



## Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative

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

### Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2023, 12:00 PM

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

Chair, Deb Drum, called the meeting to order at 12:10 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*  
Mike Dillon (SIRWCD) – *Present*  
Patricia Magrogan (PBC Landowner Representative) – *Present*  
Jim Davis (Jupiter Inlet District) – *Present*  
John Lakich (Jonathan Dickinson State Park, division of FDEP) – *Present (did not initial sign-in sheet but was present)*  
Chad Kennedy (FDEP) – *Absent*  
John Melson (Martin County Landowner Representative) – *Present*  
Seat Open – (SFWMD)

An attendance list is included with these minutes.

### 2. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

### 3. Old Business

#### **A. Review and approval of April 10, 2023, meeting minutes**

John Maehl made a motion to approve the April 10, 2023 meeting minutes and Marjorie Craig seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous support.

### 4. New Business

#### **A. Distribution of Fiscal Year 2025 Initiative Funding Request Applications**

The process for this year's LRPI FY25 initiative funding request applications was discussed as follows:

- Jenny Smith will distribute the application by email

- July 31<sup>st</sup> – Applications due – if questions, call Jenny or Deb
- August 7<sup>th</sup> – LRPI meeting – presentations and ranking of committee
- Applications must show reasonable assurance that water quality can be improved as a part of the project
- Application and ranking process:
  - Committee will receive applications on July 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Review prior to August 7<sup>th</sup> and conduct preliminary ranking based on criteria
  - Presentations conducted at August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - Discussion
  - Individually rank
  - Jenny (SFWMD) reviews and provides final ranking of projects

## **B. Fiscal Year 2024 Legislative Request/ House Appropriations Request Update**

Ed Chase from Palm Beach County shared with the LRPI the difficulty in getting LRPI funding this year – not a smooth and easy process; we will know if they will be funded by July 30. Initially, all separate bills in the House and the joint one in the Senate were funded. However, as time progressed, they did not make it back into funding until the very end. This is thanks to successful discussions about the benefits of the projects by our lobbying team. Budget has yet to be presented to the Governor's office. Projects are under \$1 million.

NOTE: if your project did not get funded this year, brush off the application, update it and submit it for this year

## **C. Accomplishments Spreadsheet**

Jenny (SFWMD) was out today and she maintains this spreadsheet. This list is a running list of the projects that have moved through the LRPI through the years for a total of \$50-\$55M. List was originally maintained by SFWMD, then FDEP and has been difficult to locate the most accurate up-to-date version. Board agreed there is a benefit to having an accurate accounting of accomplishments. It is particularly helpful when meeting with the legislature to show that the LRPI takes action and has made improvements to the water quality on the Loxahatchee and uses grant money wisely.

Deb will work with Jenny to get the most up-to-date version for our files. It will also be a good time to review it as we have many new members.

## **D. Agency Update**

- **Johnathan Dickinson State Park – division of FDEP – Michael Yustin**
  - Culpepper – contract was supposed to be only one year, now two years; gates are installed and operational and has improved the upstream habitat; the berm is assumed addressed in the CERP work; all work completed, doing touch up work; fix access road.

- Cypress Creek Flood Plain - funded through coastal resiliency grants and another grant (not LRPI); completed modeling; reviewing conceptual design; will be giving an update at the LRMCC meeting on why the conceptual design was chosen and give the committee a chance to ask questions; next step regulatory agencies and easements; project starting to move more quickly; old Tomasello model acquired by Tetra Tech; staff gages were installed 2015?: well monitoring stations 2020?: maintenance not complete; as CERP comes along, SFWMD may put in more robust system but right now Martin County is switching of every other month with monitoring with SFWMD and they have a period of record of 8 years; no vegetation monitoring, just anecdotal, on Culpeper Ranch, showed increase in water, whole southern edge was blocked off
  - June 26<sup>th</sup> at LRD LRMCC Meeting – presentation
- **PBC Landowner Representative – Pat Magrogan**
  - Trip with Jupiter Inlet District – haven't seen it for a while, Loxahatchee River District board attended, great trip for legislative folks to get them interested, highly recommend
- **Town of Jupiter – Amanda Barnes**
  - Jones Creek – vegetative work to be done; preconstruction meeting next week, requested a schedule; doesn't plan on hard start until October with real work in January. The ad valorem assessment delayed so they will do the water quality and vegetative assessment and get a baseline and start long term monitoring but do not expect immediate improvement – this is a long-term project.
- **Village of Tequesta – Marjorie Craig**
  - Dover Ditch – Village has issued a work authorization for the filial design and permitting for Dover Ditch in anticipation of the grant authorization since it is expected that the CORPs permit will take 6-9 months and could take up to a year. If the grant is not approved, we can take appropriate action.
  - Melanie Garo, the Village's engineering intern, was introduced to the LRPI
- **Jupiter Inlet District – Jim Davis**
  - Finished dredging of 108 cubic yards and placed sand on the south side of the inlet
  - On Delaware started the demolition of derelict buildings
  - Working with FIND piggybacking with contract, they reached out to use when mobilizing and mentioned the shoaling and we piggybacked on the worst areas – this was nice cooperation. The CORPS plans on doing their cuts next calendar year and they will do dredging
- **SIRWCD – Mike Dillon**
  - Canal C – final stages of expansion according to the engineer

