

**SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
*Community Services – Natural Resources*

**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Sarasota County Commission

**THROUGH:** Randall H. Reid, County Administrator  
Lee Ann Lowery, Assistant County Administrator

**FROM:** Amy H. Meese, General Manager, Natural Resources  
Community Services Group

**SUBJECT:** Item 3D: Update on the New Pass Inlet Management Plan

**DATE:** October 1, 2012

**SUMMARY:**

Sarasota County staff will present an update on the New Pass Inlet Management Plan.

**BACKGROUND:**

New Pass is a federally authorized inlet and has been periodically dredged by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). A maximum funding cap, established in the original federal authorization for management of the inlet, has been reached. Consequently, future navigational dredging may not occur without authorization of additional federal funding. Additionally, Lido Beach is a federally authorized beach renourishment project. Offshore submerged sand deposits in the area have become scarcer and more depleted. As a result, the ACOE may need to look as far as 15 miles offshore to find an adequate volume of suitable sand, which greatly increases the cost of the project.

Given the mutual needs, the ACOE is exploring the feasibility of utilizing the New Pass inlet (and potentially Big Pass) as a sand source for the Lido Beach project. This would potentially solve both problems by providing needed dredging in New Pass and less expensive near-shore sand for Lido Beach. At the same time, through advance coordination, a portion of the dredged sand could be made available to Longboat Key for its beach renourishment program.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) was consulted to address State permitting considerations. They were receptive to the idea of developing this further as a long-term management plan, but wanted to see additional monitoring and modeling done in and around New Pass to ensure that community issues and concerns would be addressed regarding the alignment of the channel and sharing of sand from the pass. Shortly thereafter, the ACOE project manager (Milan Mora) was unexpectedly deployed to Afghanistan, temporarily delaying the effort.

Recently, staff met with the current ACOE project manager, Sirisha Rayaprolu. Monitoring and modeling efforts have resumed. ACOE will report on the findings from the modeling studies in October. At that time, a meeting involving all affected parties will be convened to discuss next steps.