



## Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative

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

### Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2021, 12:00 p.m.

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

#### **I. Attendance**

The following LRPI committee members attended the meeting, establishing a quorum:

- Albrey Arrington (Loxahatchee River District)
- Deb Drum (Palm Beach County)
- David Brown (Town of Jupiter)
- Don Donaldson (Martin County)
- Pat Magrogan (Landowner Representative)
- Mike Dillon (South Indian River Water Control District)
- Matt Hammond (Village of Tequesta)
- Steve Weagle (Public at Large, Resident)

An attendance list is included with these minutes.

#### **II. Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

#### **III. Old / New Business**

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

###### **1. Review and approval of the August 09, 2021 meeting minutes**

Deb Drum made a motion to approve the August 9, 2021 meeting minutes and Pat Magrogan seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous support.

##### **B. New Business**

###### **1. Legislative Update**

Deb Drum distributed copies of the LRPI Legislative Brief for the 2022 Session (attached).

Ed Chase shared that eight of the nine LRPI project priorities have been filed in the House for the 2022 legislative session. The following table outlines the Representative sponsoring each project priority.

Rank Order	Project Name	House Sponsor
1	Cypress Creek Floodplain Restoration Project	Representative John Snyder
2	Pennock Industrial Park Stormwater Improvements	Representative John Snyder
3	Loxahatchee River Mile 6 Gap Closure and Oxbow Restoration Maintenance	Representative John Snyder
4a	Sims Creek Preserve Hydrologic and Environmental Restoration	Representative John Snyder
4b	Environmental Education Facilities at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area	Representative Rick Roth
6	Bush Road Stormwater Improvements	Representative Rick Roth
7a	Canal C Storage Project	Representative Rick Roth
7b	Loxahatchee River Battlefield Park Culvert Replacement Project	Representative Rick Roth
9	Unit 3 Water Control Structure Enhancement	

Ed indicated Representative Tobin Overdorf will likely sponsor project priority 9, Unit 3 Water Control Structure Enhancement. Senator Gayle Harrell is sponsoring the LRPI in its entirety (priorities 1 through 9) within the Senate.

Additionally, Ed reported that PBC Legislative Day takes place on January 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> in Tallahassee.

In Albrey's absence, Deb Drum will address next week's PBC Legislative Delegation Meeting on behalf of the LRPI.

## 2. Agency Update

Albrey Arrington reported that recent amendments to the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) within CERP now include the Loxahatchee River. This should enable projects such as Flow Way 3 to start in a more rapid fashion and perhaps cascade to an earlier start for elements related to Flow Ways 1 and 2.

Albrey also reported that Septic to Sewer Conversion of Whispering Trails and New Palm Beach Heights are complete with nearly all parcels connected.

## 3. Approval of the 2022 Calendar

Deb Drum made a motion to approve the 2022 calendar as presented and Pat Magrogan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## 4. Other Business

Deb Drum mentioned an event known as *Haunted Hike* would take place at North Jupiter Flatwoods on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 7pm-9pm. The event includes two different hikes, one of which is suitable for younger children, and various activities.

Deb Drum suggested that LRPI reach out to Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for their participation. Albrey indicated he would reach out to FDEP.

Nestor Garrido, South Florida Water Management District, announced today would be his last LRPI meeting before his retirement. Nestor mentioned SFWMD is currently seeking a

replacement for Nestor and Laura Corry.

*Adjourn*

**Attachments**

- Attendee Sign-in Sheet
- LRPI Legislative Brief for the 2022 Session
- 2022 Calendar (approved)





# LOXAHATCHEE RIVER PRESERVATION INITIATIVE



*Preserving Florida's first federally-designated Wild and Scenic River for future generations*

## Working For Our River

Since its inception in 2000, the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative (LRPI) has guided \$45.7 million in regional watershed restoration projects within northeastern Palm Beach County and southern Martin County. LRPI, a multiagency partnership, has effectively leveraged state funds with local funds in a cost-share program which has a proven track record of delivering tangible environmental benefits aimed at preserving and protecting the resource for future generations to enjoy.

While the river, wildlife and our community benefit from the LRPI's work already completed, there is more work to be done as the Loxahatchee River remains an impaired water body. Continued investments in LRPI-supported projects will provide a measurable increase in water storage capacity as well as reductions in nutrient loading that will enable the Loxahatchee River to achieve water quality and quantity targets on an expedited timetable.

