



Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative

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Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2024, 12:00 PM

Town of Jupiter Emergency Operations Center
3133 Washington Street
Jupiter, FL 33458

Vice Chair, John Maehl, called the meeting to order at 12:07 PM.

I. Attendance

Committee membership list

Deb Drum, Chair (Palm Beach County) – *Absent*
John Maehl, Vice Chair (Martin County) – *Present*
Marjorie Craig, Secretary (Village of Tequesta) – *Absent*
Albrey Arrington (Loxahatchee River District) – *Present*
Amanda Barnes (Town of Jupiter) – *Present*
Chad Kennedy (SIRWCD) – *Present*
Patricia Magrogan (PBC Landowner Representative) – *Present*
Jim Davis (Jupiter Inlet District) – *Present*
Joe Chaison (Jupiter Inlet District – Alternate) – *Present*
Vacant (Jonathan Dickinson State Park, division of FDEP) – *N/A (Invite Scott Duncan)*
John Melson (Martin County Landowner Representative) – *Present*
Vacant (FDEP) – *Position has been posted*
Jenny Smith (SFWMD) – *Present*

An attendance list is included with these minutes.

II. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

III. Old Business

a. **Review and approval of February 5, 2024, meeting minutes**

February's Meeting minutes are still in process. They will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting along with the June 10th meetings minutes.

IV. New Business

a. **Update on 2024/25 Legislation Session Funding Requests & Appropriations Request Updates**

Ed Chase – Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for Palm Beach County

- Report has stayed the same, the governor has yet to receive the budget. All of

our items are safe for the time being. In his press conference this morning they have reviewed 90% of the budget. Going into the session we had (3) requests from LRPI, only one was funded, which was the Loxahatchee Slough Habitat Restoration. The request was \$180k and the amount funded was \$90k. This is an unreasonably small amount compared to what we are accustomed getting from the past 10 plus years.

- Ed explained the differences in the House and the Senate appropriations approval process.
- The Senate will let you submit an appropriations request as an initiative. Ed recommends to package multiple projects into one big request to look more enticing.
- The House still does not let you submit an appropriations request as an initiative. The House still requires 5 individual sponsors for each one of those appropriations requests. Ed has been talking to their lobby team about approaching the new speaker to put back into rules. There are some risks (All eggs in one basket). Similar to the Senate if we don't get it, we will get zero. Different areas better probability of getting funding. Might need to work against 3 other initiative components.
- 2025 Legislation session starts in March to May.
- Issues teams used to be the standard. Do you think we would go back to that? No, I think the legislature for the last 5-6 years has enjoyed the singular decision making role and would be reluctant to give that up.
- Chad Kennedy - leg side what can group do to get sponsors? What can we do to help? Getting House sponsor has never been a problem. Local not an issue. It is getting it up to Tallahassee. LRPI should be pushing one big request with multiple projects (3-4). If we have 4 projects and package them is that more ideal for approval. We need House of Rep to change rules.
- Albery – PBC County ranked projects & Martin County ranked projects. Could be an end-around. The issue is how the county would distribute the monies. They would have to receive the money and then have a sub-agreement for each of the projects. Ed explained said they did not want to be the intermarry.
- John Maehl - Issues Team Grant Application Submission
- Election Year always good for not a lot of vetoes

b. Review of LRPI Committee Email Distribution List – Jennifer will check to make sure everything is up to date and cross-reference the sign-in sheet for emails.

c. Distribution of FY 2026 Initiative Funding Request Applications – Email to be sent 6/13/24 – Applications Due by July 29th. Everyone gets emails including stakeholders.

d. Agency Update

- i. Johnathan Dickinson State Park – John Lakich has taken a job in the Keys. The new park manager for JD is Scott Duncan. John will make sure LRPI reaches out to invite him to the upcoming meetings.
- ii. Town of Jupiter – Amanda Barnes

1. Jones Creek Vegetation Trimming Presentation – Johnathan Batista, Senior Engineer – Presentation. The vegetation trimming project has resulted in significant improvements in water quality, water flow, and wildlife. Residents along the Jones Creek are very pleased with the results. The project was from October 2023 to April 2024 and was funded by the Town of Jupiter. The LRD has been sampling and has seen many improvements. John Maehl – asked about measuring flushing. Albery said he could bring some information for the next meeting.
2. Pennock Industrial Park/Bush Road Drainage Improvements – FDEP grants through LRPI. Those grant contracts have been executed. Final bid documents, end of this week. Anticipate advertising - June 23rd. Receive bids in late July, estimated start date of October/November 2024 with a final completion around the same time in 2025.
3. Sims Creek Preserve – Grant contact has also been executed with FDEP. Similar to Jones Creek - Making it more for recreation use. Kayak launch. Driveway with Roundabout.

v. Other Business

- a. Friends of Jupiter Beach – They have been picking up the beach, which has been keeping the river so clean. Jupiter Inlet District and Loxahatchee River District were the first sponsors. Great to see the community working together.
- b. Jupiter Inlet District completed inlet dredging on April 30th. They pulled out 125,000 cubic yards (one of the largest removals to date) and placed on S. Beach. Hopefully, we should be good for 12 months.
- c. South Florida is fully funding some tasks in the Loxahatchee CERP project. The council would like to have them start providing some updates. Important for MFL to stop violations.
- d. Reef Arches – a private vendor reached out to John Maehl and requested to do a presentation for the council. The council agreed this would be a good presentation/showcase. The vendor was part of the BLM project for shoreline stabilization.
- e. July 8th Albery Arrington - water quality presentation on Jones Creek
- f. Loxahatchee Update for the September meeting from the district

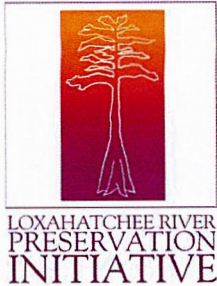
VI. Public Comment - None

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:54 PM.

Remaining 2024 Initiative Meeting Schedule:

- July 8: General Meeting – Confirm allocation of project funding
- August 5: Presentation of FY26 projects and committee ranking
- October 21: General Meeting



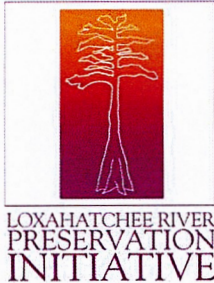
SIGN-IN SHEET

June 10, 2024

Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative

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

NAME	AGENCY	E-MAIL ADDRESS	PLEASE INITIAL
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John Maehl (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Martin County	jmaehl@martin.fl.us	<i>JM</i>
Marjorie Craig (<i>Secretary</i>)	Village of Tequesta	mcraig@tequesta.org	
Albrey Arrington	Loxahatchee River District	albrey@lrcd.org ✓	<i>Albrey</i>
Amanda Barnes	Town of Jupiter	amandab@jupiter.fl.us	<i>AB</i>
Chad Kennedy	SIRWCD	<i>CKENNEDY@SIRWCD.ORG</i>	<i>CK</i>
Patricia Magrogan	PBC Landowner Representative	pmmagrogan@gmail.com	<i>PM</i>
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John Lakich	Jonathan Dickinson State Park, division of FDEP	john.lakich@dep.state.fl.us	
	FDEP		
John Melson	Martin County Landowner Representative	jmelson57@gmail.com	<i>John Melson</i>
Jenny Smith	SFWMD	jennysmith@sfwmd.gov ✓	<i>Jenny Smith</i>



SIGN-IN SHEET
 June 10, 2024
~~October 16, 2023~~

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 3133 Washington Street, Jupiter, FL 33458

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