

February 17, 2015 - Special Meeting - Joint Session with Longboat Key Town Commission  
Agenda Item #1

Subject

Joint Permit Application No. SAJ-2014-00606(SP-MEP)-Longboat Pass Maintenance Dredging

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Charlie Hunsicker, Director, Parks and Natural Resources, ext. 6001  
[charlie.hunsicker@mymanatee.org](mailto:charlie.hunsicker@mymanatee.org)

Action Requested

For the Manatee County Board of Commissioners:

Authorize Chairman to sign letter to US Army Corps of Engineers regarding Joint Permit Application No. SAJ-2014-00606(SP-MEP)-Longboat Pass Maintenance Dredging.

For the Town of Longboat Key:

Authorize execution of correspondence to US Army Corps of Engineers regarding Joint Permit Application No. SAJ-2014-00606(SP-MEP)-Longboat Pass Maintenance Dredging.

Enabling/Regulating Authority

Florida Statutes 125

Background Discussion

- Longboat Pass has been previously permitted and dredged on several occasions dating back to 1951 and became a federally authorized navigation project in 1977. Since then it has been dredged by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1977, 1982, 1985, and 1991. The last dredging event took place in 1997. The sand from these events has generally been placed along the Gulf-front shorelines of Longboat Key and Anna Maria Island. All environmental effects from this ongoing maintenance project have been assessed and mitigated for under previous County and Town actions.
- This project is a continuation of an authorized, and previously constructed, dredging and sand placement project, which is of mutual benefit for both Anna Maria Island and Longboat Key. There have been no observed impacts from these activities that have not been otherwise mitigated, and there is no reason for preparation of an EIS in order to continue these activities. The applicants do not believe that this project warrants preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- The proposed project is for periodic maintenance of the federally authorized navigation channel, with sand placement on the southern end of Anna Maria Island and northern end of Longboat Key. These beaches have been permitted and constructed in the past, and as a result, all potential impacts to natural resources have been mitigated and monitored. No additional impacts are anticipated.

- Dredging of the federally authorized navigation channel within Longboat Pass is not anticipated to negatively impact navigation. Dredging of the federally authorized channel within Longboat Pass is not expected to impact recreational use of the pass. The project is not expected to cause any additional impacts to interior waterways and shoals near Jewfish Key.

County Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Explanation of Other

Reviewing Attorney

N/A

Instructions to Board Records

Provide two signed originals to Kay Rogers, Parks and Natural Resources, ext. 6043,  
[kay.rogers@mymanatee.org](mailto:kay.rogers@mymanatee.org). One original will be transmitted to the Town of Longboat Key.

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

N/A

Attachment: Joint Meeting LBK MC 02-11-15R.pdf

Attachment: document2014-10-30-124559.pdf

Attachment: WCINDLongboatPassDredging7Oct2014.pdf

Attachment: 02-11-15 Email.pdf

Attachment: Power Point Slides.pdf



## MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA

February 17, 2015

Mark E. Peterson  
USACE Jacksonville District  
Tampa Regulatory Section  
10117 Princess Palm Avenue  
Suite 120  
Tampa, FL 33610

**RE: USACE Permit Application No. SAJ-2014-00606(SP-MEP)  
Longboat Pass Maintenance Dredging and Beneficial Use Project  
Response to Public Comments submitted to USACE**

Dear Mr. Peterson:

This letter contains responses to public comments submitted to the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the Longboat Pass Maintenance Dredging and Beneficial Use Project (USACE Permit Application No. SAJ-2014-00606 (SP-MEP)). These responses are respectfully submitted on behalf of Manatee County and the Town of Longboat Key, who are co-applicants for this permit. Our responses are organized by topic based on the concerns expressed in the public comments, which you forwarded to us by email on January 26, 2015.

### **Request for Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

Longboat Pass has been previously permitted and dredged on several occasions dating back to 1951 and became a federally authorized navigation project in 1977. Since then it has been dredged by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1977, 1982, 1985, and 1991. The last dredging event took place in 1997. The sand from these events has generally been placed along the Gulf-front shorelines of Longboat Key and Anna Maria Island. All environmental effects from this ongoing maintenance project have been assessed and mitigated for under previous County and Town actions.

