



Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative

Meeting Minutes:

April 13, 2026, 12:00 p.m.

NOTE ALTERNATIVE LOCATION: Jupiter Inlet District
400 N Delaware Blvd. Jupiter, FL 33458

1. **Meeting called to order by John Maehl, Martin County, Chair, at 12:04pm**
2. **Attendance (by sign-in sheet) (Attachment A)**
3. **Review/adoption of agenda**
 - A. Motioned: Deb Drum, Palm Beach County ERM (PBC ERM)
 - B. Seconded: Chad Kennedy, South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD)
 - C. Passed Unanimously
4. **Review/adoption of February 2, 2026 Meeting Minutes**
 - A. Jon Moore, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), noted a correction stating that the answer to the third question after the presentation provided by FDEP included the contact for the Resiliency and Coastal Protection program should be Eddy Bouza not Eddy ~~Bowsa~~.
 - B. Motioned: Jon Moore, FDEP
 - C. Seconded: Deb Drum, PBC ERM
 - D. Passed Unanimously
5. **Old & New Business**
 - A. Old Business
 - 1) Legislative Update / Outlook provided by Alessandro Marchesani, PBC Legislative Affairs Director
 - i. Legislative Session Timing
 1. Legislature is not returning to session until next week.
 2. End date of the session remains uncertain.
 3. Last year's session lasted 105 days (longest in history), suggesting a potentially extended timeline again.
 - ii. Key Legislative Focus Areas
 1. Primary discussions expected to center on commercial redistricting.
 2. Potential expansion of discussions to include property taxes.
 3. Current expectation: property taxes will not be eliminated, but there may be an increase in the homestead exemption.
 - iii. LRPI Funding Updates
 1. \$354,000 in full funding secured for:
 - a. Seminole Basin Water Quality Improvements project - Town of Jupiter

- i. Jon Moore, FDEP, advised everyone that the annual public meetings on BMAPs will be held at the date and times provided below:
 1. St. Lucie River and Estuary - 4/29/26 10 a.m. EDT
 2. Lake Okeechobee – 4/29/26 1 p.m. EDT
- ii. Albrey Arrington, LRECD, noted that he recently was biking in Jonathan Dickinson and the environment has changed drastically from drought conditions to very wet.
- iii. John Maehl, Martin County, asked Albrey Arrington, LRECD, for an update on current flow and salinity levels. Albrey reviewed the current MFL violations available on LRECD's website.
- iv. John Maehl, Martin County, provided an update on Martin County's efforts towards land acquisition and preservation
 1. Efforts are underway to acquire ¼ acre lots in Pal-Mar.
 2. Additional efforts are underway to acquire the land that would provide the connection between Hungaryland to currently owned County property.
 3. Martin County was approached by a resident who wanted to purchase and donate land around Martin County. This lady donated about \$10 million in land acquisitions. The total number of properties donated was 10 and some of these properties include:
 - a. 1.3 acre entrance to Hobe Sound Scrub Preserve
 - b. 5-acres of park space adjacent to a storm water pond that will be dedicated to the donor
 4. Albrey Arrington, LRECD, asked if Martin County was considering land acquisition from Atlantic Ridge to Bridge. John Maehl responded stating that Martin County is looking into it. Whit Worth Farm was in consideration but there was not an agreement on land cost but possibly in the future there may be. Additionally, McArthur Golf Course includes 3,000+ acres that was purchased by the owners of the golf course to prevent development. Martin County is talking with the property owners to possible provide public access to the land.
 5. Chad Kennedy, SIRWCD, asked how Martin County was dedicating the property to prevent any future Board reversal and subsequent development. John Maehl responded stating that the land cannot be dedicated as "Conservation Zones" because conservation zones require specific buffers but that the Ordinance that is providing for the purchase of the land locks it up in conservation for perpetuity.
- v. Patricia Magrogan, Landowner Representative, Palm Beach County, asked Jim Davis, Jupiter Inlet District (JID), about a white ballon floating over the inlet and about the navigation issues with the sand bar that has formed outside of the inlet. Jim responded stating that He was not aware of the white ballon and JID has increased surveying of the inlet to bimonthly and provides those surveys on their website. The issue of the sandbar outside of the inlet is difficult because Jupiter's inlet is unlike larger inlets that are labeled as federal navigation channels so there is not the same federal responsibility to maintain the navigation in and out of the inlet.

7. Public Comment

- A. Matt Boyson with Palm Beach County Park Management advised that they would be beginning construction on the culvert pipe project behind Loxahatchee River District's property.

8. Adjournment

- A. Motioned: Chad Kennedy, SIRWCD
- B. Seconded: Patricia Magrogan, Landowner Representative, Palm Beach County
- C. Passed Unanimously

Next Meeting: August 3, 2026, at 12 p.m.