

Progress Report for Contract # 026
Saving the Integrity of Keller Bay and Sand Point Peninsula

Year 3, 3rd quarter: April 1, 2025

Rusty A. Feagin, Texas A&M Agrilife / Texas A&M University

Project Summary: Our overarching goal is to protect the unique estuarine resources of Keller Bay by stopping the Sand Point Peninsula from breaching. Our strategy is to develop a living shoreline solution that incorporates public and private partners. Specific objectives include to:

- (1) Identify and model the best actions to stop the peninsula from breaching
- (2) Engage a working group, composed of stakeholders and agencies, to help design and identify a preferred action plan
- (3) Produce engineering/design plans and obtain permits for the Sand Engine

Task 1: Identify and model the best actions to stop the peninsula from breaching

Progress this Quarter: All sub-tasks completed in previous quarters.

Next Quarter: N/A

Deliverables:

- (1) High resolution topo-bathymetric map of study area – **completed and already submitted.**
- (2) Wave and flow velocity exceedance graphs for living shoreline design criteria – **completed and already submitted.**
- (3) Maps and videos of future morphologic evolution of study area, with and without various living shoreline alternatives, including a single or multiple Sand Engines – **completed and already submitted.**

Task 2: Engage a working group, composed of stakeholders and agencies, to help design and identify a preferred action plan

Progress this Quarter: Our team conducted meetings with State Senators and Representatives and Texas General Land Office personnel at the Texas State Capitol (3/17), and the local County Judge and Commissioner (3/18) as well as informal phone calls between our own personnel (1/14, 3/1, 3/12, 3/17, 3/25, 3/27) and the Matagorda Bay Foundation (1/24, 3/20, 3/25). During these meetings, we discussed: funding for construction, and completion of the USACE permit submission process.

The team continued to work with the Matagorda Bay Foundation (MBF) to see the project move into a future construction phase, beyond the time of MBMT funding. The TAMU portion of the team spoke with MBF several times. The West portion of the team continued to reach

out to agency stakeholders to win support for the design plans, and additionally held a meeting with landowners. The ASI portion of the team continued working with the Matagorda Bay Foundation, a subcontractor Grey & Pape that is working on the antiquities portion of the USACE permit, as well as the Texas General Land Office on the permits.

Next Quarter: The team plans to submit a grant for funding the construction to the Texas General Land Office.

Deliverables:

- (4) Working group meeting recordings – **ongoing**
- (5) Report on working group’s regional strategy and funding plans – **ongoing**

Task 3: Produce engineering/design plans and obtain permits for the Sand Engine

Progress this Quarter: The team received final approval from the Texas Historical Commission portion of the USACE permit. The team has obtained all letters of support as requested by the Texas General Land Office. The team continued to finalize design plans.

Next Quarter: Submit the final USACE permit.

Deliverables:

- (6) 30% E&D plans and alternatives for Sand Engine on state/federal-owned land – **completed, final version will be submitted at the end of next quarterly reporting period**
- (7) Coastal Boundary survey – **not started, was to be removed from tasks per conversation with Trustee (no longer relevant as GLO wants that done in subsequent construction funding phase)**
- (8) Support package for permitting of Sand Engine – **ongoing**
- (9) Section 404 and other required permits for Sand Engine, 80% E&D – **ongoing**