Board of County Commissioners  
1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34205  
Website: [www.myanatee.org](http://www.myanatee.org) \* Phone: 941.745.3700 \* FAX: 941.745.3790

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This project is a continuation of an authorized, and previously constructed, dredging and sand placement project, which is of mutual benefit for both Anna Maria Island and Longboat Key. There have been no observed impacts from these activities that have not been otherwise mitigated, and there is no reason for preparation of an EIS in order to continue these activities. Furthermore, as part of the federal permitting process, Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultation between USACE, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will establish appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for protection of listed species and designated critical habitat within the project vicinity.

Considering the preceding information, the applicants do not believe that this project warrants preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The proposed project is for periodic maintenance of the federally authorized navigation channel, with sand placement on the southern end of Anna Maria Island and northern end of Longboat Key. These beaches have been permitted and constructed in the past, and as a result, all potential impacts to natural resources have been mitigated and monitored. No additional impacts are anticipated.

### **Navigation**

Dredging of the federally authorized navigation channel within Longboat Pass is not anticipated to negatively impact navigation. In 1993, an inlet management study was completed by the Town of Longboat Key, but was not adopted by the State into an Inlet Management Plan. In 2011, the County and the Town completed an update to this plan with a joint inlet management study of Longboat Pass and the adjacent beaches.

The study investigated many alternatives, which included structural installations and various inlet channel alignments. Following submittal of the initial study results to both the County and Town, additional work was conducted to further investigate the channel alignment at the request of a Manatee County Commission board member at the time. The additional modeling work resulted in a recommendation to dredge an alternate channel alignment that was to the south of the authorized navigation channel. This recommendation was then presented to both the County and Town commissions, who approved the design and authorized their respective staff to proceed in applying for a joint County/Town permit for the alternate channel alignment.

As a result of the proposed channel modification, the permit application was submitted by the USACE Tampa Regulatory Section for civil works approval under Section 408 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. The USACE Jacksonville District engineering review revealed that in the years since the study was conducted, the inlet shoal has continued to migrate in a southerly direction. This migration has resulted in the shallowest portion of the shoal being co-located within the alternate dredge template, while the authorized channel location returned to a deeper condition.

Upon consultation with the Jacksonville District, the County, Town and USACE staff reached a concurrence based on the current conditions of the inlet and ebb shoal configuration that the proposed dredging will follow the federally authorized channel alignment and depths. This will result in maintenance of the federally authorized alignment and reduce the volume of sand required to be dredged. The formal concurrence request was described in a letter dated October 7, 2014, from the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) submitted to the

USACE on behalf of the County and Town. The USACE Jacksonville District concurred by reply letter dated October 28, 2014. Both letters are attached for your reference.

As requested, a copy of the 2011 inlet management study and all attachments that describe the numerical modeling conducted will be provided you on CD or other digital means.

### **Recreation**

As described above, dredging of the federally authorized channel within Longboat Pass is not expected to impede navigation or impact recreational use of the pass. While the federally authorized channel is designed to maintain use of Longboat Pass and benefit its adjacent beaches, the proposed dredging is not intended to be a navigation project. The dredging will clear the authorized channel temporarily, and it is expected that the channel will fill in with sand over time. The requisite ongoing maintenance is the primary reason the applicants are seeking a 15 year permit authorization. In addition, placement of the beach compatible material on adjacent Anna Maria Island and Longboat Key shorelines will aid in stabilizing beaches for continued recreational use. For further assurance, the permits for the project will require physical monitoring to assess the effects of the project on the inlet channel and adjacent recreational beaches.

### **Water Quality**

Dredging of Longboat Pass and placement of beach compatible fill on adjacent beaches will comply with all water quality protection measures of the project permits. These measures will include water quality monitoring during construction based on State standards and established requirements for Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW). The sand in the proposed dredging template has been tested and deemed compatible with the beach, lacking high levels of silt or other physical parameters that could impact water quality. As further evidence, previous dredging within the pass and sand placement on Anna Maria Island and Longboat Key have not resulted in any documented deterioration of water quality within the Gulf of Mexico, Longboat Pass or Sarasota Bay.

### **Impacts to Jewfish Key**

The project is not expected to cause any additional impacts to interior waterways and shoals near Jewfish Key. Maintenance dredging of the flood shoal sand trap is not part of this permit application.

