

— May 2020 —

## INSIDE:

- PAGE 2:** ASBPA National Coastal Conference: Oral presentation abstracts now due June 12
- PAGE 2:** 2020 National Coastal Conference award nominations due by Aug. 3
- PAGE 4:** ASBPA testifies on WRDA — again!
- PAGE 4:** ASBPA seeks federal funding for coastal infrastructure
- PAGE 5:** Learn and earn professional development hours, be a Certified Coastal Practitioner™
- PAGE 5:** It's time for annual update of Beach Nourishment Database
- PAGE 6:** Deadline for Best Restored Shores nominations July 17
- PAGE 7:** "The Capitol Beach" offers three new podcasts
- PAGE 8:** Novel coronavirus presents novel coastal threats and opportunities
- PAGE 8:** Corps updates benefits calculations

## ASBPA's 2020 National Coastal Conference: A new direction

By **KATE GOODERHAM**,  
ASBPA Managing Director

**A**SBPA is taking the old adage, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade," to heart. Faced with concerns about members' health, budget cuts and travel restrictions, ASBPA has decided to switch the 2020 National Coastal Conference from its original location in Long Beach to a virtual experience, with some inter-personal twists. Enthusiastic members have come forward brimming with wonderful ideas. Instead of thinking a virtual conference is a sad substitute, we quickly realized it is an opportunity.

A virtual conference is unrestricted by travel budgets, time out of the office, or visas. Coastal professionals throughout the world can participate. Recorded sessions means that everyone can see everything when it is convenient. It doesn't matter that Sydney, Australia, is 14 hours later than the east coast of the

U.S. The conference will be the great coming together of coastal professionals in a way that wasn't previously considered!

Cesar Espinosa, Lee Weis-har and Gordon Thomson are co-chairing the conference, with Doug George, Andy O'Neill, Brian Caufield, Tiffany Roberts Briggs, Katie Brutsché, Dolan Eversole, Eve Eisemann, Taylor Zimmerman, Nick Brown and Annie Mercer heading various conference committees. Many others have volunteered to help put this considerable undertaking together.

If you would like to volunteer, we need people for the following committees: IT, Communications, Papers, Sponsorship, Awards, Beach Operations Track, Volunteers (students), Technical and Student Activities. Email us at [managing@asbpa.org](mailto:managing@asbpa.org) to join a committee. We promise you an amazing experience!

Please see our calls for abstracts and awards in this issue! ❖

**Over the summer, Coastal Voice has a June issue coming out June 1, a June/July issue coming out July 15 and an August/September issue coming out Sept. 1.**

### About the virtual 2020 conference:

- ◆ **Dates: Oct. 13-16**
- ◆ **Deadline for abstracts: Oral presentations is June 12, poster presentations is Aug. 21**
- ◆ **Deadline for award nominations: Aug. 3**
- ◆ **Format: To be determined... expect a mix of live and recorded presentations; posters will be available throughout the event.**
- ◆ **All presentations will be recorded for viewing by registrants after the actual event.**

## ASBPA National Coastal Conference:

### Oral presentation abstracts due June 12

The ASBPA 2020 National Coastal Conference will be held through an online platform. In cooperation with the Coastal Zone Foundation, ASBPA has updated the Call for Abstracts, now due June 12, 2020. The new conference theme is “2020 Vision for Our Coasts: Navigating Stormy Times.” During the week of Oct. 13-16, the conference will be a blend of synchronous and asynchronous on-line presentations, lightning talks, networking events, virtual breakout sessions, and more. The new online format is meant to address the COVID-19 related safety measures and travel restrictions, providing an alternate format for the coastal community to gather and discuss key topics. Professional Development Hours (PDHs) will also be available for full registrants.

Abstracts for oral presentations will be accepted through June 12 and poster presentations through August 21. Abstracts shall be limited to 500 words and submitted via the online form at [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org).

A select number of presentations will be presented live (and recorded for subsequent viewing). All other accepted abstracts will be required to submit a 10-minute pre-recorded PowerPoint presentation or a shorter poster recording. All presentations will be posted to the virtual Conference platform, which will encourage both live and virtual interaction, questions, and comments. All presenters and attendees must agree to respecting the Intellectual Property of presenters.

