



EMERALD COAST CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU, INC.

# Okaloosa Beaches

Okaloosa County Tourist Development Council  
1540 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548  
www.destin-fwb.com

## 5th Cent and MSBU Funding

On November 8th the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners passed two important ordinances for the future of beach restoration in Okaloosa County.

The first ordinance authorized the 5th cent of the Tourist Development Tax. This will allow one cent of the tax to be dedicated solely to beach and dune restoration and management each year. This will provide a relatively stable funding source for future beach management activities in the County but will sunset when the project debt is paid.

The second ordinance provides for the establishment of 2 Municipal Services Benefit Units (MSBU); one for Okaloosa Island and one in Destin. These MSBUs will allow coastal residents and businesses that benefit directly from a beach restoration project to participate financially for the storm

damage reduction and recreational benefits that they will receive. The MSBU will also sunset when the project debt is paid. Combined with State participation, these 2 funding sources will allow us to move forward with restoring all of Okaloosa Island and the City of Destin beaches.

### Why We Need Beach Restoration



Volume 1 Issue 2  
November, 2007

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*Special points of interest:*

- **Funding set for restoration of all Okaloosa County beaches**
- **Joint Coastal Permit submittal for Okaloosa Island/Eglin AFB imminent**
- **Work on design and permitting continues for Destin and Okaloosa Island**
- **Water Resources Development Act veto overturned**

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## Okaloosa Island Beach Feasibility Study continued on pg.2

The first draft of the Okaloosa Island Beach Feasibility Study has been submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for their review.

Beach feasibility studies are statutorily required by the

State of Florida prior to beach restoration projects. These studies typically cover review of existing project area information, describing existing conditions, development risk analysis and suggested recommendations.

Once this report has been reviewed and approved by FDEP, it will become the guiding document for the design and permitting phase of the restoration project. Once that phase is completed, construction of the actual beach project can begin.



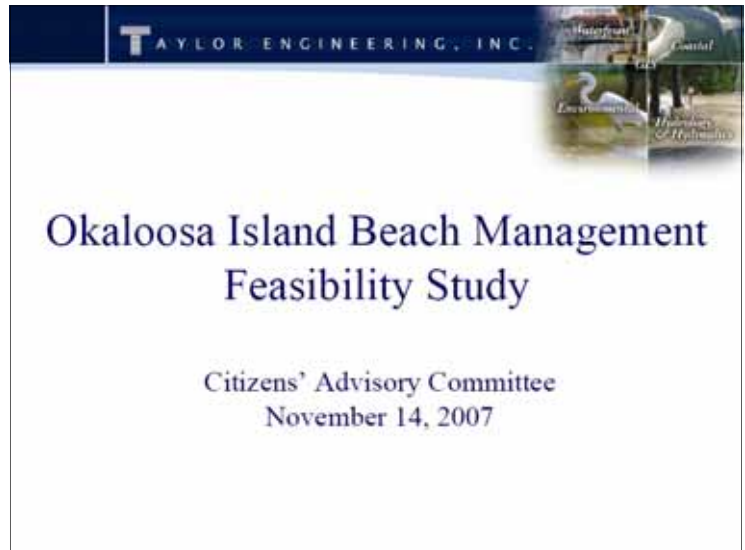


## Feasibility Study - continued from pg. 1

The Citizens' Advisory Committee, comprised of Okaloosa Island residents, met on November 14th. Taylor Engineering presented the draft of the feasibility study for their consideration. The presentation included:

- Develop an understanding of the long-term and short-term behavior of the beach
- Develop an understanding of the causes of observed beach behavior
- Evaluate need for erosion control projects
- Develop a list of erosion control initiatives

The presentation as well as the draft report are available on our website. [www.destin-fw.com](http://www.destin-fw.com)



## Federal Shore Protection Program

The TDC is continuing its efforts to gain participation in the Federal Shore Protection Program.

Recently the TDC Executive Director and Beach Projects Manager met with members of Congressman Miller's and Senator Martinez's staff in order to pursue Federal funding for an initial Reconnaissance Study for Okaloosa County. This \$100,000 study is the 2nd step towards participation in the program. The meetings were very positive

and we are optimistic about our chances for success.

If you have not already done so, please show your support for Okaloosa County beaches by sending your comments to our elected officials at <http://capwiz.com/mandcmp/issues/alert/?alertid=9724771>

*"Over the past 45 years, the average annual Federal shore protection outlay is actually less than \$50 million. It is only in the last three to four fiscal years that it has reached \$80 million to \$110 million"*

## Sand, and a lot of it!

In a joint partnership among the TDC, Okaloosa County, the City of Destin and Eglin AFB, Taylor Engineering was hired to find approximately 10 million cubic yards of beach quality sand. They have found 2 sites capable of providing this amount. One site is near shore the other is approximately 7 miles off shore. Each site has its advantages and disadvantages. The geotechnical study is not yet complete and a final decision as to which site to use will

only come after the contract is complete and approval is received from the regulatory agencies.

