



# Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative

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

## Meeting Minutes

By Marjorie Craig, Village of Tequesta, Secretary

**April 7, 2025, 12:00 p.m.**

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

(MEETING MINUTES/ NOTES ARE IN BLUE BELOW)

Chair Deb Drum called the meeting to order at 12:06 PM.

1. Roll Call (by sign-in sheet) / Introductions
  - a. See sign-in sheet for attendance
  - b. Introductions were made around the room
2. Review/adoption of agenda –
  - a. Moved by Chad Kennedy, seconded by Albrey Arrington
  - b. The LRPI adopted the agenda
3. Review/adoption of February 3, 2025, Meeting Minutes
  - a. Moved by Jim Davis, seconded by John Maehl
  - b. Meeting minutes were adopted by the LRPI
4. Old & New Business
  - A. Old Business
    - 1) Legislative Update / Outlook
      - a. House and Senate put forward their initiatives last week
      - b. LRPI in it – good news
      - c. One request - \$358,500 funded Senate
      - d. House – funded each at 50% of the requests – three separate \$191,463
      - e. Going forward, encourage Senate to go to higher level – four weeks - we're in week four – have 4 or 5 more to go
      - f. By May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Last week for regular policy committees to meet
      - g. Next week, budget and negotiations, big gap to work through
      - h. .457% lower sales tax
      - i. Senate has budget in
      - j. Deb – we had three that are listed
        - i. Daniel's way - \$103,500 (Jupiter)
        - ii. Lox River easement mapping - \$75k (SIRWCD)
        - iii. Lox Slough habitat restoration - \$180k (PBC)
      - k. Meeting in August, ranking for next session appropriations requests

## B. New Business

### 1) Discussion of Draft Project Support Letter for Grants

- a. Chad Kennedy asked if we could develop a letter of support by the LRPI in support of the projects; John Maehl drafted and worked to get it to one page; align with mission
- b. Jon Moore: FDEP website, ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov
- c. Chad Kennedy moved, and Pat seconded the adoption of the letter of support
- d. Albrey – made suggestions for letter modifications
- e. Chad amended the motion, and the motion passed unanimously for the letter of support
- f. Jenny and Deb will bring back as part of Old Business a copy of the letter and will provide it digitally for future use (final version of the letter will be appended to the minutes)

### 2) Discuss proposed new criteria for Project Applications

- a. Proposed under “Local Commitment”—add phrase “Has this project been approved as a priority by your Council / Board?”
  - i. Specific criteria from Tallahassee
  - ii. Some applicants have not gotten local officials' funding/nor in a plan or budget approved by elected officials
- b. Another issue has been that the amount requested has not matched the approved amount through the LRPI (creates problem when they don't match)
- c. Albrey – fine with House language on forms; had some challenges with getting House forms submitted timely; asked if there is any reason they can't submit the House form? Deb said there is a timing issue, can't get the forms until after we rank
- d. John Maehl – question – doesn't the House require an attestation form?
- e. Important for boards/ councils to know that we are all engaged in the LRPI and that these projects come before us for consideration – if you can't submit without your full board/ council support, you should take yourself off the list
- f. Finalizing project criteria

### 3) Presentation by South Indian River Water Control District: Overview

- a. Presentation was given by Chad Kennedy; Karen Brandon of AECOM is District engineer
- b. Headwaters of the Loxahatchee River, have NPDES permit, community is built in agriculture, not a planned community
- c. Built out – now seeing redevelopment, two habitats, pine flatwoods and wetlands, 10,000 acres, ~15 sq mi
- d. Canal system with five operable structures
- e. Goal – extend the flow duration, get better water quality, better retention, better fire suppression
- f. Want to help the river