Presentations are sought for a broad range of scientific, engineering, economics, coastal management, hazard risk management, and policy topics. We welcome explanation of how these topics intersect with COVID-19 response and recovery. Specific topics include, but are not limited to:

- Beach restoration and manage-

ment

- Coastal design concepts and projects
- Green/grey infrastructure and living shorelines
- Regional comprehensive coastal studies
- Lessons learned from storms and extreme events
- Coastal & estuarine modeling
- Coastal hazard mapping & analysis tools
- Sea level rise guidance, planning and policy
- Lagoon, wetland, marsh and estuary restoration
- Regional sediment management
- Economics of coastal resources
- Federal, state and local coastal policy, regulatory and legal issues
- Sand source availability and sand rights
- Coastal infrastructure management
- Resiliency and adaptation policy
- “Nuisance flooding” and urban

flooding challenges

- Lessons and issues in coastal communication and outreach

This year ASBPA’s conference also invites presentations for a dedicated track on coastal and beach operations and management. This track can include topics such as:

- Implications of COVID-19 response and recovery (economic, social, physical);
- The challenges of beach management operations and coastal land use especially when considering the impacts of Sea Level Rise (SLR);
- The complexities of daily management related to specific challenges associated with beach access, life-guards, trash collection and removal, beach closures for public health concerns and/or storms, and king tides;
- Communication and outreach to diverse stakeholders for addressing sea-level rise, sediment deficiencies, water quality, king tides, and impacts of urban flooding.

Additional conference information and details on presentation formats will be forthcoming and available at [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org). ❖

### 2020 conference awards nominations due Aug. 3

ASBPA is accepting nominations for the 2020 National Coastal Conference Awards including the Morrrough P. O’Brien Award, the Robert L. Wiegel Coastal Project Award, the Bob Dean Coastal Academic Award and the ASBPA Member of the Year Award. The National Coastal Conference will be held virtually from Oct. 13-16.

The *Morrrough P. O’Brien Award* is presented annually to an individual or organizational member of ASBPA on the basis of 1) an outstanding record in achieving the objectives and ideals of ASBPA; or 2) for major direct contributions to ASBPA. Any ASBPA member can submit a nomination that outlines the accomplishments of the nominee and the basis upon which

the nomination is being put forth. The winner will be invited to attend the virtual National Coastal Conference from Oct. 13-16.

The *Robert L. Wiegel Coastal Project Award* is presented in recognition to a coastal project that has stood the test of time and has shown a positive environmental, social, or recreational benefit. Nominations must include a statement of objectives of the project and the major design features; evidence that the project achieved the desired objectives with a minimum of five years since completion; the environmental, social, recreational and other effects of the project should be described; a statement identifying the agencies and individuals responsible

■ Continued on next page



ASBPA President Tony Pratt (left) with EPW Ranking Member Sen. Tom Carper, at a 2017 hearing on Water Infrastructure

## ASBPA testifies on WRDA — again!

**A**SBPA was one of just five stakeholder groups invited to provide testimony for a formal “Information-Gathering Process on Draft Legislation entitled, America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2020” by the Senate Environment & Public Works (EPW) Committee. This “information-gathering process” was in lieu of a public hearing with Congress working remotely due to the coronavirus pandemic. This marks the third time in the past 12 months that ASBPA was asked to provide testimony to Congress on the nation’s water resources legislation.

The testimony by ASBPA President Tony Pratt, commended the committee for drafting the legislation and keeping Water Resources Development Acts (WRDAs) on a regular two-year timeline. The testimony specifically commented on sections that improve coastal management in three ways:

- Advance **Regional Sediment Management (RSM)** and the **Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (BUDM)** (Sections: 1019,

Read the full testimony: [http://asbpa.org/wpv2/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/EPW-Testimony\\_4.22.20\\_final.pdf](http://asbpa.org/wpv2/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/EPW-Testimony_4.22.20_final.pdf)

1080, 1095, 1017, 1012);

- Clarify and support **local responsibility** for coastal projects (Sections: 1016, 1018, 1028, 1017, and 1095);

- Advance **Natural Infrastructure** as a multi-benefit tool to reduce flood-risk and provide ecological value, while underpinning regional recreation and the economy (Section: 1098).

