



## Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative

[www.lrpi.us](http://www.lrpi.us)

### Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2024, 12:00 PM

Town of Jupiter Utilities Field Office  
3133 Washington Street  
Jupiter, FL 33458

Chair, Deb Drum, called the meeting to order at 12:11 PM.

### **I. Attendance**

#### Committee membership list

Deb Drum, Chair (Palm Beach County) – *Present*

John Maehl, Vice Chair (Martin County) – *Present*

Marjorie Craig, Secretary (Village of Tequesta) – *Present*

Albrey Arrington (Loxahatchee River District) – *Present*

Amanda Barnes (Town of Jupiter) – *Present*

Mike Dillon (SIRWCD) – *Absent*

Patricia Magrogan (PBC Landowner Representative) – *Present*

Jim Davis (Jupiter Inlet District) – *Present*

Joe Chaison (Jupiter Inlet District – Alternate) - *Present*

John Lakich (Jonathan Dickinson State Park, division of FDEP) – *Absent (sent his regrets)*

Chad Kennedy (FDEP) – *Absent*

John Melson (Martin County Landowner Representative) – *Absent*

Jenny Smith (SFWMD) – *Absent (sent her regrets)*

John Lakich and Jenny Smith not able to attend, and sent in regrets to the LRPI board through Jennifer Aiton. A quorum was present.

### **II. Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

### **III. Old & New Business**

#### **A. Old Business**

#### **1. Review and approval of October 16, 2023, Initiative meeting minutes and corrected June 12, 2023 minutes**

- Jim Davis moved to approve the October 16, 2023, meeting minutes and Pat Magrogan seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous support.
- Albrey Arrington moved to approve the June 12, 2023, as amended, and Jim Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous support.

## **B. New Business**

### **1. FY25 Legislative Request & House Update Appropriations Request Update**

- About half way through the legislative session
- A discussion of potential funding was held
- The LRPI three recommended projects are all under \$1,000,000 which should increase the chances of funding
- Problem with Everglades funding in the Senate, push and pull, and the Loxahatchee River funding is not in there right now
- C-43 is one of the projects allowed to spend money on
- PBC County project - \$180k funded half, officially in play; in the House, working with Rep Snyder trying to get \$90k increase
- Chair Deb Drub encouraged everyone to please go back to respective agencies and make sure you are coordinating with each other (municipalities/ agencies/ etc. with counties) so there is a collective and coordinated effort
  1. Same talking points
  2. Talking points will be sent out to the Board
- Reminder: any agency that will have a lobbyist in Tallahassee is asked to please let Ed Chase/ PBC know so they can coordinate on timing and messaging

### **2. FY24/25 Voting Member and Selection of Officers**

- Pat Magrogan motioned to keep the same slate of officers, and Jim Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous support.
- Slate of officers remains:
  1. Chair – Deb Drum, Palm Beach County
  2. Vice-chair – John Maehl, Martin County
  3. Secretary – Marjie Craig, Village of Tequesta Pat

### **3. Agency Updates**

#### **a. PBC ERM – update on Loxahatchee Slough resources and Pal Mar acquisition efforts**

- TJ Wilkerson (filling in for Melissa Tolbert) from PBC DERM gave a presentation on Phase I
- Update on Pal-Mar acquisition
- Update on Loxahatchee Slough
- 434 relatively small parcels between 1-1.2 acres
- PBC acquired 38 acres of land
- An additional 15 parcels are under contract
- Total of 199 parcels with 359 acres
- \$4M ARA funds allocated for environmentally sensitive lands
- Loxahatchee Slough habitat restoration – driest portion
- Cleared out coco plums and palmettos and asked to leave mosaic
- They have found rare orchids – monitoring in collaboration with Florida Atlantic University, Pine Jog – orchids
- One more hydric hardwood hammock
- One very rare long claw orchid – only six known in the population, and the pollinator is unknown; set up camera to try to help determine, but so far, no

luck

- Jingle Bell orchid and Ghost orchid - threatened species in pond apple slough – have seen some
- Partnership with Avian Research and Conservation Institute and Palm Beach Zoo and Conservation Society
- Loxahatchee Slough natural area – pre-mitigation – showed data on roost peak counts going up
- Showed tagging in action – tag and release Swallowtail Kites – all tagged in natural areas; winter grounds in South America and come back to same trees
- Deb discussed the link between what we're doing here and seeing the biodiversity of plants and birds and the improvement – amazing – graph shows over 10 years of data
- Albrey discussed wading birds known in the area; is there any indication that growth is because the areas are gone or because of what we're doing?; The answer- not just relocating them; they're seeing all roosts have more birds
- Snail Kites – tagging – nomadic – go where the snails are
- Avian Research Institute has a lot of knowledge
- Hydrology seems to play a part
- We have significant habitat in the watershed that is important
- Short sighted to do a money grab for one part of the Everglades, really important to the entire Everglades
- Snail Kite roost – definitely using the Loxahatchee Slough for foraging; trying to get snapshots of the banded ones