- 4) Presentation by Village of Tequesta: Project Update on Dover Ditch
  - a. Presentation given by Marjorie Craig (VOT) & Justin Tagle (CMA)
  - b. Dover Ditch is a joint project with the Town of Jupiter
  - c. Total project cost estimated at \$315k
  - d. Construct a living shoreline along the area of the ditch closest to the river, improving the water quality in that area
  - e. Permitting has taken over a year; expect to bid this summer
- 5) Identify topics for June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - a. JID Project Update on RM6
  - b. Albrey suggested – SFWMD give update on Cypress Creek/ Kitching Creek restoration from JDC park (Scott Jenkins?)
  - c. Deb will talk to team at ERM, but after the June meetings, the LRPI will be busy with project rankings
5. Other Business / Member Announcements
  - a. Upcoming Meetings: **June 9<sup>th</sup>**, **July 7<sup>th</sup>** (could be cancelled; decision made for cancellation no later than June 23<sup>rd</sup>), **August 4**, **October 20**.
    - i. August 4<sup>th</sup> meeting is critical for members to attend for project ranking
      1. Really need everyone present
      2. Everyone will have 10 minutes to give presentations
      3. Make it clear and compelling
      4. Jenny and Deb will be distributing the applications now
  - b. Distribution of FY27 LRPI Funding Request Applications will happen on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Applications are due no later than July 28<sup>th</sup> to Jenny Cadet at [icadet@sfwmd.gov](mailto:icadet@sfwmd.gov).
  - c. Member announcements
    - i. FDEP offered to give a presentation from the FDEP “Protecting Florida Together” if one has not been given (no)
    - ii. John Maehl – April 16<sup>th</sup> may be the inaugural environmental lands oversight meeting; Department of Revenue is getting \$225M for the purchase of environmentally sensitive lands; 5:30 PM Martin County Commission chambers
    - iii. JID is looking at how many cubic yards they will remove; last time the sands feature outside the inlet was seen is in 1960, it’s super tidal, emergent at certain times
    - iv. Jupiter- Amanda – Pennock water quality improvements – several years ago, both should be done this year
6. Public Comment -
  - a. Rob Roberson – Indian Trails – not a member yet, but maybe sometime in the future
    - i. Looking for a planning grant for S18
    - ii. In negotiations with Drew to see how it would work
7. Adjournment
  - a. Jim Davis moved, Albrey Arrington seconded adjournment
  - b. Chair Deb Drum adjourned the meeting at 1:11 PM

[Date]

[FDEP Secretary Name]

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, M.S. 49  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

**Subject: Letter of Support for Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative Project--**[Project Name]

Dear [DEP Secretary Name],

On behalf of the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative (LRPI), I am pleased to extend our support for the [Project Name] proposed by [Applicant Organization Name]. This project aligns with LRPI's mission to preserve and protect the Loxahatchee River, Florida's first federally designated Wild and Scenic River, and has been selected by a committee of qualified local stakeholders as a priority project that will help meet our objectives.

Since its inception in 2000, the LRPI has guided over \$46 million in regional watershed restoration projects within northeastern Palm Beach County and southern Martin County. The LRPI, a multiagency partnership, finds strength and effectiveness in leveraging state funds with local funds in a cost-share program, ensuring fiscal responsibility. Our group has a proven track record of completing projects with demonstrated effectiveness in achieving water quality and quantity targets for the Loxahatchee River, and restoring the watershed ecosystems that support it. Specifically, this project will help restore the Loxahatchee River through [briefly describe the project's main activities and goals].

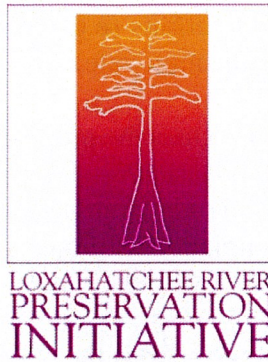
We appreciate the grant opportunities provided by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to protect and restore Florida's water resources, and the recognition that this is effectively achieved through local government participation. We respectfully request your support and full consideration of this LRPI priority project for grant funding in support of Loxahatchee River and watershed restoration.

Very respectfully,

[Name]

Chair, Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative





**Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027) Funding Request Application**  
**Deadline: no later than July 28, 2025**

Please submit the following information in electronic format – MS Word.

- Project Title
- Project Sponsor
- Contact Person (Name, Address, Phone, email)
- Requested Grant Funding Amount/Proposed Local Match Funding Amount
  - \*Minimum 50% local match required
- Project Description (provide descriptive photograph if available)
  - Maximum: 200 words
  - Include project location (provide map if available)
- Project Benefits (Maximum: 100 words; use bullets if desired)
- Project Readiness (Maximum: 50 words): For example, has the project design been completed? What is the status of permits? Have all land purchases, agreements, right-of-ways and easements been executed?
- Project Photographs
  - Photograph submission is encouraged.
- Project Selection Criteria
  - Bang for the Buck** – Does the proposed project represent tangible and measurable expectations of water quality or habitat improvements to the Loxahatchee River or its tributaries? Please include specific details such as estimated mass of nutrient/contaminant reductions (parts per billion, pounds per day/year) or removal efficiencies, area of natural systems to be restored or enhanced (acres), level of service attributes, conveyance capacity (CFS), and/or volume of storage (acre-feet). Please include all calculations.

