



## Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative

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

### Meeting Agenda

August 5, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

Town of Jupiter Utilities Field Office

3133 Washington Street

Jupiter, FL 33458

Chair Deb Drum called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM.

### 1. 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*

Patricia Magrogan (PBC Landowner Representative) – *Present*

Jim Davis (Jupiter Inlet District) – *Absent*

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

Scott Duncan (Jonathan Dickinson State Park, division of FDEP) – *Present*

Chad Kennedy (IRWCD) – *Present*

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

Vacant (FDEP) – *Position has been posted*

Jenny Smith (SFWMD) – *Present*

*Deb – Welcomes Scott Duncan!*

### 2. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

### 3. Old Business

#### **A. Review and approval of LRPI meeting minutes for July 8, 2024**

- i. Attendance corrected: John Nelson and Jenny Smith were present
- ii. Pat Magrogan moved and Albrey Arrington seconded – all in favor – passed minutes unanimously

### 4. New Business

#### **A. FY26 Legislative Request / House Appropriations Request Update**

**B. Application Presentations by Project Sponsors – 10 Minutes per Presentation**

- i. Lox Slough Habitat Restoration Phase 2 – TJ Wilkerson from PBC
  - Submitted last year – did not get funding
  - Provided presentation of the project submitted for funding
  - Overgrown areas
  - Reduces wildfires
  - Bio-diversity is currently reduced
  - Fuel reduction – showed some results, 200 + 100 acres
  - Good bang for the buck, helps further the effort, benefits the wildlife in the corridor
  - Project ready to go
  - Question – John – will that area go into rotation for prescribed burn? – answer – yes, that area was selected partly for the location
  - Question – Duncan – is there a history of fires? Answer – no but can see some evidence, but we can see some evidence of some
  - Albrey – after an evening bike ride, a road along the area, amazing, snail kite segregation – east side, then west side, couldn't believe how many snail kites were nesting; obviously you are doing things right
  - Deb – cannot say enough about the team, think Lox Slough is performing an important role in nesting for snail kites; now UF is counting snail kites out there
- ii. Town of Jupiter – Daniels Way – Amanda Barnes
  - Not a big project but updated the construction cost
  - Monitor stormwater structures monthly and vacuum it out when full
- iii. South Indian River Water Control District – Chad Kennedy (now with SIRWCD, not FDEP)
  - Mission – 298 district, move the water out of the district
  - Project – data – watershed survey and mapping efforts – will be made available to the public, put it on our website; help us reclaim the right of way for maintenance
  - Question – John – exciting, long overdue; provide benefits – sometimes some slight operational change; how are you getting for \$150k? answer – AECOM's relationships with surveyor, good rate for AECOM, doing over 3 years, gives surveyor time; as data comes in, will convert to GIS system; already have PB country estates; like to give water back, not meet MFL tomorrow; wells only 35 feet deep, if stretch out summer hydroperiod just a few week; board understands our need for infrastructure – better manage and better understand it, good for the river; data is the driver; as a first call, are the gates open? No, haven't been open since he got there; already have PB country estates, already doing modeling; can send the data to TOJ

- Question – JID – is the cycle linked up, some years 2 and 3, the surveyor will be out middle of the month, by the time the grant money comes in, grant money, hoping for years 2 and 3, timing, does sound like for years 2 and 3;
- Question – Deb – is board ready to address easement issues? Answer – have to develop a policy and process
- Deb – is the board supporting possible rate increases to address this? Answer – board tries not to raise the rates if possible; Deb – is there an appetite for funding these? Answer – longest journey starts with the first step, demands of the community is changing, and the board has changed, for someone in the past

#### **C. Committee Project Ranking – 1:10 PM**

- Deb – thanks everyone for their time on the initiative and everyone who applied; recognized all are important equally; ERM will update the glossy sheets with the numbers; if you are applying through the portal, please let LRPI know
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – Town of Jupiter – Daniels Way Water Quality Improvements
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – South Indian River Water Control District – Loxahatchee River Headwaters Easement Mapping
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – Palm Beach County – Loxahatchee Slough Habitat Restoration – Phase 2
- Pat – wanted to mention that was one of the first things that Frank Lund had started restoration of the Lox slough; very important
- Deb –all projects are important, and proven effective through the years; thank you to Jennifer Aiton for all the work she has done

#### **D. Accomplishments Spreadsheet YTD**

- Deb – even as recently as this meeting, have found some critical old documents that contain project info; need to figure out how to put it together; if anyone finds any ranking documents or other info, please share it

