

April 16, 2009, Ocean Planning Work Group Regional Sediment Management (RSM) Meeting  
SCDHEC-OCRM, Charleston SC.

**Welcome and Introductions:** Introductions of Work Group members

Ocean Planning Work Group Members in attendance:

Robert Boyles via teleconference (SC DNR)  
Carolyn Boltin-Kelly (SCDHEC-OCRM)  
Paul Sandifer (NOAA)  
Paul Gayes via teleconference (Coastal Carolina University)  
Cindy Fowler via teleconference (NOAA CSC)  
Dwayne Porter (University of South Carolina)  
Brian Smith (Alternate for Cindy Fowler)  
Marvin Pontiff (Alternate for Carolyn Boltin-Kelly)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Sara Brown  
Greg Williams  
Brian Williams  
Philip Wolf

OCRM staff in attendance:

Braxton Davis  
Melissa Rada  
Matt Slagel  
Bill Eiser  
Will Salters  
Ileana La Torre  
Sue Waltz  
Barbara Neale

Braxton welcomed all to the 4<sup>th</sup> OPWG meeting. Following introductions, he provided a brief background on the ocean planning initiative along with an update on the Group's activities to date. As explained, a small work group (federal, state, and university representatives) was assembled in early 2008 to address emerging/expanding ocean activities through workshops including offshore energy, sand, aquaculture, mapping and monitoring, and habitat. The Group will develop a draft report by late 2010. The report will identify mapping/monitoring priorities and will document findings/recommendations from the workshops. The report will provide a foundation for ocean planning that could lead to new programs, activities, or projects and improved interagency coordination. To date, the following have been held: orientation meetings (Jan. & Apr. 2008), an ocean mapping workshop (April 08), two meetings in late 2008 to discuss process and timelines for the ocean planning effort; and the results of a survey of public perceptions on ocean resource issues.

Before the presentations, Braxton quickly revisited the Group's timeline, and suggested pushing our "coastal implications of offshore energy" workshop to fall 09 to allow the Group to work with the Corps of Engineers on a sand workshop in the summer. The Corps has received funding that will allow them to work with the state of SC on a Regional Sediment Management (RSM) workshop. The purpose of today's meeting was to give the Work Group and OCRM Staff an introduction to RSM and to share NC's recent experiences partnering with the Corps to incorporate RSM into its Beach and Inlet Management Planning (BIMP). The OPWG will consider whether it is appropriate for SC to partner with the Corps of Engineers in hosting a workshop this summer as part of the ocean planning initiative.

### **Regional Sediment Management,**

Sara Brown, Hydraulic Engineer, RSM Liaison for USACE Charleston District

This presentation provided a background on regional sediment management, what it means, the Corps' role, how the Corps can assist states in their regional planning efforts including framework development, data collection and analysis, data sharing, etc. Sara emphasized that this is a long-range effort that will be built upon over the years and include many stakeholders. She described what sediment management actions are and gave examples of common strategies that have emerged from demonstration initiatives including: identifying sediment sources and sinks; striving to keep sand in natural system; coordinating between channel maintenance and beach nourishment to share costs; and improving coordination among agencies and stakeholders. Sara explained the funding behind regional sediment management (WRDA 2007, § 2037), provided examples of demonstration programs around the country and identified potential SAC Corps Project RSM Studies.

### **Regional Sediment Management in NC: A State-Federal Partnership**

Greg Williams, Coastal H&H Section, Chief, USACE Wilmington Regional Engineering Center

This presentation provided an overview of the Corps experience with RSM in North Carolina. The Corps and NC Department of Environmental Management have partnered to incorporate regional sediment management into the State's Beach Inlet Management Plan. Greg described how the state and Corps are able to share information and data including: surveys, modeling, reports, etc. He explained that the Corps now has opportunities (i.e. funding) to expand its focus outside navigation projects to try to understand the whole system. He described NC's RSM-BIMP Program activities thus far including: data collection/sharing; state adoption of eCoastal framework; improved communication and collaboration; development of a Coastal Hazards Science Panel, and a NC BIMP Technical Advisory Committee; Conferences/Workshops; WRDA Section 2037 (funding); Relationships - the Corps and DEM continue to work closely.

### **eCoastal in Charleston District**

Philip Wolf, Physical Scientist, Navigation Section, USACE Charleston District

This presentation provided an overview of eCoastal and introduced the eGIS project in Charleston. eCoastal was developed by the Corps of Engineers and designed to manage data for the Corps. Phil explained how eCoastal makes data accessible between the Corps and other

agencies. It is a spatial data repository and provides modeling. The eCoastal system includes: data management, dredging management, environmental and impact evaluations, and sediment budget analysis. Various tools are available including survey, viewer, report, profile and dredge tools. See presentation for more details. The Corps has begun an eCoastal project in Charleston to create and maintain an eGIS program that will assist coastal engineers and biologists with data collection, organization, accessibility and analysis.

### **Questions/Discussions during meeting:**

1. In other states/regions, who initiated RSM program, the state or Corps? Sara will find this out and report back to the Group. Sara's response: Both. The Corps districts throughout the nation have submitted proposals for RSM activities associated with federal projects. In addition, states have initiated RSM efforts on their own and obtained federal participation by the Corps through congressional language in WRDA.
2. Do the models incorporate sea level rise? This is being debated at the project planning stage. It is possible to incorporate scenarios.
3. Isn't the "least cost" requirement by the Corps still an issue when making decisions on where material is taken from or disposed of? The "least cost" issue needs to be addressed. It is being reconsidered in the Gulf. Material should be on equal footing as environment, i.e. it should be treated as an asset. Local cost share for beneficial re-use is possible (65/35 ratio now), but this is underutilized.
4. If we do not have data, should we even be moving forward with RSM? Yes, this is a long-term planning endeavor. It is important to begin planning, collaborate and exchange information for a long-term goal. Side note: Corps is getting multi-beam and side scan sonar, which will be operational by summer 2009 and the Corps may be able to assist with data collection. Also federal RSM funds can be used to collect data for state initiated RSM activities.
5. Summer Workshop: Will be educational. Need to find out who has done what where; identify areas the state needs to know about to inform sediment budgets (most areas have sediment budget studies done; SC does not). Need to get the right people involved who would help with subregions, i.e. engineers, local governments.
6. WRDA 2007 Section 2037 is funding for RSM plans, including data collection. Charleston has requested funds for various locations associated with federal navigation projects. Side Note: Only Charleston Harbor and Georgetown Harbor received funds in FY 09.

**\*To view the presentations discussed above, go to the following SCDHEC-OCRM website:**  
[http://www.scdhec.net/environment/ocrm/science/ocean\\_plan\\_presentation.htm](http://www.scdhec.net/environment/ocrm/science/ocean_plan_presentation.htm)

### **Next Steps:**

- OCRM will work with the Corps of Engineers to develop a draft agenda for a RSM Workshop for the Work Group to consider.
- OCRM will seek input from the Work Group in developing a list of invitees to attend the workshop.