The testimony concluded with ASBPA’s endorsement of America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2020, while noting that the threat facing our nation’s coastlines have never been greater. Policy changes and authorized projects in WRDA are important, but not sufficient. Ultimately our country must make a major investment in infrastructure for coastal adaptation and resilience that includes long-term planning and funding. ❖

## Awards.....

■ Continued from page 2

for planning, designing and constructing the work and the individuals that will receive the award; and the cost of the project. The award will be presented at the 2020 ASBPA virtual National Coastal Conference October 13-16. (we should consider that they present during the conference).

*The Robert G. Dean Coastal Academic Award* is presented in recognition of an academic who has made significant contributions furthering the community’s understanding of coastal science or engineering and in fostering young coastal scientists or engineers. The award will be presented at the ASBPA 2020 virtual annual meeting.

*The ASBPA Member of the Year Award* is an award to be presented annually to an individual on the basis of their giving of time, talent, and treasury to furthering the goals and objectives of the ASBPA during the previous year. The winner will be presented the award at the 2020 virtual annual meeting.

*The ASBPA Rising Start Award* is an award to be presented annual to a student or new professional who has taken on leadership role to further the goals and objectives of the ASBPA during the previous year. The winner will be presented with the award at the ASBPA 2020 virtual annual meeting.

Entries for all awards must be received by **August 3, 2020**. Please submit nominations using the online form at [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org). If you have any questions, please call (239) 489-2616. ❖

## ASBPA seeks funding for coastal infrastructure

BY DEREK BROCKBANK,  
ASBPA Executive Director

As Congress considers an infrastructure stimulus bill in response to the coronavirus pandemic, ASBPA is asking Congress to prioritize funding for coastal infrastructure whose purpose is to help tourism and increase the resilience of communities to future economic challenges from the inevitable challenges posed by sea level rise and coastal storms.

The details are spelled out in our Coronavirus Stimulus Letter to Congress: [http://asbpa.org/wpv2/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ASBPA\\_CoronavirusStimulusletter\\_Final.pdf](http://asbpa.org/wpv2/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ASBPA_CoronavirusStimulusletter_Final.pdf)

This letter was developed with input from coastal colleagues, an ASBPA Government Affairs working group, and input from you — ASBPA members — to a survey.

### Value of beaches and coasts

America's beaches and coasts are the nation's leading tourism driver. More than twice as many people visit America's coasts as visit state and national parks combined; consequently 85% of all tourism-related revenue in the U.S. is generated in coastal states — where beaches are the leading tourist attraction. Beach tourism supports 2.5 million jobs, \$285 billion in direct spending, and generates \$45 billion in taxes annually.

With coronavirus shutting beaches and restricting travel, the coastal tourism and service economy is disintegrating. On top of the immediate economic impacts of coronavirus,



Long Beach Island, NJ: A restored beach drives tourism and community resilience.

coastal communities are facing long term economic challenges from coastal erosion, rising seas and intensifying coastal storms.

### What beaches and coasts need for an economic stimulus

We're asking the federal government to put people to work restoring and rebuilding beaches and coastlines: the natural infrastructure that drives U.S. tourism AND keeps communities safe from storms and sea level rise.

Our letter to Congress explains our support for the following programs:

#### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Coastal Storm Risk Management Projects with added resilience features. (\$200 million or full construction backlog)
- Beneficial Use of Dredge Material pilot projects. (\$100 Million,

and authorization of at least 30 projects)

- Coastal Aquatic Ecosystem restoration (\$500 million – \$1 billion)
- Continuing Authorities Programs (Full funding for FY21 and FY22: CAP 204, 103, and 106)

#### NOAA

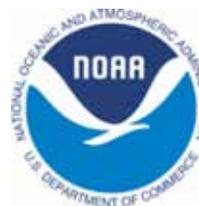
- National Coastal Resilience Grants (\$100 million)
- Community-based Marine Debris Removal Grants (\$5 million)

#### FEMA

- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) (\$500 million)

#### EPA

- BEACH Act grants (\$40 Million)
- Trash Free Waters (\$5 million)
- National Estuary Programs and Geographic restoration priorities. (varies). ❖



FEMA



## Learn and earn professional development hours, be a Certified Coastal Practitioner™

ASBPA has partnered with the Coastal Zone Foundation to bring you short courses at ASBPA conferences. On May 1, many of those courses will be available online at <https://coastal-zone-foundation.org/ccp-training/>. Additional courses will be added monthly.

