



**PALM BEACH COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL
ENHANCEMENT &
RESTORATION
DIVISION**

OCTOBER 2009 STATUS REPORT

South Lake Worth Inlet

The contractor began working inside the sand transfer plant, installing the pump, motor, hydraulic and electrical lines, pipes, windows, drywall, and operator console. Structural roof framing is complete. The crane boom was installed on the platform on the north side of the plant. The concrete utility trench is completed, and the 16" discharge pipe is installed.



South Lake Worth Inlet

Approximately 98 concrete truck loads of flowable fill (980 cubic yards) were placed behind the new seawall at Bird Island. Workers are building forms to pour the concrete cap along 910 ft of seawall.



To date, the Biological Opinion from the NMFS still has not been submitted to the USACE.

A CCCL permit application was submitted to DEP on October 2nd to conduct a truck haul dune restoration in the project area. DEP has since taken the position that the proposed effort would require a federal Joint Coastal Permit (JCP) due to the potential to impact nearshore hardbottom. Staff is still discussing this issue with DEP.

Central Palm Beach

County Comprehensive Erosion Control Project

On September 30, the County's Contract Review Committee (CRC) approved the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) change order which includes a portion of the Town of Palm Beach's shoreline. On October 9, a response was received from the County's engineering consultant regarding the County's comments to the updated engineering & design proposal. County staff is reviewing the response and will provide approval of the change order in the near future.

County staff submitted a Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) permit application to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for dune restoration. The application requested approval for dune restoration along Lantana and South Palm Beach this winter.

Dubois

Permits were received for the Dubois Project in September. Staff are drafting construction specifications for the Project and anticipate starting construction in spring 2010. Construction components include a snorkel lagoon, restored shoreline, day dock facility and replacement of existing shoreline protection structures.

Jupiter/Carlin Beach Renourishment

On October 16, staff submitted comments to the County's engineering consultant regarding the draft Joint Coastal Permit (JCP) application for the renourishment. A final JCP application will be submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) by the end of the year.

The BCC approved the Section 934 Report change order which included the USACE economic model, Beach-fx. A draft Section 934 Report is not expected to be completed until summer 2010.

Juno Renourishment

Mobilization of equipment and pipes is scheduled to begin on November 15. The dredge should arrive December 1. Contract submittals from the contractor are being finalized. Pre-construction monitoring of the reefs adjacent to the borrow area has begun. A Notice to Proceed is expected to be issued by November 6. Initially, fill will be placed south of the Juno Pier. The contract requires that construction be completed by February 28 due to early nesting sea turtles.

Ibis Isle Restoration Project

The contractor has completed capping activities in the northern portion of the project, which brings the total acreage of capped muck to 6.64 acres. In addition, a channel was excavated from uplands to facilitate flushing of an existing mangrove channel, adjacent to the central component of the project, and provide 0.10 acre of additional habitat. Approximately 450 feet of perimeter berm and access road remain to be excavated before final completion of the northern component. The contractor has mobilized for the southern component of the project which involves the capping of 1.72 acres of muck. Completion of the southern portion is anticipated by the end of December.



Newly excavated mangrove channel at Ibis Isle



The completed North end of Ibis Isle

John's Island Oyster Reef Project

The oyster project behind John's Island continues into its second month of construction. Seven barge loads or 4,200 tons of rock have been placed within this shallow water site with another 3,300 tons yet to be placed. Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) and a Lake Worth Lagoon Partnership grants are covering 65% of the \$730,000 costs to construct this 5 acre reef project.

Ocean Ridge Nearshore Reef Project

The nearshore mitigation reef construction along Ocean Ridge continues. Approximately 60% or 6,000 tons of limestone boulders have been deployed creating 45 reef pods (20' by 40'). This project is slated to be completed in late December of this year.

Reef Monitoring and Management

The volunteer Reef Research Team surveyed the Royal Park Bridge, Larson's Valley, ANCIENT MARINER, and UNITED CARIBBEAN. There were a number of hard corals and gorgonians encrusting the concrete of Royal Park Bridge reef. Several large goliath grouper were present. Both the bow and stern of the UNITED CARIBBEAN were covered with the exotic orange cup corals, a few star corals and the usual encrusting sponges, white condominium tunicates, and some algae hydroids. The ANCIENT MARINER remains pretty much intact, but is listing to its port side. Although 45 goliath grouper were reported at this wreck in early September, none were observed on the date the Team visited it.

NENA Bluegill Trail Phase 1

A Notice to Proceed was received from Florida Department of Transportation early in October and the project was advertised for bid on October 11th. Thirty-three companies were represented at the mandatory pre-bid meeting held October 22nd and eleven participated in the pre-bid site visits conducted by ERM staff. Bid opening is scheduled for November 10th.

NENA Pântano Trail, Phase 1

Locations for future trail amenities were field scoped this month by ERM staff. This Project will provide improved bicycle and pedestrian access to the northwestern three sections of the Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area from Riverbend Park.

NENA Historic Jupiter-Indiantown Trail, Phase 1

The revised plans and scope of work for this project were submitted to the Florida Department of Transportation this month and are currently under review. The funding agreement will be executed in the next month. Funding for these NENA projects is from DOT and Federal economic stimulus grants.

Lake Worth Lagoon Monitoring

A number of monitoring projects are wrapping up and are in the final stages of report review. These include: a C-51 basin sediment source study conducted by FIT; a sediment characterization and bathymetry study at current and proposed restoration project locations; 2009 seagrass transect study; and, the first annual report of oyster monitoring. Projects that are expected to continue include: water quality monitoring; aerial surveys of manatees; oyster monitoring; sea turtle monitoring; and, the 2010 seagrass study.

Coastal Monitoring

Coastal monitoring projects that have been completed recently or are underway include: 2009 nearshore aerial photography; a project by FAU to digitize nearshore aerials from 2005 to 2009 and evaluate change over time; sea turtle nest monitoring and in-water sea turtle monitoring in shore protection project areas; coastal lighting surveys; and beach profile surveys.

Please visit our webpage for more information:
<http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm>