

## Beach Nourishment Five Years Later

**Beach nourishment** is essential to Captiva as it involves the strategic placement of much needed beach compatible sand. The preferred method of shore protection, beach nourishment delivers many important advantages economically and environmentally. While providing a natural and desirable seaside, such nourishment also protects homes, businesses, roads, and a wide range of habitats for both flora and fauna. The last beach nourishment project on Captiva began September 5, 2005. Built under Army Corps of Engineers supervision for the CEPD, 1,067,768 cubic yards of sand were placed along the shoreline between Redfish and Blind Pass.

A beach nourishment design is determined using a number of engineering parameters. Through physical process and economic models, engineers calculate the required volume of sand, the volume of sand needed



Sand being placed during 2006 nourishment

to maintain the design and maintenance schedule and the profile configuration that will most effectively provide the desired level of storm protection.

Periodic post-construction monitoring of the Captiva project is an important element of the total project. It provides a means to determine whether the nourishment project is performing successfully and as predicted. Monitoring surveys provide data used to identify and correct project problems.

A series of monitoring surveys and an engineering analysis of the Captiva nourishment project were

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## Boyle Appointed to Succeed Miville

**The CEPD Board** of Commissioners appointed long time Captiva resident Jim Boyle to succeed Rene Miville. Miville resigned on May 17 after 16 years service on the Board. The CEPD ran a search for qualified candidates in May that included newspaper articles and notices. Boyle may serve until January 8, 2013. The election to fill this position for a full 4-year term will be on the November 2012 ballot.



Jim Boyle (left) is welcomed by Chairman Mike Mullins (center) and Commissioner Harry Kaiser (right)

Jim holds a B.S. in Food Technology from Rutgers University and a M.E. in Operations Engineering from Penn State. He has had a long and successful career worldwide as a manufacturing executive and board member with T.J. Lipton, Ragu Foods, Inc., and Unilever, N.A. In 1996, Jim founded and operated an Australian-based wildflower export company and a U.S.-based flower import company, overseeing the sourcing, logistics, marketing, sales, and distribution of fresh cut wild and exotic flowers.

*"I have always felt that it is critically important to protect our beautiful beaches as well as the waters surrounding our very special island. I see it as a Duty of Care to preserve and maintain them for future generations of all species to enjoy as we all do today." - Jim Boyle*

Jim's corporate experience as well as that of an entrepreneur positions him to bring a wealth of knowledge to the CEPD from a biological sciences, engineering, and management standpoint. His extensive

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## Blind Pass Update

**Managed by the Lee County** Division of Natural Resources, the project to open Blind Pass began in December, 2008 and was completed on July 31, 2009. It was designed for a 5 year maintenance cycle, during which period it was expected the Pass would remain stable, increase water circulation in Clam and Dinkins Bayous, improve habitat, and enhance recreational opportunities. Just after construction, between 51% and 77% of the design expectations were met. After one year, the design expectations were down to between 18% and 34%.

A Lee County survey of the Pass in October 2010 indicated substantial shoaling seaward of the bridge. According to Robert Neal, project manager for the county, prior to the start of the project, peak flood velocity (a measurement of water flow) was predicted to be 3.8 feet per second; six months after completion, it was measured at 2.7; currently it is below 1.5.

CEPD engineer Steven Keehn of Coastal Planning & Engineering, in a report to the CEPD Board of Commissioners, stated that the tidal range and current velocity has dropped to a level insufficient to scour the channel. Keehn reports that a February 2011 survey and analysis by CP&E indicates the ebb channel has migrated south against Sanibel Island and is becoming



**Blind Pass at low tide, Spring 2011**

noticeably shallower. The channels connecting the Blind Pass dredged area and Pine Island Sound, including Wulfert Channel, are scouring and infilling due to the opening of the Pass and may be contributing to the instability of the Pass.

In his report, Keehn opines that “something outside the survey area may be controlling stability.” The most obvious problem, he says, is too much sand being deposited in the Gulf entrance. The second cause may be that basic design assumptions on which the project

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## Captiva Obtains State Funding for FY 14

**While many Captivans** seek to escape the Florida heat for the summer, there is no let up in CEPD’s efforts to find federal, state, and local funding for the next beach nourishment. Efforts are paying off. The District’s initial funding request for state cost sharing of the design phase of the Captiva 2013/14 renourishment project was approved by the Governor.

A tight state budget threatened to shortchange beach projects throughout Florida. Early this year Governor Scott proposed to cut any new state funding for the next two years. The Governor’s proposed budget included no new money to pump sand onto any of Florida’s eroding beaches. Scott’s office pointed to \$75 million unspent in the state’s beach trust fund. But critics said the money was already under contract with cities, counties and local erosion



control districts for ongoing projects.

Florida law commits

money that comes to the state from the documentary stamp tax on real estate transactions to beach management. Historically, the 2.12% doc stamp allocation provided \$30 million a year for beach projects. But a downturn in the state real estate market provided little doc stamp revenue to sustain the state’s beach management program. With no money, coastal communities, erosion districts and lobbyists had to convince the Governor and state legislators that money spent on beach nourishment was money well spent. A Florida Atlantic University study reported that each state dollar spent protecting Florida beaches that have public access prevents the loss of \$8 in state taxes paid by out of state tourists and residents using the beaches.

Local governments and erosion control districts such as the CEPD submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection funding requests for beach projects. The DEP received 81 requests from coastal communities totaling \$101 million for fiscal year 2011/12. The DEP’s Division of Beaches and Coastal Systems ranked the projects and submitted only the top 12 projects to the House and Senate. Captiva’s project ranked number five on the state priority list.

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### Blind Pass Update

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was based were not true, particularly the depth in the channels leading into Pine Island Sound. If these channels were not as wide and deep as originally thought, there may not have been enough hydraulic efficiency for a reasonably stable inlet. The third cause may be sand movement inside the inlet.

Lee County has applied for a modification of the original permit and it is expected to be issued around October 1. The decision for additional dredging rests with Lee County and as long as the pass remains open, County officials have stated that no action is needed. Despite reduced water flow and visible shoaling, the County does not consider the Pass to be blocked and has reminded Islanders that a boat-navigable pass was not one of the project objectives.

Blind Pass Opening Since 1960			
Open	1960-1962	Closed	1999-2001
Closed	1962-1972	Open	Mar.-Apr. 2001
Open	1972-1977	Closed	2001-mid-2009
Closed	1977-1982	Open	mid-2009 -
Open	1982-1999*	*opened and closed intermittently	

CEPD has sponsored numerous meetings with County officials and urged that they not wait for the Pass to close to act. The District continues its dialogue with Lee County and County officials attended the CEPD Board Meetings in April and May. Lee County Commissioner John Manning and County Manager Karen Hawes were special guests at the May 11 Board meeting. At that meeting, Manning said that the Board of County Commissioners was unanimous in their support of Blind Pass and future nourishment projects. The CEPD will continue to work with the Blind Pass stakeholders to find efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally sensitive solutions.

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conducted in February 2011. The total calculated sand loss between 2006 and 2011 is 271,690 cubic yards. The volume of sand remaining within the project area is 68% of the volume placed since 2005. The results of the 5-year monitoring report indicate the Captiva beaches are performing as predicted and fall within an 8-year longevity cycle.

The CEPD has begun design and permit tasks for the next nourishment scheduled for 2013/2014.

### Gift Inspires Picnic Tables at Hagerup

Robin "Pete" Oberlin loved Captiva, its beaches, natural environment, and leisurely pace. She had close friends on Captiva and spent a lot of time here. Tragically, she passed away in October 2010 at age 52.

Pete was born in a small town just outside of Pittsburgh, PA. She spent most of her adult life in the Pittsburgh area before moving to North Carolina several years ago. A private memorial service was



Pete Oberlin

held on Captiva on April 17 which would have been her 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday. The service was attended by Pete's close family and friends including her friends from Captiva.

Because of her love for Captiva, those close to her wanted to honor her memory by helping others enjoy Captiva's beaches as she did. They raised money for a memorial and asked the CEPD what might be possible.



The generous gift from Pete's family and friends has enabled the CEPD to purchase 2 picnic tables for the Hagerup Beach Park. The CEPD has applied for and expects a grant from the Lee County Tourist Development Council (TCD) to purchase portable rollout pathways to allow the disabled to access the tables from the parking lot. The picnic tables, pictured above, were set on the beach in July. Memorial plaques honouring Pete were placed on the tables; the pathways will be installed in October.

To make a tax deductible contribution to CEPD, email CEPD at [cepd@gmail.com](mailto:cepd@gmail.com) or call 472-2472.

## Boyle Appointed to Succeed Miville

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experience working with various federal, state, and local government agencies will be valuable to the Board. His love and respect for nature has made him an avid supporter of beach preservation. His science background and keen interest in preserving native plant and animal habitats make him a perfect fit.

Jim grew up in New Jersey and took every opportunity to go to the Jersey Shore to fish, swim, and scuba dive. This, combined with his love and respect for nature, is what attracted him to Captiva. Jim and his wife Fran became residents in 1997 when they purchased their historically-designated home, "Gardenia House." They are lifetime members of SCCF and members of both the Captiva Civic Association and the Captiva Property Owners Association. Jim currently is the secretary of the Captiva Community Panel.

CEPD Chairman Mike Mullins said, "Of all the candidates we could have appointed, Jim Boyle was an obvious choice. He has regularly attended CEPD meetings and has been very helpful to the Board and to Captiva in general. Because he is so knowledgeable about the District's issues, he will hit the ground running. He is a most welcome addition to our Board."

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Fortunately the House and Senate appropriation committees and leadership demonstrated widespread support for beach funding. The Legislature approved \$16 million for beach nourishment in the state. The Governor had a change of heart and let stand the \$16 million. While not at former \$30 million funding levels, the Beach Management Program survived another year. Until the Beach Management Program's dedicated funding source, documentary stamp taxes, recovers, all coastal communities need to promote the worthiness of healthy beaches to our lawmakers.

## SAVE THE DATE

9/8/11	Regular Board Meeting	3:00 pm
9/8/11	Tentative Budget Hearing	5:01 pm
9/22/11	Final Budget Hearing	5:01 pm
10/12/11	Regular Board Meeting	noon
11/9/11	Regular Board Meeting	noon
12/14/11	Regular Board Meeting	noon

**All meetings are held at 'Tween Waters Inn, 15951 Captiva Dr., Captiva, FL 33924. The public is welcome.**

**Captiva Erosion Prevention District**  
P.O. Box 365  
Captiva, FL 33924

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