The CCP program will provide coastal professionals from government, consulting and academia a series of short courses structured to expand and grow their knowledge base while enhancing their own collaborations with other coastal professionals. This program defines the body of knowledge, which reflects best practices for coastal management, offers broad knowledge of the topics covered, and complements existing coastal licenses and educational programs.

Designed for coastal government

agencies, coastal engineers, scientists, economists, coastal consultants, graduating advanced-degree students, NGO coastal staff, and coastal citizens.

Encompasses short courses focused on disciplines that you as a coastal professional should know more about.

Modules are available as webinars and are also offered as live short courses each year during ASBPA's Coastal Summit and National Coastal Conference.

Pass/fail assessment will be delivered at

the end of each course. After successfully completing the assessment, you will receive a certificate and professional development hours for the course.

Complete 10 short courses to become a Certified Coastal Practitioner™ (CCP). ❖



## Time to update Beach Nourishment Database

By NICOLE ELKO, Ph.D.,  
ASBPA Science Director

Every April, ASBPA's Science & Technology Committee kicks off our annual Beach Nourishment Database Update process. Will you help us in 2020? The online, geodatabase catalogs all U.S. projects since beach nourishment began in the 1920s: <https://gim2.aptim.com/ASBPA-NationwideRenourishment/>.

We hope you will check out this resource and look up your beach project. Shoot me an email at [nicole.elko@asbpa.org](mailto:nicole.elko@asbpa.org) to let us know if a new project has been constructed recently that we might be missing, or let me know if you have different data in your historic records than we are showing.



ELKO

In addition, we always welcome new volunteers to assist with quality checking. If you or someone you know would like to get more involved with the organization and has an interest in quantifying beach nourishment data, we'd love to bring you on board! ❖

The database is a fantastic tool for our community of practice, but it is only as good as the data we all contribute. We are counting on you, our members, to help keep it up to date.

## Communities, use science to make tough beach decisions

By DEREK BROCKBANK,  
ASBPA Executive Director

While so many of you, our members, are struggling to figure out whether and how to re-open or keep open beaches in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, ASBPA is focusing on making the case in Washington, DC, for economic stimulus funding to support tourism and resilience infrastructure, and to help local beach and coastal budgets that are being decimated by lost tax and tourism revenue.

As an organization, we do not have the capacity to make an informed, science based recommendation — or even share best practices or considerations — on if/how beaches should re-open/stay open. But we recognize the difficulty and importance of these decisions for each and every coastal community, so we recently issued the following statement on beach operations during the coronavirus pandemic:

“ASBPA recognizes the tremendous challenges facing beach communities right now. Coastal states, counties and cities must keep their residents safe, but also face a cratering economy that threatens the livelihood and well-being of their residents. While wide beaches have the potential to be good places for individuals and families to exercise and recreate, if they get too crowded they may increase the spread of coronavirus.

“ASBPA encourages all communities to consider sound science and follow CDC guidelines on gatherings and social distancing when making difficult beach operations and policy decisions.” ❖

## Call for Nominations:

# Submit your 2020 Best Restored Shores by July 17

**A**SBPA is calling for nominations for its Best Restored Shores Award. This award aims to recognize projects that enhance the environment particularly on low-energy and moderate-energy shorelines. ASBPA will accept nominations for the 2020 awards through July 17. Nominations can include:

- Back bay projects
- Living shoreline projects (including large freshwater lakes)
- Beneficial use of dredge material for environmental projects
- Seagrass, shellfish, reef, and other submerged habitat projects
- Wetlands, mangroves, and other intertidal habitat and shoreline enhancement, restoration, or creation

ASBPA seeks to recognize well designed and implemented projects focused on restoring natural resources to enhance shoreline resilience. Especially suitable are projects that address environmental degradation, storm impacts, climate change, and sea level rise — factors that increasingly threaten the nation’s coastal, estuarine and Great Lakes communities. ASBPA understands the time, effort, and money that it takes to restore inland and bay shorelines and we want to acknowledge your accomplishments. “Continued public support for shore restoration is crucial to building coastal resilience to storms and rising seas,” says ASBPA President Tony Pratt. “Successfully planning and implementing shoreline restoration projects can be challenging and too often their far-reaching economic benefits go unnoticed.”