### **Sand Bypass Option**

While no specific studies have been completed recently to assess continuous bypassing of sand from within Longboat Pass, the interior flood shoal already has a permitted sand trap that is managed by the West Coast Inland Navigation District. This sand trap has been dredged recently with material placement on Longboat Key and will take years to recharge before it requires additional dredging. In comparison, inlets on the east coast of Florida are subject to

significantly higher sediment transport rates, which make fixed plant and dedicated dredging operations more feasible. However, the level of infrastructure and maintenance required to service different shoreline disposal segments on both islands, combined with the lower sand transport quantities typical of the Gulf coast, would make a fixed operation less cost effective than periodic dredging. Future maintenance will be based on surveyed needs and beach conditions.

Thank you for the opportunity to reply to the public comments received by the USACE regarding the Longboat Pass Maintenance Dredging and Beneficial Use Project filed under Permit Application No. SAJ-2014-00606 (SP-MEP).

If you have any further question, please contact Charlie Hunsicker, Director, Parks and Natural Resources, 941-745-3727.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST: R.B. SHORE  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Betsy Benac  
Chairman

TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
James L. Brown, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trish Granger, Town Clerk



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 4970  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

OCT 28 2014

Programs and Project Management Division  
Water Resources Branch

Mr. Charles W. Listowski  
Executive Director  
West Coast Inland Navigation District  
200 E. Miami Avenue  
Venice, FL 34285

Dear Mr. Listowski:

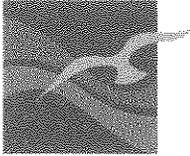
This letter is in response to your letter dated October 7, 2014, requesting concurrence for dredging of the Longboat Pass Federal Navigation Channel. The Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) concurs with your request to maintenance dredge the federally authorized channel alignment and depths at Longboat Pass. The Corps understands that the work will be performed by Manatee County and/or the Town of Longboat Key and that the material will be used beneficially as beach fill on Longboat Key and/or Anna Maria Island.

The proposed request is not subject to civil works approval pursuant to Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 USC § 408) (Section 408) since it is considered maintenance dredging of a federal channel and it does not exceed the design depth and design width as authorized. The request is subject to a regulatory permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 USC § 403) and/or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC § 1344) (Section 404/10).

If you have any further questions regarding this or need additional information, please contact the Project Manager, Millan Mora at 904-232-1454 or by e-mail at millan.a.mora@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

David S. Hobbie  
Deputy District Engineer  
for Programs and Project Management



October 7, 2014

Colonel Alan M. Dodd  
District Commander  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Jacksonville District  
701 San Marco Blvd  
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Re: Concurrence Request for Longboat Pass Navigation Channel Dredging

Colonel Dodd:

This letter is being provided by the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) on behalf of Manatee County and the Town of Longboat Key to request U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concurrence for dredging of the Longboat Pass Navigation Channel.

Since 2010, the WCIND, the County and the Town have been working together on the development of a comprehensive management strategy for Longboat Pass and the adjacent beaches. As a result of this extensive coordination, Manatee County has submitted a permit application for periodic dredging of the channel with beneficial use of the material as beach fill on Longboat Key and Anna Maria Island. During recent meetings with Jacksonville District staff, we have come to a consensus based on current conditions of the inlet and ebb shoal configuration that the proposed dredging will follow the federally authorized channel alignment and depths.

As the Local Sponsor for the federal navigation project at Longboat Pass, the WCIND requests your concurrence for the County and the Town to proceed with dredging the authorized navigation channel in Longboat Pass.

We thank you for your support and look forward to continuing our partnership in the maintenance of Longboat Pass.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Listowski  
Executive Director

