



Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative

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Meeting Minutes- Final /Adopted

February 3, 2025, 12:00 p.m.

Town of Jupiter Utilities Field Office

3133 Washington Street

Jupiter, FL 33458

Chair Deb Drum called the meeting to order at 12:05 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

Bud Howard (Loxahatchee River District-alternate) – Present

Amanda Barnes (Town of Jupiter) – Present

Chad Kennedy (IRWCD) – Present

Patricia Magrogan (PBC Landowner Representative) – Absent

Jim Davis (Jupiter Inlet District) – Present

Scott Duncan (Jonathan Dickinson State Park, division of FDEP) – Absent

John Melson (Martin County Landowner Representative) – Present

VACANT (FDEP) – Position has been posted

Sara Ouly (SFWMD) - Present

Welcome!

- **Sarah Ouly, South Florida Water Management District, new board member appointed by the SFWMD, replacing Jenny Smith**
- **Jenny Cadet, SFWMD, in a support role to the LRPI**

2. Moment of Silence in Memory of Patricia “Pat” Walker and her significant contributions to the Loxahatchee River

- **Chair Drum noted how Pat Walker was an early “warrior” on behalf of the Loxahatchee River, starting during her tenure with the South Florida Water Management District**
- **A moment of silence was observed in honor of Ms. Walker’s contributions to the Loxahatchee River**

3. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

4. Old Business

A. Review and approval of IRPI meeting minutes for July 8, 2024

- i. Motion to approve by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Melson
- ii. Draft minutes unanimously approved

5. New Business

A. 2025 Voting Member and Selection of Officers

- i. Mr. Melson moved to keep the existing slate of officers
- ii. Mr. Davis seconded the motion
- iii. Motion passed unanimously

B. Verification of IRPI Member Roster (names and contact info)

- i. Sara was nominated from her organization so added to member list (no vote required)
- ii. Members asked to review the member list and contact information and advise of any changes/ corrections

C. Adoption of 2025 Meeting Schedule

- i. **Proposed dates:** (please note that an appointment will not be sent, everyone needs to put the meetings on their schedule)
 - **April 7, 2025**
 - **June 9, 2025 (Distribution of FY27 Initiative Funding Request Applications)** – the applications will be due at the end of June or early July
 - **July 7, 2025 (Confirm legislative appropriations project funding)** – the meeting may be cancelled but we will be notified two weeks prior
 - **August 4, 2025 (Presentation of FY27 and committee ranking)** – important that all committee members are present for the meeting for committee project ranking
 - **October 20, 2025**

D. FY26 Legislative Requests – distribute briefing documents

- The IRPI legislative initiative will be sent out digitally and can be used in Tallahassee during the legislative session
- On legislative requests document for FY25, “Friends of the Loxahatchee” is listed on the back and Mr. Howard noted that that organization was dissolved a number of years ago; we will remove it next year

E. Legislative Update/ Outlook Ed Chase, Palm Beach County (PBC)

- i. February 14th - deadline for legislative requests
- ii. PBC will introduce all three projects as part of a joint request

- iii. March 4-5 – Palm Beach County Days in Tallahassee – if any of our committee members are going to that, it would be helpful to have commissioners/ councilors/ staff, etc drop off one of the LRPI legislative request brochures to the elected legislators or staff; the more hits, the better**
- **Process – discussed, PBC will bring forward with Martin County’s help**
 - **Discussed the importance of the LRPI collective as an initiative – we are informed, engaged, and experienced stakeholders that know the challenges of the Loxahatchee River more than most; well-seated to know the impact the projects will have on the river and that’s why we exist as an initiative**
 - **Distributing the form is important**
 - **In the past – if a project helped achieve a higher level of water quality criteria, it was ranked higher (reasonable assurance) – not now (?), changed**
 - **June meeting – encouraged committee members to give an update on projects that have been funded with the support of the LRPI; great opportunity to highlight the projects**
 - **July – may not have a meeting**
 - **August – when the projects are sent out for review, please review them and come to the meeting prepared, having reviewed the proposals for the vote and discussion**
 - **Mr. Maehl – discussed the importance of FDEP and their standing with the legislature; suggested we draft a letter to FDEP in support of the projects that requesters can add to their package**
 - **Ms. Craig made a motion, seconded by Mr. Melson, asking the chair and vice-chair of the committee to draft a project support letter to FDEP: who we are, why we exist, name of project and project, and why we are endorsing it**
 - **Draft letter to be submitted to the committee at the April meeting**
 - **Once a project is ranked, each entity has the responsibility to take it from there; as a whole, PBC will bring it forward, each government must fill out the form to make sure it gets filed on time, and get a legislator sponsor**
 - **Mr. Maehl reminded us that each legislator might have their own timelines/ deadlines**
 - **Have to have a bill in the House and in the Senate; at the end it gets reconciled**
 - **Ms. Drum will send out the House form, it is also available online; the Senate form we don’t have to worry about, PBC will take it forward as one initiative (note: this changed a year or two ago)**
 - **Please provide a copy of your House form to Ed Chase so PBC has all of the requests; they will also be available live on the website when submitte**

6. Other Business/ Member Announcements

- A.** Mr. Melson is a rear admiral of the commodore at the North Passage Yacht Club; comprised of about 60 residents that live on the Loxahatchee River; great chance to get in front of the community; meet about once a month; his number is 317.513.7100
- B.** Ms. Barnes – because of the presentation at the August LRPI by SFWMD (Kathy LaMartina) about the grant money available from money collected through the license plate program, the Town applied for funding and was awarded a grant
- C.** Mr. Maehl – has reviewed the draft state budget and provided some observations to the committee
- D.** Mr. Kennedy – IRWCD continues to conduct the survey for Jupiter Farms, the headwaters of the Loxahatchee River; trying to populate the GIS coverages to help determine if they can do something to extend the hydroperiods for the Loxahatchee River, try to help MFL and possibly water quality instead of direct discharge to the river; using LIDAR, too
- E.** Ms. Drum – asked Mr. Kennedy to give a presentation on the work IRWCD is doing at the April meeting
- F.** Ms. Craig said she would give a presentation on the Dover Ditch project, supported by the LRPI during the FY23 legislative session, at the April LRPI meeting
- G.** Ms. Drum
 - Palm Beach County Natural Systems Festival – February 15th from 2-7 PM; food trucks, trails, sign up for kayaking, booths; located at Winding Waters natural area at Belvedere and Haverhill
- H.** Ms. Barnes – Jupiter Jubilee – 100 years – Sunday is the 100th anniversary of the Town of Jupiter – booths; food trucks; Natural Resources Department has done an in-depth study of Jupiter and the river
- I.** Ms. Drum
 - Draft agenda for April LRPI Meeting
 - § Draft letter to FDEP from LRPI
 - § Presentation by IRWCD – survey/ GIS work
 - § Presentation by Tequesta – Dover Ditch
 - June LRPI Meeting – JID - River mile six closure and restoration project presentation

7. Public Comment

- No public comment

8. Adjourn

- Mr. Kennedy moved adjournment
- Mr. Melson seconded the motion
- The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 12:58PM.

Next 2025 IRP Initiative Meeting:

- April 7th : General Meeting