#### **E. Agency Update**

- Indian River Lagoon License Plate Grant funding opportunities – SFWMD (Kathy LaMartina)
- Kathy will be retiring – on Aug 30<sup>th</sup> (party is Aug 6<sup>th</sup>) – worked there twice, total of 28 years
- Asked to give a review of what the Indian River Lagoon license plate – started in 1998 – had since inception; plates sold throughout the state but only can be used in the six counties
  - Volusia
  - Brevard
  - Indian River County

- St. Lucie
- Martin County
- Small part of Palm Beach County
- SFWMD – administers the money for the last three, the St. Johns River Water Management District administers money for the first three
- At least 80% has to be used for shoreline
- 20% can be used for education
- Selection process
- RFP – written proposals, written criteria list, readiness, possibly oral presentation depending on number of applications
- Selection committee – total depends on how they want to divide up the funds
- Funds in a separate account at the district, not general revenues
- Have to be used within 2 years
- Cost share can be cash OR in-kind services
- Limited to non-profit or government
- Says limit to one year but can extend
- Any project labeled research, study, not allowable,
- Admin costs not allowable
- \$3.2 M in the 3 counties over the time
- New design for this year;
- This year the RFP went out and she didn't see ANY projects from PBC; she is going to put one out again
- A little over \$142k, and will only do the RFP for PBC
- The first and third projects might be able to get funding, they would meet the criteria
- New administrator – Matthew Biondolillo at the SFWMD
- Albrey – last one that you sent out – could not find it, it was impossible;
- Have to go through the purchasing procedure, can't send it directly, have to go through procurement
  - Procurement
  - Open RFP's
- Deb – looking to Matthew – can you send out a hyperlink and send it out in the application
- Amanda – how do you make sure you get on the distribution list?
- Deb – if Jennifer Aiton can provide the information to the LRPI that would be great
- Deb – let's try to use the 140k!
- CERP Presentation – Michael Thompson next week

## 5. Other Business

- i. Jenny Smith – is taking a position with the Corps; still be involved with various projects
  - Jenny will stay on the resiliency side – narrowed down to 4 candidates to replace Jenny

- Jenny's last day for is August 9th

## **6. Public Comment**

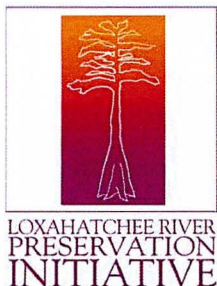
- No public comment

## **7. Adjourn**

John Maehl moved adjournment, and Chad seconded it. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 1:29 PM.

## **Remaining 2024 Initiative Meeting Schedule:**

- October 21: General Meeting - CANCELLED



## SIGN-IN SHEET

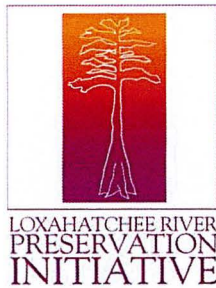
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John Maehl ( <i>Vice Chair</i> )	Martin County	<a href="mailto:jmaehl@martin.fl.us">jmaehl@martin.fl.us</a>	<i>JM</i>
Marjorie Craig ( <i>Secretary</i> )	Village of Tequesta	<a href="mailto:mcraig@tequesta.org">mcraig@tequesta.org</a>	<i>MC</i>
Albrey Arrington	Loxahatchee River District	<a href="mailto:albrey@lrcd.org">albrey@lrcd.org</a>	<i>AA</i>
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Chad Kennedy	SIRWCD	<a href="mailto:Ckennedy@sirwcd.org">Ckennedy@sirwcd.org</a>	<i>CK</i>
Patricia Magrogan	PBC Landowner Representative	<a href="mailto:pmmagrogan@gmail.com">pmmagrogan@gmail.com</a>	<i>PM</i>
Joe Chaison (Alternate for Jim Davis)	Jupiter Inlet District	<a href="mailto:Jchaison@jupiterinletdistrict.org">Jchaison@jupiterinletdistrict.org</a>	<i>JC</i>
Scott Duncan	Jonathan Dickinson State Park, division of FDEP	<a href="mailto:Scott.duncan@dep.state.fl.us">Scott.duncan@dep.state.fl.us</a>	<i>SD</i>
John Melson	Martin County Landowner Representative	<a href="mailto:jmelson57@gmail.com">jmelson57@gmail.com</a>	<i>JM</i>
Jenny Smith	SFWMD	<a href="mailto:jennysmith@sfwmd.gov">jennysmith@sfwmd.gov</a>	<i>JS</i>
	FDEP		





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