cc: Charlie Hunsicker, Manatee County  
Dave Bullock, Town of Longboat Key

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## Charlie Hunsicker

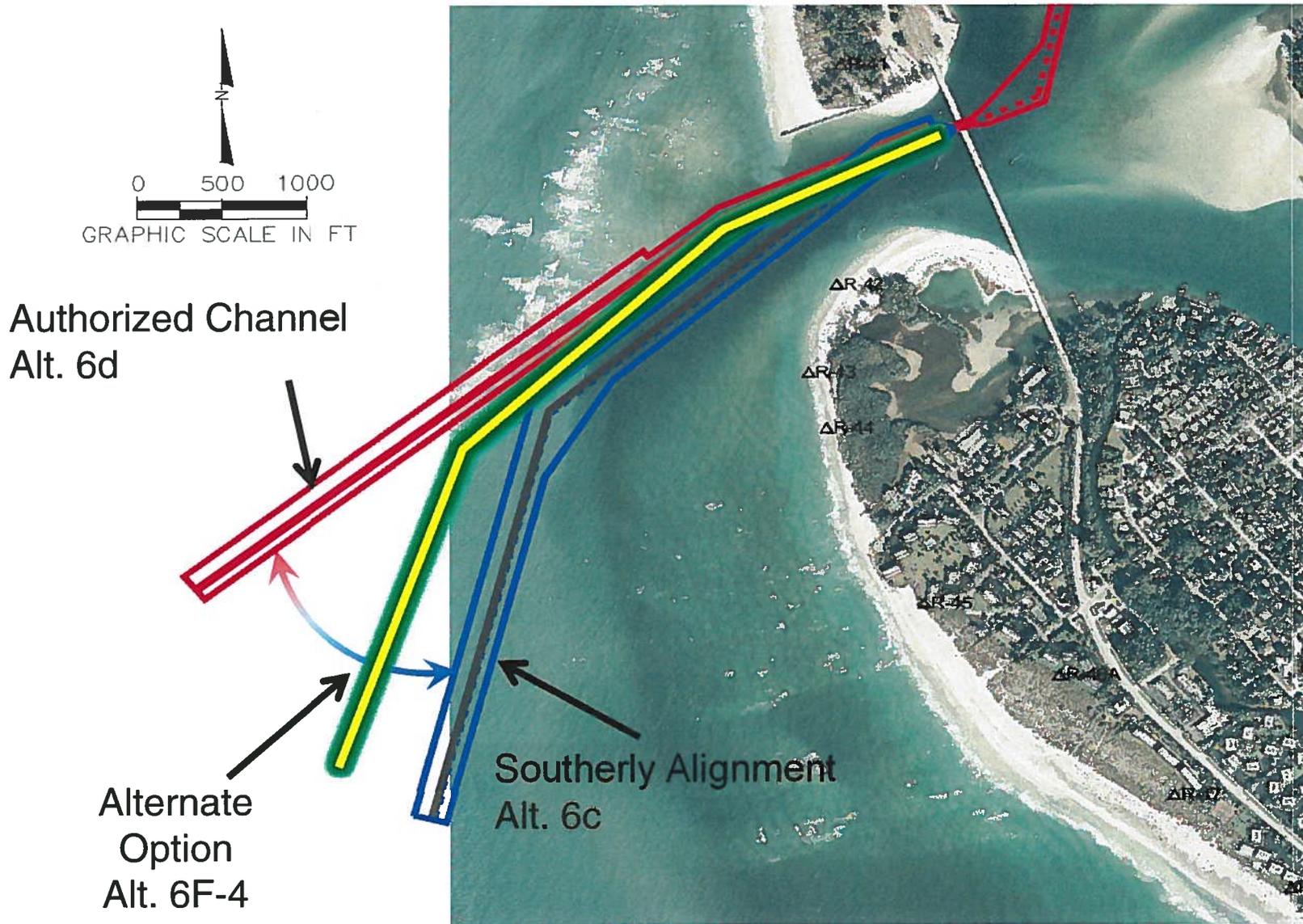
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**From:** Charlie Hunsicker  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2015 4:53 PM  
**To:** Ed Hunzeker; Dan Schlandt; Karen Windon  
**Cc:** Dave Bullock (dbullock@longboatkey.org); Juan Florenza (jflorenza@longboatkey.org); Pierro, Thomas; Marianne Lopata; Diane Vollmer  
**Subject:** Town of Longboat Key Joint Meeting Agenda  
**Attachments:** Joint Meeting LBK & MC 02 11 15.doc

At a meeting Thursday afternoon, February 5<sup>th</sup>, attended by Dave Bullock, Longboat Key Town Manager, Juan Florenza, Longboat Key Public Works Director, and CB&I, the County's coastal engineering consultants; the subject of the Longboat Pass Joint Coastal Permit for maintenance dredging was discussed.

While the DEP/ACOE permit has been deemed complete, there are outstanding public comments submitted to the ACOE and DEP pertaining to concerns over construction of the maintenance channel alignment. Coastal Planning and Engineering has drafted responses to address these concerns for submittal on behalf of the joint applicants of Manatee County and the Town of Longboat Key as co-permittees.

These responses will carry the appropriate weight if they are co-signed by the Chairman of the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners and the Mayor of the Town of Longboat Key. I recommend that these enclosed responses should be presented as an action item for approval of both Manatee County Board of County Commissioners and the Town of Longboat Key.



## 2010 Condition

## 2014 Condition