- Next board meeting – engineer will be asked to look at drainage plan for country estates – hopefully qualify for LRPI funding (possibly resiliency funding, per Deb Case) (Section 7 complete)
- July 1 – applications open for resiliency funding (some discussion was had by the group on various grants for resiliency funding they have been awarded or have applied for)
- **LRD – Albrey Arrington**
  - No ongoing projects in LRPI
  - Rolling Hills is last septic to sewer project phase
  - Big picture – in 2018 had solar assessment – LRD has annual \$1M electric bill – at that time, payback did not make sense for solar. After greenhouse gas assessment, reevaluate solar and if board approves, may pilot based on Hazen and Sawyer study showing 13 year payback with panels lasting 20-25 years with enough to meet the capacity of the systems
  - Solar array would be in one reuse pond and possibly another lake if board approves, we'll install, and it will reduce greenhouse gases – array will float on the lakes; may have enough for credits for another entity
  - Conducting strategic planning with board members
  - If you have any opinions about LRD environmental education efforts please let Albrey know – if you don't have the outreach resources, LRD may be able to help
- **Martin County Land Owner - Riverbend Golf Club – John Melson**
  - River looks beautiful
  - Discussion with group about how plantings and how lush and green the river looks
- **Martin County – John Maehl**
  - County Line Road Bridge – grant made it into the sprinkle budget ; congressman Mast has submitted it into the federal budget; all driven by funding,; will NOT start October 1<sup>st</sup>, hopefully will not be starting until the other bridge on US 1 is complete
- **Palm Beach County – Deb Drum**
  - Pop up event – wild flower wanderings – celebrating national pollination week
  - BoCC actively acquiring environmentally sensitive lands, 3 more tomorrow, 3 last week, slowly moving the needle, willing sellers, still money that the board set aside
  - Aug 19<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – Night for Twisted Trunk – conservation – raised \$26k for outreach of natural areas
  - Discussion about bird count numbers higher - watershed prescribed burn, Loxahatchee Slough, higher numbers than last year, good number of snail kites (over 90) swallow tail kites pre-migration, Riverbend or Bluegill Trail can watch them fly in about sunset about 7:30 to (30 PM, over 70 thanks to funding over the last 20 years – this has made a difference!

## **E. Other Business**

- After discussion, the July 10, 2023, LRPI meeting was canceled
- Park Service – LRPI has been missing John the previous representative, and will reach out; will he consider attending or sending a representative?
- GL Homes (Albrey) – applications received, going through process, will come back in October – there are a lot of moving parts, going through them
- Discussion about the Jupiter Lighthouse Museum – Dick Roberts suggested to follow the National Park Service Plan – use one of their sites – ask the international group to come in and do an interpretative analysis for each site

## **5. Public Comment**

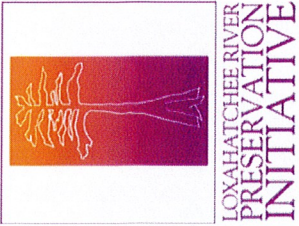
A. None

## **6. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:13 PM

### **Remaining 2023 Initiative Meeting Schedule:**

- August 7: Presentation of FY24 projects and committee ranking
- October 16: General Meeting



## SIGN-IN SHEET

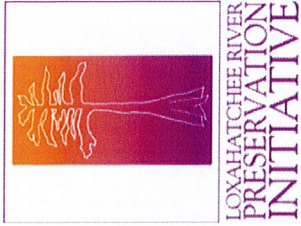
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Town of Jupiter Utility Field Office  
3133 Washington Street, Jupiter, FL 33458

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Deb Drum (Chair)	Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management	<a href="mailto:ddrum@pbcgov.org">ddrum@pbcgov.org</a>
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Marjorie Craig (Secretary)	Village of Tequesta	<a href="mailto:mcraig@tequesta.org">mcraig@tequesta.org</a>
Albrey Arrington	Loxahatchee River District	<a href="mailto:albrey@lrecd.org">albrey@lrecd.org</a>
Amanda Barnes	Town of Jupiter	<a href="mailto:amandab@jupiter.fl.us">amandab@jupiter.fl.us</a>
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Patricia Magrogan	PBC Landowner Representative	<a href="mailto:pmmagrogan@gmail.com">pmmagrogan@gmail.com</a> ✓
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John Melson	Martin County Landowner Representative	<a href="mailto:jimelson57@gmail.com">jimelson57@gmail.com</a>
	SFWMD	





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