**For the 2022 legislative session, LRPI ranked 9 critical projects for which \$2.27 million in state legislative funding assistance is requested. The total local match for all projects represents 56% of the total projects cost of \$5,145,031.**

Rank Order	Project Name	Funding Request	Local Sponsor	Local Match Funds
1	Cypress Creek Floodplain Restoration Project	\$750,000	Martin County	\$750,000
2	Pennock Industrial Park Stormwater Improvements	\$150,000	Town of Jupiter	\$514,473
3	Loxahatchee River Mile 6 Gap Closure and Oxbow Restoration Maintenance	\$377,500	Jupiter Inlet District	\$377,500
4	Sims Creek Preserve Hydrologic and Environmental Restoration	\$100,000	Town of Jupiter	\$296,558
4	Environmental Education Facilities at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area	\$320,000	Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District	\$350,000
6	Bush Road Stormwater Improvements	\$ 94,500	Town of Jupiter	\$109,500
7	Canal C Storage Project	\$312,500	South Indian River Water Control District	\$312,500
7	Loxahatchee River Battlefield Park Culvert Replacement Project	\$125,000	Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation	\$125,000
9	Unit 3 Water Control Structure Enhancement	\$40,000	Hobe-St. Lucie Conservancy Water Control District	\$40,000
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,269,500</b>		<b>\$2,875,531</b>

# The Loxahatchee River and its Watershed



The Loxahatchee River is the southernmost tributary of the Indian River Lagoon and includes the Northwest Fork of the river, the first federally-designated Wild and Scenic River in Florida. The river's current watershed is 260 square miles of northeastern Palm Beach County and southern Martin County.

Past changes associated with agriculture, flood control and other urban land uses have impacted this river system. In response to the need for restoration, LRPI, a multiagency partnership, formed and has made great strides in restoring the river and its surrounding watershed.

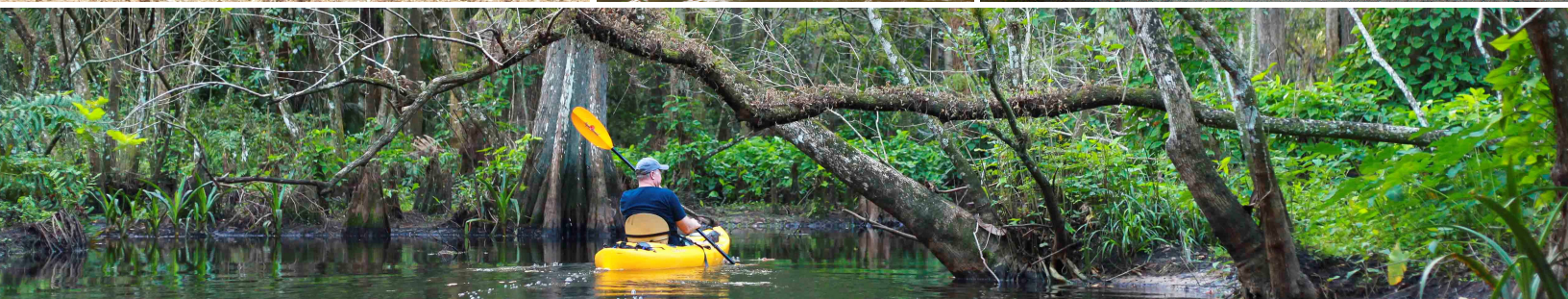
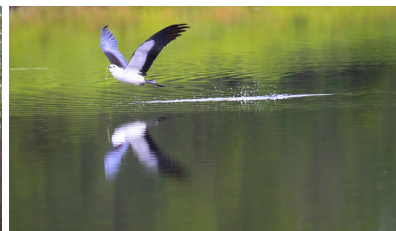
*The river is meeting minimum flow levels on a more consistent basis*

## Natural Area Restoration

With LRPI funding, 24,000 acres of habitat within the river's watershed have been restored. Funded projects have re-established water levels closer to the conditions that existed prior to when these areas were drained and altered in the past. The enhanced storage capacity for surface water enables the river to receive freshwater during the dry season, helping it meet the state-developed "minimum flows and levels" criteria.

Enhanced habitat and public-use infrastructure supported by LRPI funds also improve opportunities for recreational activities such as paddling, hiking, cycling and fishing.

**Below left:** Restoration of the Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area included the removal of nonnative melaleuca trees. **Below center top:** A swallow-tailed kite takes a drink of water. **Below center bottom:** An otter glides through the water at a natural area. **Below right:** A cyclist stops to take in the sunset at the Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area. **Below bottom:** Paddling the Wild & Scenic Loxahatchee River



## Septic-to-Sewer Conversions

Six LRPI-funded projects have converted septic systems to municipal wastewater systems and educated the public on proper septic tank maintenance. These projects have directly improved the river's water quality and have increased water supply by recycling wastewater. As a result of neighborhood septic-to-sewer conversions from 2012 through this year, about 48 million gallons of septic effluent is no longer entering the watershed.

