



# SHORELINE

MARCH 2004

## Our legislative mission is clear: Secure beach funding

By **DEBBIE FLACK**  
FSBPA Director of  
Governmental Affairs

**A**fter weeks of committee meetings, it's difficult to recognize when Session formally begins. But it is finally official. FSBPA's legislative agenda for the FY 04-05 session is quite simple: Secure maximum funding for beach management, with our goal, as intended by statute, \$30 million annually. And even more importantly, preserve the dedicated funding source for beaches, the documentary stamp tax.

I think we can expect full funding support in the Senate, and assume the House will adopt the Governor's \$27.5 million recommendation. It could be worse — and will be if there are efforts, late in session, to rescind earmarked uses (including beach management) of doc stamp tax revenues.

Please remind members of your local legislative delegation just how important consistent and adequate beach funding is to your community. It's a message that must be heard!

As for the situation in Washington, we have been

blessed by the commitment of our Congressional delegation to Florida's beaches.

An excellent case in point was Sen. Bill Nelson's amendment to the budget resolution

last week that firmly rejects administration budget proposals to end future federal funding for beach renourishment and calls for federal funding of at least \$150 million annually for beaches.

The amendment failed by a vote of 9 to 11, but the message is out. Congress will be heard on the issue of beach funding.

If you have the opportunity, thank Sen. Nelson and his staff for their efforts. ♦



## 2003 good year for FSBPA

*(The following report was given to the FSBPA Board of Directors at their first quarterly meeting of the year)*

By **DAVID L. TAIT**  
FSBPA Executive Director

**A**ll in all, 2003 was a very good year for FSBPA. It was especially heartening in light of the national economic downturn since 9/11 and the resultant decline in attendance at our three conferences.

Following are some of the highlights for the year.

### 1. A positive change in FSBPA's financial fortunes

In 2002, with the economic downturn in full swing, we had a net loss of \$27,182. In 2003, however, we had a net positive income of \$49,471 ... a turnaround of \$76,653.

That means that our FSBPA total assets at the year's end are now \$142,865 — which is back

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## HIGHLIGHTS

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### 2. FSBPA continues its leadership role in educational conferences

Our three major conferences showed a gross income of \$487,714 as compared to \$419,704 for the previous year.

Importantly, FSBPA continued its leadership in “educating” local project sponsors and other officials on the latest and most comprehensive information on modern beach management. Our FSBPA Annual Meeting is the largest and most comprehensive state beach conference. The same is true nationally for our National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology.

At the suggestion of Richard Bouchard, FSBPA applied for and was granted “exempt provider status” from the Florida Board of Professional Engineers. This means that licensed Florida engineers are now eligible to receive CEUs for attendance at FSBPA’s three conferences.

### 3. FSBPA lobbying was instrumental in helping to save the annual \$30 million in dedicated funding for Florida beaches, as well as securing \$27.5 million for the program in 2003

We started the 2003

legislative session with two strikes against us:

(1) The Governor’s budget only recommended \$15 million for beach projects instead of the \$30 million dedicated fund for beaches provided under Florida law, and

(2) The leadership in the House of Representatives pushed hard to abolish altogether the annual \$30 million dedicated fund for beaches which would have killed – at least temporarily — the state’s comprehensive beach management program.

With outstanding support from the Florida Senate, FSBPA was able to achieve an appropriation of \$27.5 million, which included funding for some operating costs in the Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems. Further, FSBPA was able to defeat repeated efforts in the House to do away with the \$30 million trust fund.

### 4. Despite a zero-budget recommendation by President Bush, FSBPA and its BeachWatch partners were successful in obtaining \$14.1 million in federal matching funds for 18 Florida projects

While this was not our most successful outcome, virtually all BeachWatch projects remain “alive” to fight for funding another day. ♦

## FSBPA’s Annual Meeting call for papers and sponsors

The FSBPA Conference, set for Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2004, is focused on local government officials — the ones who make the decisions on beach projects. The real purpose of the conference is to inform local governments about the best and most cost effective strategies for preserving beach.

If you are interested in submitting an abstract, they are due May 14, 2004. Either send



four paper copies to FSBPA, 2952 Wellington Circle, Tallahassee, FL 32309, or an e-mail

to [mail@fsbpa.com](mailto:mail@fsbpa.com). Each abstract should be no more than two letter size pages long and should include the title of the talk, the speaker’s name, address, phone number and e-mail address.

Topics of interest include beach nourishment, inlet management, erosion control structures, environmental issues, coastal issues and public policy issues.

Since project sponsors and decision makers will be at the conference, it is a great place for exhibitors. For more information on opportunities available, contact Teri Besse or Lisa Tait at (850) 906-9227 or by e-mail at [teri@fsbpa.com](mailto:teri@fsbpa.com). ♦



*A before (above) and after look at Boca Raton's Palmetto Pavilion, roughly in the center of the project area.*

# Boca Raton welcomes new beach

By RICK SPADONI  
Coastal Planning  
& Engineering Inc.

**O**n Feb. 29, the city of Boca Raton and its residents celebrated the building of their new beach at a "beach dedication party" which was conducted on a portion of newly restored beach. City, state and federal elected officials participated with residents in thanking individuals respon-



sible for the beautiful, wide beach.

The city of Boca Raton completed construction of the 1.5-mile long beach fill placement portion of the Central Boca Raton Beach Nourish-

ment Project on March 7, after about three weeks of sand placement activity. As part of the project, the city is presently constructing a single groin, and modifying the weir jetty at Boca

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## BOCA RATON

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Raton Inlet in order to extend the longevity of the beach nourishment project. The construction of the groin and north jetty weir modifications are expected to be completed by the end of April.

The exact cost for the project has not been determined, but the cost per cubic yard of placed sand is \$3.59 with a mobilization-demobilization cost of \$1.16 million. The anticipated fill volume is about 550,000 cubic yards, yielding a beach nourishment cost of about \$3.14 million. The cost for the groin construction and weir jetty modification are expected to be about \$1.3 million, for a total project cost of about \$4.44 million.

Coastal Planning and Engineering (CPE), engineers for the project, assisted the city by conducting surveys and engineering evaluations which lead to the central Boca Raton coastline being declared as "critically-eroded" by the state, which in turn provided eligibility for state funding of an erosion control project.

After the state declaration of critical erosion, CPE conducted both environmental and geotechnical studies which mapped and characterized habitats to be protected, and located sand for use in the project. Bathymetric, side-scan sonar and seismic surveys

were conducted to identify a high-quality sand source located between offshore barrier and inshore patch reef systems. Marine biologists worked closely with coastal engineers and marine geologists in developing three individual borrow areas, which could provide sand with minimal risk to the surrounding marine habitat.

Coastal engineers also conducted modeling studies of potential structures intended to help hold the sand and increase the project longevity, with a single groin and inlet weir modification selected as the most feasible option.

The selected structural solution was presented to the DEP Beaches and Coastal Systems staff and received approval. The groin will be monitored for a period of five years to evaluate its effectiveness. ♦



## Castille named new DEP head

Gov. Jeb Bush named Colleen Castille as Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection. She previously served as Secretary of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Castille has worked to bring local government support for improved wastewater management, land conservation acquisition and protection of natural habitat in the Florida Keys. Before being appointed to DCA, Castille served as chief cabinet aide to Governor Bush and specialized in environmental matters. ♦



## SHORELINE

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