



## Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative

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

### Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2022, 12:00 p.m.

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

Chair, Albrey Arrington, called the meeting to order.

#### **I. Attendance**

The following LRPI committee members attended the meeting.

- Albrey Arrington (Loxahatchee River District)
- Deb Drum (Palm Beach County)
- Don Donaldson (Martin County)
- Mike Dillon (SIRWCD)
- Pat Magrogan (PBC Landowner Representative)
- Jim Davis (Jupiter Inlet District)
- Chad Kennedy (FDEP)

An attendance list is included with these minutes.

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

Don Donaldson, Martin County, announced to the group this would be his final LRPI meeting as a voting representative due to his recent promotion. John Maehl will be the new representative for Martin County. Don also introduced the committee to James Kennedy, Martin County's new legislative aide.

Jenny Smith, South Florida Water Management District, was introduced to the group as Nestor Garrido's replacement.

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

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

##### **1. Review and approval of April 11, 2022 initiative meeting minutes**

Deb Drum made a motion to approve the April 11, 2022 meeting minutes and Don Donaldson seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous support.

## **B. New Business**

### **1. Distribution of FY2024 Initiative Funding Request Applications**

Following this meeting, Jenny Smith will distribute the application by email.

### **2. FY23 Legislative Request / House Appropriations Request Update**

Deb Drum provided an update on behalf of Ed Chase, announcing funding as follows:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>
Martin County Cypress Creek Floodplain Restoration Project (HB 2079)	VETOED
Jupiter Pennock Industrial Park Stormwater Improvements (HB 2077)	\$75,000
PB County Loxahatchee River Battlefield Park Culvert Replacement Project (HB 2281)	\$125,000
SIRWCD Canal C Realignment (HB 2279)	\$312,500
Hobe-St. Lucie Conservancy WCD Unit 3 Water Control Structure Enhancement (HB 3617)	\$40,000

On behalf of Ed, Deb brought a request to the committee to vote on allowing PBC to draft letters of appreciation and support to the legislatures who assisted with obtaining funding. Don Donaldson made a motion and Jim David seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous support. PBC will provide the letters to Albrey for his signature.

Don Donaldson requested a letter of support for Martin County's vetoed project if they are able to find an alternative grant program to potentially fund the project.

### **3. Accomplishments Spreadsheet YTD**

The committee discussed updating the past accomplishments spreadsheet to be a current representation of what the LRPI has accomplished since its inception and maintain the document going forward. Albrey asked Chad Kennedy, FDEP, to provide SFWMD with the latest spreadsheet they have record of.

### **4. Agency Update**

Deb Drum informed the committee about an item she is bringing before the Board of County Commissioners on June 21, 2022 (workshop) for a potential \$100M environmental water general obligation bond. The top five categories of funding are for stormwater improvements, septic-to-sewer conversions, environmentally sensitive lands (includes Palmar and submerged lands throughout the county), climate resilience, and the Loxahatchee River Watershed. PBC BCC will vote on whether or not to include this bond referendum on the November 8, 2022 ballot. If voted to include on the ballot, the referendum language is due to the Supervisor of Elections by August 5, 2022. At the same time, they will be discussing a referendum for a \$200M housing bond for Affordable and Workforce housing.

Jim Davis, Jupiter Inlet District, specified JID just finished dredging the Loxahatchee River main channel. The contractors took out about 9,000 cubic yards.

Don Donaldson, Martin County, commented on the progress of the Cypress Creek Berm, which is still underway but nearly complete.

Chad Kennedy, FDEP, advised that they just issued a Request for Proposals for a harmful algae bloom emergency response. The contract allows for other agencies to piggy-back in the event of such needs in the future.

Albrey Arrington, Loxahatchee River District, June there were 16 days of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) violations on the River, which were all salinity driven. There were days with flows as low as 3 cubic feet per second (cfs) over Lainhart Dam. Subsequent to rain fall flows are now at 200 cfs. Continued desire to focus on the operations procedures of how the District is managing flows over Lainhart is something that the committee may want to weigh in on. Dropping flows to 0 and then doing more than 30 cfs for a day or small number of days to avoid a technical violation while maintaining the salinity. From an ecological functional perspective, continuous low flows are better than no flows with one day of 36 cfs. System should be operated for the ecological function not to achieve a metric established.

## **5. Other Business – Committee member changes (Steve Weagle, Martin County, SFWMD)**

Steve Weagle, Martin County Landowner, can no longer attend meetings due to his availability and thus offered his resignation. The committee will need to consider the process of filling the open seat. It was noted that historically, Palm Beach County and Martin County look for someone who lives on or near the River to serve as the Landowner representative for the respective county. Pat Magrogan suggested Mary Lynn and will reach out to her to see if she is interested.

Discussion proceeded with requesting a committee membership list from SFWMD. Deb Drum suggested that going forward, each agenda delivery be accompanied by a membership list.

Deb Drum made a motion to delete the July 11, 2022 meeting from the schedule and Pat Magrogan seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous support.

Deb Drum asked the Board for their consideration to allow Deb Drum to have an alternate sit in her seat for the August 8, 2022 meeting. She will review applications and provide her rankings to that individual to allow PBC the ability to still have a vote on the proposed projects. Following discussion on this topic, the committee agreed to allow for Deb Drum to be present by way of phone or some other digital/virtual option.

Albrey Arrington asked SFWMD to obtain a copy of the Guidelines from Brittany George, Town of Jupiter, and distribute to the Committee for review ahead of the next meeting for further discussion.

*Adjourn*

**2022 Initiative Meeting Schedule**

June 13: Distribution of FY24 Initiative Funding Request Applications

~~July 11: Confirm allocation of project funding~~

August 01: FY24 Funding Request Applications due

August 08: Presentation of FY24 projects and committee ranking

October 17: General Meeting



LOXAHATCHEE RIVER  
PRESERVATION  
INITIATIVE

## SIGN-IN SHEET

June 13, 2022

### Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative

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

NAME	AGENCY	E-MAIL ADDRESS
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Deb DRUM	PBC ERM	ddrum@pbcgov.org
Don Donaldson	Martin County	ddonalds@martin.fl.us
Chad Kennedy	FDEP	William C. Kennedy @ Florida IDEP. Gov
Michael Dillon	SIRWCD	dillon@sirwcd.org
JAMES DAVIS	JID	JHD053050@gmail.com
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