*10,000,000 cubic yards of sand = 1/2 million dump trucks!*



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## Beach Restoration and the Florida Supreme Court

On April 19, 2007, the Florida Supreme Court heard oral arguments in FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, ETC. vs. SAVE OUR BEACHES, INC., ET AL. and WALTON COUNTY, ET AL. vs. SAVE OUR BEACHES, INC., ET AL.

These cases were brought to the Supreme Court on appeal of a District Court's ruling. That ruling concluded with "Accordingly, we reverse the Department's final order approving the Joint Coastal Permit and Authorization to Use Sovereign Submerged Lands. We remand for the Department to provide satisfactory evidence of sufficient upland interest pursuant to Florida Administrative Code Rule 18-21.004(3)(b). As provided by section 161.141, Florida Statutes

(2005), if the project "cannot reasonably be accomplished without the taking of private property, the taking must be made by the requesting authority by eminent domain proceedings." To the extent that the Board of Trustees recorded a resolution and survey in the public records showing a boundary of STBR's members' property that is different from their deeds, the resolution and survey are declared invalid as to the members' property boundaries."

The Supreme Court has yet to make a ruling in these cases, however, their decision could alter the face of beach restoration in Florida.

For more detailed information you can go to [http://jweb.flcourts.org/pls/docket/ds\\_docket\\_search%20](http://jweb.flcourts.org/pls/docket/ds_docket_search%20) and search for SC06-1447 and SC06-1449.



## The Water Resources Development Act

This Act in a nutshell, is intended "To provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes." This is important to our community because WRDA is the mechanism through which the Federal Shore Protection Program is funded. This year we were unsuccessful in having \$100,000 in Federal

funds appropriated for a Reconnaissance study of Okaloosa County beaches, the second step towards participation in the Federal Shore Protection Program. However, we will continue to press forward with our efforts in this area.

*"Beach nourishment is well worth the cost. The economic, environmental, and recreational benefits derived from the relatively small annual cost of nourishment projects far outweigh their cost."*

*Howard Marlowe*



The "Beach" at Jetty East, Destin



Scrambling to stay dry on Okaloosa Island



# American Shore & Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA)

The ASBPA and its numerous State chapters, advocacy and association groups have been committed to beaches and coastal resources as far back as 1926. The founding members of the Association were active in persuading the Congress to enact legislation authorizing Federal sharing of the cost, first of erosion studies of specific problem areas and, later, of project works. Then, as now, this required data collection, research on coastal processes, and the development and the use of analytical techniques and hydraulic models.

The Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association was organized in 1957 at a meeting of 37 local government and university leaders concerned about the growing problem of beach erosion that had virtually destroyed important resort beaches such as Miami Beach. They recognized that erosion was a statewide problem that couldn't be handled by individual cities and counties alone.

For additional information please visit <http://www.asbpa.org/home.php> and <http://www.fsbpa.com/index.html>.

*“The American Shore & Beach Preservation Association recognizes that the shores, beaches and other coastal resources of America provide important quality-of-life assets within the reach of the largest possible number of people in accordance with the ideals of a democratic nation. This Association is dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing the beaches, shores and other coastal resources of America.”*

## ASBPA Policy Initiatives

□ 1. ASBPA supports passage of a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) in 2008 so that Congress can return to a biennial schedule of this bill that is critical for the nation's water resources infrastructure.

□ 2. ASBPA urges the inclusion in WRDA of language requiring the Corps of Engineers to give equal weight to the economic benefits of tourism, recreation, boating, and fishing to the region and the nation in formulating beach nourishment projects.

□ 3. ASBPA urges the passage of H.R. 68, which will allow for the Corps of Engineers to recommend to Congress the reauthorization of beach nourishment projects prior to the expiration of their initial 50-year period for federal fiscal involvement.

□ 4. ASBPA urges the Corps of Engineers to develop guidelines that enable local governments and private homeowner groups to avoid being penalized for undertaking interim erosion control activities prior to a pending federal beach nourishment project.

□ 5. ASBPA encourages federal initiatives to develop research in coastal engineering and science.

□ 6. ASBPA supports the development of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) and urges Congress to pass the Ocean and Coastal Observation Systems Act (S. 950). Enhanced collection and analysis of coastal and ocean data will improve public policy decisions and will also help provide advance warning of hazardous conditions to potentially affected coastal communities.

□ 7. ASBPA urges Congress to reauthorize the BEACH Act by passing HR 2537 and S 1506.

ASBPA recommends continued investment in protecting beach water quality provided it includes additional studies of epidemiology to update or improve our understanding of appropriate pathogen standards.

□ 8. ASBPA supports a multi agency approach to assess the economic and environmental impacts of beaches and the beach nourishment process. ASBPA believes that the level of risk from coastal storms and sea level rise faced by the nation needs to be addressed by a coherent national policy and a multi-year action plan needs to be developed in order to streamline federal efforts to address these problems.

□ 9. ASBPA urges all levels of government to adopt measures to assure that all members of the public have access to coastal resources and to encourage development practices that are consistent with natural hazards and local conditions. In addition, federal agencies such as FEMA and the Corps of Engineers should reward those communities that have adopted such practices.

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