**Ready to Go** – Has the proposed project initiated any and all land acquisitions and local approvals necessary to move forward with the construction phase? If regulatory permits are required – have permits been received? List all required

permits and status of permits (e.g., received date, application submitted date, to submit permit application date)

**Local Commitment** – Does the proposed project have a commitment from the local sponsor of at least 50% cost match? Match may be other funding commitments, in-kind or a combination. Do you, as the sponsor, have a record of timely completion of projects? Explain. **Has this project been approved as a priority by your Council / Board? Yes/No**

**Regional Significance** – Does the proposed project help to further regional restoration efforts (habitat / water quality improvement) that are referenced or included in a Florida Department of Environmental Protection or South Florida Water Management District adopted or initiated management plan (e.g. Loxahatchee River Reasonable Assurance Plan, Minimum Flows and Levels for the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River, etc.)?

- Exhibit “C”: Statement of Work

Suggested Outline:

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objective
- 3.0 Scope of Work
- 4.0 Work Breakdown Structure

- Exhibit “D”: Payment and Delivery Schedule Suggested

Deliverables: Design and Construction

Due dates (days from execution of contract) and associated costs (state/local match) for each deliverable must be included.

Submit by **July 28, 2025** to: [jcadet@sfwmd.gov](mailto:jcadet@sfwmd.gov)

**Jenny Cadet**

Administrator Assistant 3

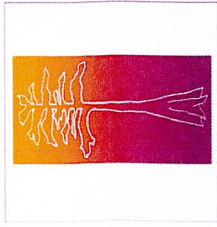
South Florida Water Management District

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Office: (561) 682-6641

Office Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, M-F





## SIGN-IN SHEET

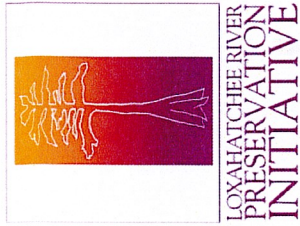
April 07, 2025

### Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative

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

NAME/POSITION	AGENCY	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Deb Drum, <i>Chair</i>	Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management	<a href="mailto:ddrum@pbcgov.org">ddrum@pbcgov.org</a>
John Maehl, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Martin County	<a href="mailto:jmaehl@martin.fl.us">jmaehl@martin.fl.us</a>
Marjorie Craig, <i>Secretary</i>	Village of Tequesta	<a href="mailto:mcraig@tequesta.org">mcraig@tequesta.org</a>
Albrey Arrington, <i>Member</i>	Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District	<a href="mailto:albrey.arrington@lrecd.org">albrey.arrington@lrecd.org</a>
Amanda Barnes, <i>Member</i>	Town of Jupiter	<a href="mailto:amandab@jupiter.fl.us">amandab@jupiter.fl.us</a>
Jim Davis, <i>Member</i>	Jupiter Inlet District	<a href="mailto:jhd053050@gmail.com">jhd053050@gmail.com</a>
Chad Kennedy, <i>Member</i>	South Indian River Water Control District	<a href="mailto:ckennedy@sirwcd.org">ckennedy@sirwcd.org</a>
Scott Duncan, <i>Member</i>	Jonathan Dickinson State Park, division of FDEP	<a href="mailto:Scott.duncan@dep.state.fl.us">Scott.duncan@dep.state.fl.us</a>
Patricia Magrogan, <i>Member</i>	Friends of the Loxahatchee River	<a href="mailto:pmmagrogan@gmail.com">pmmagrogan@gmail.com</a>
John Melson, <i>Member</i>	Public at Large, Resident	<a href="mailto:jmelson57@gmail.com">jmelson57@gmail.com</a>
Sara Ouly, <i>Member</i>	South Florida Water Management District	<a href="mailto:souly@sfwmd.gov">souly@sfwmd.gov</a>
<del>Maureen</del> Jon Moore, <i>Member</i>	FDEP	<a href="mailto:Jon.W.Moore@floridadep.gov">Jon.W.Moore@floridadep.gov</a>





## SIGN-IN SHEET

April 07, 2025

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Town of Jupiter Utility Field Office

3133 Washington Street, Jupiter, FL 33458

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