**b. Town of Jupiter – Amanda Barnes**

- i. Pennock Park – design 90% complete; planning on finalizing and going out to bid in June; contractor – November when it starts drying up, easier to get the work done
- ii. Bush Road SW Project – 90% design and will bid as one project; grant agreement with FDEP is fully executed
- iii. Sims Creek – finalizing agreement; target March 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting for approval; initial design meeting set up in anticipation
- iv. Jones Creek – vegetative trimming (primarily mangroves)– contractor still expects to be complete by March
  1. Contractor worked from the southwest to the northeast
  2. Very dense at the south end of the project
  3. Amanda will bring in a presentation until the work is done
  4. Project will include trimming a 30 foot wide corridor clearing; there is a ten (10) year contract in place for biennial (every two years) trimming, collected as a non-ad valorem assessment on the tax bill for adjacent property owners

**c. Village of Tequesta – Marjorie Craig**

- Dover Ditch – joint project with TOJ (40% TOJ, 60% VOT) – assigned a grant manager by FDEP; FDEP agreement for the grant is fully executed; final design review complete with a few comments; permitting continues; Army Corps permit will be the critical path

**d. Martin County – Elizabeth Kelly**

- Just acquired 250 acres in Pal Mar – negotiated acquisition and close next week; \$10,000 an acre
- Used remaining money for acquisition (DC Saxon???)
- Two weeks from now have another potential funding mechanism; ½ cent for 10 years, bond \$140M for four priority areas
  1. Pal-Mar
  2. Loxalucie
  3. Blueways (local small holdings)
  4. Indian River Lagoon south (part of CERP)

**e. Jupiter Inlet District – Tom Howard**

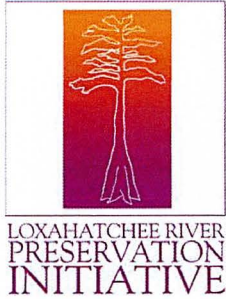
- Update on dredging and 6 mile oxbow
- Living shoreline – Tom Howard coordinated living shoreline reached out; previously did a project with ERM in the 1990's, so will soon be overgrown if not proactive
- Dredging planned for the spring and planning to move to the left due to the increase in deposit volumes experienced
- Mile Gap Oxbow Restoration project funded through the LRPI - finishing plans and specs

**4. Other Business**

- Discussed April LRPI meeting and potential agenda items
  - Marjorie told the group that she will not be able to attend the April meeting, if one is held, due to a conflict
  - Deb said she can send out email with updates on funding and projects that were updated, if needed
- June – applications in; we'll know where we stand
- Possible future presentations:
  - Sawfish Island (was a ribbon cutting)
  - Seagrass
  - JID – dredging projects and 6 mile oxbow
  - Living shorelines?
- Deb Drum – will distribute PowerPoint presentations and for now plan on having an April meeting, however, we won't meet if there are not agenda items

**IV. Adjourn**

Jim Davis moved adjournment, and Albrey Arrington seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and Chair Deb Drum adjourned the meeting at 1:01 PM



**SIGN-IN SHEET**  
~~FEBRUARY 5, 2024~~  
~~October 16, 2023~~

**Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative**

Town of Jupiter Utility Field Office  
 3133 Washington Street, Jupiter, FL 33458

NAME	AGENCY	E-MAIL ADDRESS	PLEASE INITIAL
Deb Drum ( <i>Chair</i> )	Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management	<a href="mailto:ddrum@pbcgov.org">ddrum@pbcgov.org</a>	<i>[Signature]</i>
John Maehl ( <i>Vice Chair</i> )	Martin County	<a href="mailto:jmaehl@martin.fl.us">jmaehl@martin.fl.us</a>	<i>[Signature]</i>
Marjorie Craig ( <i>Secretary</i> )	Village of Tequesta	<a href="mailto:mcraig@tequesta.org">mcraig@tequesta.org</a>	<i>[Signature]</i>
Albrey Arrington	Loxahatchee River District	<a href="mailto:albrey@lrecd.org">albrey@lrecd.org</a>	<i>[Signature]</i>
Amanda Barnes	Town of Jupiter	<a href="mailto:amandab@jupiter.fl.us">amandab@jupiter.fl.us</a>	<i>[Signature]</i>
Mike Dillon	SIRWCD	<a href="mailto:dillon@sirwcd.org">dillon@sirwcd.org</a>	<i>[Signature]</i>
Patricia Magrogan	PBC Landowner Representative	<a href="mailto:pmmagrogan@gmail.com">pmmagrogan@gmail.com</a>	<i>[Signature]</i>
James Davis	Jupiter Inlet District	<a href="mailto:jhd053050@gmail.com">jhd053050@gmail.com</a>	<i>[Signature]</i>
John Lakich	Jonathan Dickinson State Park, division of FDEP	<a href="mailto:john.lakich@dep.state.fl.us">john.lakich@dep.state.fl.us</a>	
Chad Kennedy	FDEP	<a href="mailto:William.C.Kennedy@dep.state.fl.us">William.C.Kennedy@dep.state.fl.us</a>	
John Melson	Martin County Landowner Representative	<a href="mailto:jmelson57@gmail.com">jmelson57@gmail.com</a> <i>absent</i>	—
Jenny Smith	SFWMD	<a href="mailto:jennysmith@sfwmd.gov">jennysmith@sfwmd.gov</a> <i>absent</i>	—