**Left:** Construction of septic-to-sewer conversion project. **Center:** Fill is added around newly-installed sewer service infrastructure.

**Right:** A new neighborhood sewer service system is installed along a right-of-way. (Photos courtesy of the Loxahatchee River District)



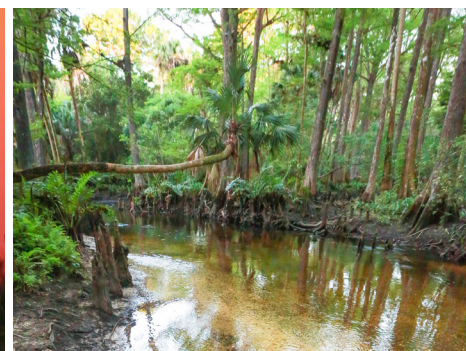
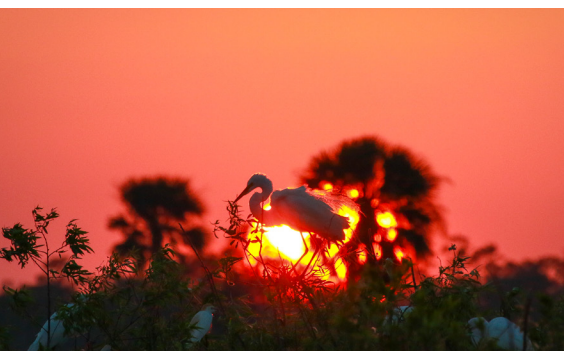
## Stormwater Outfall Retrofits

LRPI has funded 13 projects that have improved stormwater management infrastructure. These improvements took place in the urban environment and have resulted in greater treatment of stormwater prior to discharge into the river's sensitive habitats.

**Left:** A retrofitted stormwater outfall. (Photo courtesy of the town of Jupiter)

**Right:** A sandhill crane incubates her eggs.





*Though significant progress has been made, impairments in the watershed require attention*

## Present and Future

Over the past 20 years, significant progress has been made to improve conditions in the Loxahatchee River and its watershed. Restored natural areas allow nature to yield higher quality water down river year round. Septic-to-sewer efforts have produced substantial decreases in the amount of septic effluent that reaches the watershed, while stormwater retrofit projects in the urban estuary capture and treat run-off providing meaningful benefits.

While there are many areas of success, more work needs to be done. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's most recent assessment of the Loxahatchee River Watershed identified areas that are impaired. LRPI's opportunity is to address these impairments through our future work.

*This publication was prepared by the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management (September 2021). For questions, please contact: Department Director Deborah Drum, Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, Department of Environmental Resources Management, 2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33411-2743 | 561-233-2400.*



South Florida Water Management District | Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Florida Park Service) | Friends of the Loxahatchee River | Jupiter Inlet District | Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District | Martin County | Palm Beach County | South Indian River Water Control District | Town of Jupiter | Village of Tequesta | Public at Large

**LOXAHATCHEE RIVER PRESERVATION INITIATIVE | [www.LRPI.us](http://www.LRPI.us)**



## 2022 Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative Calendar

All Initiative Meetings are held 12 p.m. at  
 Jupiter Emergency Operations Center (EOC)  
 3133 Washington Street  
 Jupiter, FL 33458

<b>Monday, February 7, 2022</b>	Initiative Meeting FY22/23 voting member/officer selection
<b>Quarter ending March 31*</b>	Grant Quarterly Progress Reports for active grants due to the FDEP representative within 20 days of quarter end.
<b>Monday, April 11, 2022</b>	Initiative Meeting
<b>Monday, June 13, 2022</b>	Initiative Meeting Distribution of FY2023 Initiative Funding Request Applications
<b>Quarter ending June 30*</b>	Grant Quarterly Progress Reports for active grants due to the FDEP representative within 20 days of quarter end.
<b>Monday, July 11, 2022</b>	Initiative Meeting Confirm allocation of project funding
<b>Monday, August 1, 2022</b>	No Meeting - Initiative FY23 Funding Request Applications due
<b>Monday, August 8, 2022</b>	Initiative Meeting Presentation of FY23 Projects and committee ranking
<b>Quarter ending September 30*</b>	Grant Quarterly Progress Reports for active grants due to the FDEP representative within 20 days of quarter end.
<b>Monday, October 17, 2022</b>	Initiative Meeting
<b>Quarter ending December 31*</b>	Grant Quarterly Progress Reports for active grants due to the FDEP representative within 20 days of quarter end.

\*Dates established by FDEP and specified in grant agreements