



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PROCEEDINGS OF
THE HILTON HEAD ISLAND,
SOUTH CAROLINA, U.S.A.
INTERNATIONAL COASTAL
SYMPOSIUM**

**MINUTES OF THE PANEL ON
COMPREHENSIVE COASTAL
MANAGEMENT TECHNICALITIES,
LEGALITIES, ADMINISTRATIVE
ASPECTS JUNE 9, 1993
HILTON HEAD ISLAND,
SOUTH CAROLINA**

The first session, relative to this topic, occurred on June 8, 1993, and concentrated on foreign practices, with the Panel consisting of individuals from various foreign countries. The second session, relative to this topic, was held June 9, 1993, and focused on various aspects of particular interest in the United States and this Panel consisted of individuals from the United States. This Panel was under the Chairmanship of Alex Wypyszinski, Director of the New Jersey Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service at Rutgers University. The other members of the Panel included Dr. Steve P. Leatherman, Ken Smith, Gerard Stoddard, and Steve Snyder, South Carolina Coastal Council. The issue before the Committee was the question, "What is a Good Coastal Zone Program? How is success measured?"

Chairman Wypyszinski suggested that there were three (3) aspects to developing a good coastal program; first, a process of developing a program, with input from coastal scientists and engineers, as well as related professionals and, secondly, that such program be a "dynamic" program, that is, one which is subject to change, given changes in the environment, and, thirdly, to implement and enforce the plan. Mr. Wypyszinski then explained that, in the United States, given the nature of our government, we have both a Federal approach, and a State by State approach. On the Federal level, the Coastal Zone Management Act, which

became law in 1972, declared that the policy of the United States is to preserve, use, and develop coastal resources. He pointed out that the Federal Program, basically, left it to the individual states to implement the national goal. Mr. Wypyszinski also noted that thirty-nine (39) States have implemented the plan, and that ninety-four (94%) percent of the current coast of the United States is protected by some type of Coastal Zone Management plan.

Mr. Gerard Stoddard indicated that, in his opinion, Federal funding was a key aspect of the Act, and that he had formed a group called Coastal States Organization, which would represent a unified approach, whereby the coast could be developed, preserved, and used. He also indicated a need, on the part of the citizenry, to become more informed and aware of the activities in these regards at their individual State level.

Mr. Ken Smith indicated that, in his opinion, the current trend was one of "retreat", whereby the States were trying to restrict development in certain coastal areas, and he felt that this was not the most practical way to address the problem and that the more pragmatic approach would be one similar to concept of the Europeans, as outlined by Per Bruun from time to time, which approach is a combination of "setback areas" and "beach restoration". Mr. Smith pointed out that there is a tremendous amount of property involved in some of these more radical plans, such as the one which was attempted to be implemented in South Carolina but was modified, as a result of various Court rulings. Mr. Smith also indicated that, in his opinion, there is a tendency to emphasize the "bad news", as opposed to the "good news". He indicated that there is no question that there is sufficient justification, both economically and scientifically, for continuation of beach nourishment and restoration, and he stressed the need for a balance between the competing interests.

Dr. Steve Leatherman indicated that, as far as he could determine, in his area of the Country,

which is the northeastern part of the United States, there were different approaches. He felt that there needed to be more effective coordination of these programs, in order that there would be a more unified approach in dealing with the situation. He indicated, for example, that in Maryland, which has quite an extensive coast, that the problems are different, along the different parts of the coast. He pointed out that one of their main environmental problems was pollution, and that there needed to be more emphasis given, not only to developmental environmental issues, but also man-made pollution types of environmental problems. He also pointed out that many States, including Maryland, are reluctant to address coastal problems, such as erosion, although they must begin to be more realistic and to face these problems and to address them now, rather than later.

Mr. Steve Snyder emphasized that the concept of "regulation" and "coastal zone management" were possibly more congruous than non-congruous disharmonious. He believes that these two concepts must work together and go "hand in hand" and that we must learn from our experiences of the past, and to apply the knowledge of the present, in order to work out an effective coastal zone management program. He specifically discussed the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management program, which has been recognized by NOAA as one of the U.S.A.'s best. He explained the composition of the South Carolina Coastal Council, and explained the difficult job that they have in balancing the needs of the people and the rights of the property owners, with the legislative mandate to preserve and protect the coast. He explained the various processes and permit procedures which are implemented in South Carolina. He also explained the history of the much publicized South Carolina Coastal Beach Management Act, which was subject to much court litigation, including the cases which were tried in State and Federal Courts and which received a lot of attention. He noted the very difficult job that they had, initially, in working with the original law, and explained that the Amendments, which have been made to the Act, in order to bring it into compliance with the various Court cases and prevailing law.

Following these remarks by the panelists, the floor was then opened to comments from those in attendance. A number of the representatives from

the various foreign Nations contributed to the discussion and drew many analogies to the ways in which the Americans try to deal with the problem as compared with those of foreign Nations.

There was some discussion on the concept of "setback lines", and Steve Snyder explained the South Carolina approach in this regard. The panelists also pointed out the difficulties involved in a "moving setback line", and this issue was debated. Ken Smith and Per Bruun agreed in the urgent need of establishing a final setback and a construction line, such as the one used in Florida. It was pointed out that a construction line in Florida is set as "the" line and if there is penetration, by erosion, during the "100 year storm surge", then the "construction line" shall be maintained and artificial beach nourishment is used to maintain the shoreline by frequent beach nourishment operations. Dr. Bruun considered the concept of the "construction line" to be a better choice than a "setback line", because it constituted a positive defense measure against erosion, encouraging the establishment of a permanent beach nourishment program for the protection of the dunes and property.

Mr. Wypyszinski asked for Per Bruun's views on the South Carolina Management policies. Dr. Bruun indicated that he preferred the Florida concepts, such as the "construction line" and that his concern in South Carolina was the lack of consistent State funding for beach nourishment and preservation. Steve Snyder explained that the State of South Carolina would provide "cost sharing" for all beaches in South Carolina. Dr. Bruun suggested that State funding should be provided by annual appropriations. Dr. Bruun stated that our coastal management problems would vanish, if beaches were nourished on a permanent and steady basis, but Dr. Bruun also pointed out that "Rome was not built in one day".

Mr. Wypyszinski then concluded by saying beach nourishment was the solution to a lot of the technical and many of the administrative management problems in some areas. In support of this proposition, Dr. Bruun cited the First and Tenth Commandments of Coastal Protection, reciting the Tenth Commandment which provides that "Thou shalt show forgiveness for the sins of the past and cover them up in the sand". The Panel discussion was then concluded, with the theme that it is incumbent upon the citizenry, and the States, to recognize the problem and to

be positive in the implementation of solutions to the problems.

Respectfully submitted,
John V. Esposito
Secretary for the Panel,

in consultation with
Mr. Alex Wypyszinski,
Mr. Steven Snyder,
and Dr. Per Bruun