

**Blind Pass Restoration  
Project Update  
July 11, 2008**

**Acronyms:**

**Agencies of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**

BBCS – Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems (State);

CHAP –Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve;

FWC – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

**Federal Agencies:**

USACE – United States Army Corps of Engineers

FWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

NMFS – National Marine Fisheries (also part of NOAA)

**Local Agencies:**

CEPD – Captiva Erosion Prevention District

NWR – J. N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge

**Other:**

RAI – Request for Additional Information

BO – Biological Opinion (issued by FWS through USACE)

JCP – Joint Coastal Permit (State and Federal portions.)

NTP – Notice To Proceed

**Items Previously Completed:**

▪ **DEP Permit**

The State permit was issued on June 6, 2008.

▪ **Biological Opinion**

FWS issued the BO on March 21<sup>st</sup>

Lee County requested a modification to the BO on June 13. The modification would revise the turtle monitoring conditions of the BO to mirror the conditions of the State permit. The modification was conceptually agreed by FWS staff and is expected to be granted by mid July.

**Progress This Month:**

▪ **Contractor Selection**

Lee County began work on the contract documents with the plans and specifications. Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc. is the design professionals assisting with this task. (The plans were completed on July 7<sup>th</sup>, and the specifications are expected by July 15<sup>th</sup>.) The specifications detail the work to be completed by the contractor.

- **No Motor Zone**

The NWR and BBCS continue to work to complete a management plan and lease agreement, respectively, for the “No Motor Zone” in Wulfert Flats. Both must be completed prior to the BBCS issued NTP. The NTP is the BBCS’s final approval to begin construction and must come after a contractor is selected. Both agencies are on schedule to accomplish this in adequate time for construction.

**Outstanding Items:**

- **Federal Permit**

The federal portion of the Joint Coastal Permit is expected by first of August, or 3 weeks after the modification to the BO is finalized.

- **No Motor Zone**

Lee County must document the current condition of the seagrass resources in Blind Pass and Wulfert Flats to establish a “No Motor Zone”. This work began the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>, with aerial photography scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup>. Analysis of the data will take 1 month. The “No Motor Zone” must be completed prior to the beginning of construction.

Lee County, BBCS and NWR must collectively finalize a lease agreement and management plan to establish the No Motor Zone over Wulfert Flats. This is on schedule to be completed by mid-September. Construction can not begin prior to the establishment of this item.

- **Contractor Selection**

Bids solicitations are expected to be advertised on July 25<sup>th</sup> in order to facilitate construction beginning in October. (This item has been delayed to resolve some construction specifics dealing with the upland disposal of the clay material.)

- **Funding**

State funding for the project is expected to be secured in July. Anticipated costs have increased due to the sediments special handling requirements and rise in fuel costs.

- **Schedule**

The schedule continues to progress but has slipped approximately 1 month. The delays have been necessary for review and implementation of recommended alternatives for construction.