So, whether your project involves a Great Lake or an estuary, a mangrove or an oyster reef, if it resulted in recreating thriving habitats or improved water quality to benefit multiple uses and aid local economies, then you should apply to be a Best Restored

Shores project. To these ends, ASBPA encourages nominations for new or established (e.g. completed construction in the last three years) projects for the 2020 Best Restored Shores Award. Nominations must be submitted electronically to [Bestrestored-shores@asbpa.org](mailto:Bestrestored-shores@asbpa.org) by July 17, 2020. The nomination text must be in MS Word, WordPerfect, or PDF format, and photos must be saved in JPEG or TIF formats. All applicants must include in their nomination package the following information to ensure a complete application:

- Nominator’s contact information (name, address, phone, email).
- The name and contact information for the nominee’s public affairs specialist who will be coordinating with the media for press releases, etc. when the awardees are named.
- The name of the project manager and the construction contractor. If consulting firms were used in the design and/or permitting, provide the consulting firm’s principal scientist, biologist, ecologist or and/or engineer as appropriate.
- Project location map
- Project narrative, including the following:

**Effectiveness and Purpose.** Describe the primary objective(s) of the project and any secondary objectives. Demonstrate the effectiveness of the project in meeting both primary and any secondary goals.

**Design features including constraints and challenges.** Provide a comprehensive but concise description of the design. Identify the issues that influenced design.

**Construction Methods.** Provide a comprehensive but concise descrip-

tion of construction methods. Projects with innovative design and construction methods that were effective and able to meet project’s purposes will be favored as demonstrated with monitoring or other evidence.

**Funding.** Describe the funding sources and how any obstacles or hurdles were overcome. Projects involving public-private partnerships and monitoring to document project performance success will be favored.

- Several professional-quality color photographs of the restored beach with release (tourist development councils and local resorts are good sources for photos of this quality). Include before and after restoration photographs.
- A statement

about why you consider this shoreline a best restored shore in the United States. (It is important to let the Committee know that you are passionate about your project and that the restoration project was a benefit to the shoreline habitat).

- Quantified outcomes (benefits resulting from the successfully executed project) are especially helpful.
- If available, please include historical data for the restored shoreline or area.

Winners will be notified in advance and ASBPA will prepare press releases to notify the media of the winner. Winners must agree to provide press releases to their local media and arrange for a representative to be present to accept the award if an in-person presentation is possible.

All materials submitted will become property of the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association and will not be returned. ❖



## 'Capitol Beach' offers three new podcasts

BY DEREK BROCKBANK,  
ASBPA Executive Director

Looking for some non-coronavirus news? Subscribe to "The Capitol beach on the American Shoreline Podcast Network to hear the latest new and deep insight from across the coast. Available on all podcast platforms. The Capitol Beach put out three new podcasts in April:

### A Coastal Summit recap

In this podcast, Derek is joined by Coastal Summit attendees — Lynette Cardoch with Moffatt & Nichol, Dan Adams with the City of Virginia Beach, and Brian Caufield with CDM Smith — to recap the Summit and share highlights. From local stories of successful beach restoration by the 2019 "Best Restored Beach" winners to a briefing from six staffers on different congressional committees with coastal oversight, this Coastal Summit truly exemplified the need to bridge local implementation with federal policy. This podcast is a fun, quick recap of one of DC's most in-depth coastal policy meetings, and worth a listen, whether you attended the summit and want to hear a fresh perspective, or missed it but want to get a taste of what was presented. <http://asbpa.org/2020/04/01/summit2020-recap/>



### U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Coastal Program

Samantha Brooke and Chris Darnell with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program join Derek Brockbank on the Capitol Beach. One of the lesser known programs at USFWS, the Coastal Program is voluntary — as opposed to regulatory

— program that provides communities technical and financial support for local coastal projects and planning. Being the agency focused on fish and wildlife, their support is focused on habitat enhancement and helping "critters", but they support projects whose primary purpose can be flood risk reduction, recreation or something else. They also discuss the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants program, a competitive grant program for coastal states, territories and tribes funded through excise taxes on fishing and boating sales. The deadline for the 2021 grant cycle is June 26, 2020. <http://asbpa.org/2020/04/17/usfws-coastal-program-capitol-beach/>

### FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities

Katherine Fox and Tucker Mahoney with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) join Derek Brockbank on the Capitol Beach to discuss the new Building Resilience Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) program. Established through the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, BRIC builds on FEMA's mission to

prepare communities for disasters before they happen, with added focus on resilience. It is funded through a percentage of funds from every disaster declaration, with the potential to provide \$300 million to \$500 million annually and even billions of dollars in years following major disasters, making it one of the biggest federal efforts on resilience. Proposed [policy guidance](#) came out in mid-April, with a 30-day comment period open until May 11. (Submit comments [here](#).) If you're interested in how federal programs can inspire "resilience-informed decision-making" — a phrase first coined (perhaps?) on this podcast — learn a little about BRIC on the Capitol Beach. ❖

## ASBPA still accepting proposals for Managing Director

BY DEREK BROCKBANK,  
ASBPA Executive Director

ASBPA is still pursuing a contract for a Managing Director to work under the direction of the Executive Director. We have delayed our review process and will be accepting and reviewing qualifications/proposals through at least May 22, 2020, with an expected start date of early 2021.

The contract for management services will cover a broad array of organizational needs that include conference organization, ASBPA communications and outreach, board and officer relations, coordination and business administration.

For full RFQ, including how to apply, see: <http://asbpa.org/2020/04/13/asbpa-announces-rfq-for-management-duties/> ❖



## Send us your beach books (or movies)

Most of us are social distancing and are not going to the beach. But that does not keep us from thinking about books that have a beach theme or even ones without a beach theme that would be nice at the beach. We all need a little levity. Give us a title, author and maybe one sentence. Feel free to include a movie, since we've been doing a lot of that as well. Send them to [managing@asbpa.org](mailto:managing@asbpa.org) and we will include them in the next two issues of "Coastal Voice." ❖

## Novel coronavirus presents novel coastal threats and opportunities

By BRET WEBB, Ph.D., Central Gulf Coast Chapter President

The United States and the world are currently fighting a threat unlike any seen in most of our lifetimes in the Novel Coronavirus pandemic. Numerous lives and livelihoods are fighting for survival and we have been forced to take drastic measures to mitigate and combat the outbreak. The ASBPA Central Gulf Coast Chapter (ASBPA CGC) wishes first and foremost to express our deepest empathy to those who have been directly affected by this global health crisis and wish for expediency in controlling the outbreak so that we can all return to normalcy.

As the ASBPA representatives of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, we have seen the direct impact that this situation has had on our coastal regions. Our coastal communities depend upon tourism and other industries that are struggling to operate under the current measures necessary to “flatten the curve” and bring about a resolution to this unprecedented situation. Our thoughts are with you all in these challenging times. With that said, we feel that there is another potential coastal threat that must be addressed.



### Great American Outdoors Act

The Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), senate bill 3422, which already has 59 bipartisan cosponsors was given a pledge of support by President Trump, just before the arrival of the Novel Coronavirus pandemic on our shores. This new bill would permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LCWF) at \$900 million annually from Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) revenues and would provide another \$1.9 billion in OCS funds annually for five fiscal years to perform deferred maintenance in the national parks and other public access federal lands.

As an organization with the stated purpose of advocating for coastal conservation and preservation, the ASBPA CGC strongly supports

■ Continued on next page

## Corps updates its benefits calculations

By DEREK BROCKBANK, ASBPA Executive Director

In April, the Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) for Civil Works, R.D. James, issued a memo directing the USACE to calculate a broader range of benefits in determining feasibility of all USACE projects. For all projects, he specifically directs USACE “to identify, analyze and maximize all benefits” for “Regional Economic Development (RED) and Other Social Effects (OSE)” whereas previously only the National Economic Development (NED) impacts were fully calculated.

Additionally, he identifies “the development of Agency Specific Procedures (ASPs) for the Principles, Requirements and Guidelines (PR&G) approved by the Water Resources Council in 2014” which will “supersede the previous framework, established in 1983, commonly referred to as the Principles and Guidelines (P&G).” This is expected to be completed by October 2020.

For years ASBPA has asked the Corps to calculate a broader range of benefits for coastal projects. We believe that beach and dune systems that provide multiple benefits — recreation, ecological value, regional economic value and social value — in addition to their primary purpose of flood/coastal storm risk reduction would better compete against other USACE projects that lack the range of benefits. At the very least we believe identifying the full range of benefits would provide decision-makers with better information. We have not had much success in getting USACE to make this change and so we believe this could be a good step in improving the BCA process.

