerhead nesting during its first season post-renourishment. Unfortunately, loggerhead nesting totals on Tequesta are the lowest recorded since detailed surveys began in 1994 and are 24% lower than the 5-year average. Since the heaviest nesting in the county is typically in Tequesta, the reduction in nesting here will offset the increases at beaches. Additional nesting data and information is available at:

<http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm/protection/nesthatch.asp>

Sea Turtle Volunteer Program

Eight years after its inception, the volunteer sea turtle monitoring program is still going strong. This season, 31 volunteers monitored 1.3 miles of beach in northern Palm Beach County and recorded over 3400 crawls. In its eight years, over 120 volunteers have recorded over 43,000 crawls and donated over 10,000 hours to the County. Congratulations to these dedicated volunteers!

Lake Worth Inlet

The new Interlocal Agreement for the continued operation and maintenance of the sand transfer plant goes before the BCC on October 3, 2006.

Emergency channel shoal removal by the Corps of Engineers is scheduled for the end of September. Approximately 1,500 cubic yards of material will be placed in the nearshore area south of the Lake Worth Inlet.

South Palm Beach

Throughout September, work proceeded on the South Palm Beach Erosion Control Study. The model calibration was sent to FDEP for their review and approval. The model calibration will simulate the performance of each feasible erosion control alternative proposed. Supplemental planting has been scheduled along the restored dunes of the Lantana Public Beach and Town of South Palm Beach.

South Lake Worth Inlet

Plans and specifications are being prepared for the sand trap dredging contract. Final plans are expected from Bridge Design by the end of September for the jetty rehabilitation. Plan drawings for the sand transfer plant reconstruction have been finalized

C-51 Canal Sediment Management Project

Dredging of the C-51 Canal is progressing on schedule with over 41,440 cubic yards of material processed to date. Over 1,350 truckloads of the material have been moved off site. Currently the material is being trucked to Palm Beach County ERM's 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.pbcgov.com/erm/enhancement/c51.asp

John Prince Park/Chain of Lakes Restoration

Field work is ongoing to obtain additional data needed for completion of the construction plans for restoration

of the area near Square Lake. Technical specifications are scheduled to be complete by the middle of October and the dewatering permit will be submitted to SFWMD at that time.

LWL Management Plan Update

Staff has begun the process of updating the LWL Management Plan. The updated plan will give the public and environmental professionals the chance to learn about research findings, and restoration projects completed in the LWL. It will also guide future restoration efforts planned in the lagoon.

Juno Dunes Natural Area (North)

The permitting process is underway to restore a 30 acre parcel under lease from the Florida Inland Navigation District. Work will include removal of exotic vegetation and the restoration of approximately 10 acres of mangroves and flushing channels. In addition, a boat dock, nature trails and boardwalk are planned for this site.

Reef Monitoring and Management

The Reef Team completed monitoring dives on Governor's River Walk Reef, Sugar Sands Ledges in the Lake Worth Lagoon, and the Princess Anne. The Princess is substantially broken down, although it still supports a large and diverse numbers of fish. Some destruction of the ledges in the Lagoon occurred with the hurricanes, but they also now support 4 species of stony coral.

Ocean Ridge Nearshore Monitoring

A Task Order was issued to Coastal Planning & Engineering to complete the first year's post construction monitoring of the Ocean Ridge beach nourishment project. Field work will commence shortly.

Artificial Reef Site Permit Application

A permit application for 18 artificial reef sites has been submitted to the DEP and ACOE for processing. The 18 sites cover more than 10,000 acres and encompass most of the old sites that have been in use, as well as many new areas.

Prefabricated Reef Design Request

Staff received a request from Martin Mets for a small prefab reef design. Martin is a former Reef Committee member and currently works with the PBC School Board. His objective with the design is to encourage his contractors to build a prototype utilizing end-of-day

cement/concrete and make it available to the County free-of-charge.

Oyster Reefs

Staff has contacted various experts to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of various oyster reefs designs. Consideration is being given to developing a program that would use volunteers to assist in reef construction which will provide water quality and habitat benefits to the Lake Worth Lagoon. An opportunity to cost share with the Loxahatchee River

that will establish responsibilities to manage and maintain the restoration site as well as construct a boardwalk and a fishing pier(s) at the south end of the project.

Lake Worth Lagoon Partnership Grant Program (LWLPGP)

A presentation on the LWLPGP was made to the American Society of Civil Engineers Palm Beach Chapter during September. For additional information please visit: www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm/enhancement/lwgrantprogram.asp



Preservation Initiative for oyster reef construction and monitoring is also being evaluated.

Snook Islands Natural Area Restoration

Staff performed a detailed seagrass survey over the summer and observed over 50 areas of recruitment within the project limits. In almost all instances, dense patches of Johnson's seagrass were observed totaling at least 1.2 acres. City of Lake Worth staff is currently reviewing an Interlocal Agreement with the County

Lake Worth Lagoon Public Outreach

Staff participated in the International Coastal Cleanup on September 16 and supervised students on John's Island. More than 60 students assisted. Fisherman's Island and the Southern Boulevard Causeway were cleaned up with the help of more than 160 participants.

A Lake Worth Lagoon educational kiosk was installed at Ocean Ridge Natural Area.