See ASA James’ full memo at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/123LGdV9H8EFpwbhg-hy-mi-iSle-5In1E1/view?usp=sharing>. ❖

[WWW.ASBPA.ORG](http://WWW.ASBPA.ORG)

We hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy and as always, we appreciate your support of our organization.

We have made the decision to host the 2020 National Coastal Conference online. While we will miss meeting in person in Long Beach, California, we are excited about this new opportunity. One benefit is that it may be easier for those with limited travel budgets to participate! We are accepting abstracts for the conference with a revised deadline of June 12, 2020. You may also submit a request for a dedicated session; please see our guidelines linked from the submittal page.

As always, all the latest news and updates on legislative action items are linked to our home page. Follow us on Twitter and “like” us on Facebook to stay up to date with all of the latest news and happenings. — *Beth Sciaudone, Ph.D., ASBPA Webmaster*

## Coronavirus.....

■ Continued from page 8

conservation efforts of the LWCF and encourages the maintenance of our national parks.

However, we cannot support the Great American Outdoors Act. As it is written, GAOA could potentially jeopardize critical funding of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) currently dedicated to the conservation and preservation of gulf coastal environments already under threat. We see the reallocation of dedicated coastal restoration funding to be in direct contrast with our mission of shore and beach preservation in the US Gulf Coast.

If GAOA were to become law in its current form, it could drastically cut into the funds that currently facilitate coastal restoration and sustainability efforts in energy producing states of the Gulf Coast by allocating \$18.5 billion of mostly OCS revenues over 10 fiscal years.

There is a growing concern that the evolving legislation aimed at providing essential relief for impacts of the coronavirus pandemic would create a political atmosphere more sensitive to deficit spending, making the protection and desired increase to GOMESA funding difficult, if not impossible. Conversely, additional coronavirus stimulus packages may provide an opportunity for the inclusion of GOMESA cap elimination and an increase of funding to bring it in line with that of the Mineral Lands Leasing Act.

Such legislation could serve the dual purpose of bolstering efforts to preserve our economically and ecologically critical environments of the gulf coast while also injecting economic stimulus to the many companies engaged in coastal restoration and infrastructure projects. Given the recent announcement of GOMESA disburse-

ments to fund coastal restoration and the activation of the annual cap, it is evident that there is a current need to increase GOMESA funds, which only further punctuates the potential negative impacts that GAOA could have on our coastline should it cut into those coastal funds.

Protecting GOMESA is critical. The coronavirus has caused a tremendous upheaval of many aspects of our society, but as a silver lining, the disruption it has caused has provided us with the opportunity to take action that could benefit the Gulf Coast for decades to come.

It is imperative that we communicate to our respective Congressional delegates, the importance of protecting GOMESA as a coastal funding stream and increasing the percentage of OCS revenues dedicated to sustainability of environments that we depend upon. Delegates are expected to be home until April 19 or later, and during that time, we ask that you engage them and express the importance of including language to this pending legislation that will protect our coast and our communities.

It is imperative that we succeed in this endeavor. The preservation of our coastal environment and protection of our communities from storm hazards depends on the reliability and growth of the funding source that GOMESA provides.

We thank you for your support and consideration, and we wish you all health and best wishes through this difficult time.

Please share this call to action to anyone who may want to get involved with the GOMESA Revenue Sharing Coalition as we gear up to take on this fight in Congress.

If you have any questions, please contact George Winfrey (George.Winfrey@la.gov) or Julia Rapaport (jrapaport@vnf.com). ❖

## Sign up for Amazon Smile and help ASPBA

With lockdowns and social distancing, more of us are buying things on Amazon. There's a very simple way you can help support ASBPA: If you plan on buying anything through Amazon.com, please instead go through smile.amazon.com and choose American Shore and Beach Preservation Association as your designated charity, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of everything you spend to ASBPA!

If you have an Amazon (or Amazon prime) account or have previously shopped at Amazon, click [here](#) to automatically sign up to donate to ASBPA.

Smile.amazon.com has the same prices, selection and benefits as Amazon and Amazon prime, just with the additional benefit of providing your designated charity a portion of what you spend. There is NO COST to you – just benefit for ASBPA. So please, for all your online purchase go [here](#), and help preserve American coasts by supporting ASBPA!

Thanks. ❖

