



## **Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative**

### **Meeting Minutes:**

**February 2, 2026, 12:00 p.m.**

**NOTE ALTERNATIVE LOCATION: Jupiter Community Center**  
**Meeting Room #165C**  
**200 Military Trail, Jupiter, FL 33458**

- 1. Meeting called to order by Deb Drum at 12:02 p.m.**
- 2. Attendance (by sign-in sheet) (Attachment A)**
- 3. Review/adoption of agenda**
  - A. Motioned: Patricia Magrogan, Landowner Rep, PBC
  - B. Seconded: Chad Kennedy, South Indian River Water Control District
  - C. Passed unanimously
- 4. LRPI Membership Changes**
  - A. Scott Duncan, Jonathan Dickinson State Park, FDEP, is no longer a member of LRPI. Libby Reinert is the new representative from Jonathan Dickinson State Park, FDEP, but is only a representative temporarily until a permanent member has been selected. Libby Reinert is not in attendance.
- 5. FYI: No meeting minutes for October 20, 2025 Meeting due to technical difficulties**
- 6. Old & New Business**
  - A. Old Business
    - 1) Distribute 2026 LRPI Calendar with key dates included (handout)
      - i. Amanda Barnes, Town of Jupiter, noted that the handout included the incorrect address. The address noted is the temporary address but should be the permanent meeting location.
    - 2) Sign in sheet passed around for verification of LRPI Member Roster (names and contact info)
  - B. New Business
    - 1) 2026 Voting Member and Selection of Officers
      - i. LRPI Chair: John Maehl, Martin County, Ecosystem Restoration Division
        - a. Nominated by Deb Drum, Palm Beach County, Environmental Resources Management
        - b. Motioned: Albrey Arrington, Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District
        - c. Seconded: Chad Kennedy, South Indian River Water Control District
        - d. Passed Unanimously

- ii. LRPI Vice Chair: Amanda Barnes, Town of Jupiter Utilities
  - a. Nominated by Deb Drum, Palm Beach County, Environmental Resources Management
  - b. Motioned: Pat Magrogan, Landowner Rep, PBC
  - c. Seconded: Chad Kennedy, South Indian River Water Control District
  - d. Passed Unanimously
- iii. LRPI Secretary: Allyson Felsburg, Village of Tequesta Utilities
  - a. Nominated by Deb Drum, Palm Beach County, Environmental Resources Management
  - b. Motioned: Albrey Arrington, Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District
  - c. Seconded: Jim Davis, Jupiter Inlet District
  - d. Passed Unanimously
- 2) Legislative Update Prepared by Alessandro Marchesani, Director of Legislative Affairs, PBC, presented by Deb Drum (Attachment B)
  - i. Chad Kennedy, SIRWCD thanked Palm Beach County and Deb for shepherding these projects. Pat Magrogan agreed with Chad's words of support.
- 3) FDEP: Division of Water Restoration Assistance Funding, (Nathan Jagoda, Program Administrator, Springs and Watershed Restoration Program, FDEP Division of Water Resource Assistance). **Summary:** This presentation will offer a comprehensive overview of the funding opportunities provided by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Water Restoration Assistance. The grant programs that will be covered include Springs Restoration, Water Quality Improvement, Nonpoint Source Management, Alternative Water Supply, and the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program. The presentation will cover project eligibility and funding considerations.
  - i. Presentation provided as Attachment C
  - ii. Questions:
    - a. Jon Moore requested clarification for the finite funding for Indian River and Biscayne Bay, and whether the funding would be opened up this year or next. Answer from Nathan Jagoda: FY26/27 is when they expect it to be opened up, specifically July 1st. Deb stated Palm Beach County has been in Tallahassee to support funding for Lake Worth lagoon and Lox river.
    - b. Chad Kennedy, SIRWCD asked about resilience studies and climate change and sea level rise specific funding and what program is responsible for overseeing that funding. Answer from Nathan Jagoda: RCP, Resiliency and coastal Protection. Contact is Eddy Bouza.
    - c. Chad Kennedy, SIRWCD asked if the above referenced grants would be submitted through the same grant portal as the grants referenced in the presentation. Answer from Nathan Jagoda: yes but reach out and ask questions to the program contacts. Nathan will provide Jon Moore with contact
    - d. Deb Drum, Palm Beach County, Environmental Resources Management asked about an algae technology grant program/innovative technology program. Answer from Nathan Jagoda: that is not in DWRA. Ed Smith would be the contact that you should reach out to. Deb stated innovative tech is typically proprietary info and FDEP is hesitant, or rejects, contracting with them directly. Government procurement laws prevent sole source when info is not shared. Deb would love

DEP to find a way to support new tech and companies specific to algae control. Most municipalities have been pushing these projects through universities but local governments can't do that. John Mahel seconds Debs' opinion. Nathan stated DEP is barred from funding private entities. John stated it would have to be a legislative fix.

- 4) Town of Jupiter: Pennock Industrial Park; Bush Road Water Quality Improvements; Daniels Way (Steven Montemayor, Senior Engineer)
  - i. Daniels Way was not included in presentation
  - ii. Questions:
    - a. Chad Kennedy, SIRWCD asked about Penn Park and why the grant funding was so much lower compared to total cost. Answer from Amanda Barnes: LRPI is specific to water quality improvement and request was before design and so total cost was not fully realized and funding requested had to tie directly to water quality improvement.
    - b. Deb Drum, Palm Beach County, Environmental Resources Management asked who the Contractor was. Answer from Amanda Barnes: Johnson Davis. Competitive low bid.
    - c. Deb Drum, Palm Beach County, Environmental Resources Management stated it was a great presentation and shows how stormwater improvements and infrastructure can be difficult in highly urbanized areas. The Town of Jupiter has been consistent with requesting funding and completing projects.

## **7. Other Business / Member Announcements**

### **A. Agenda Topics for Next Meeting:**

- 1) Village of Tequesta: Dover Ditch Update
- 2) Palm Beach County: Loxahatchee headwaters habitat restoration work
- 3) Jon Maehl stated that West Gregory, FDACS, can provide information on their regional water quality grant program possibilities in April or June

### **B. Member Comments/Updates**

- 1) Chad Kennedy, South Indian River Water Control District - Survey work was put out to bid, and surveyor was selected (Section 13 Jupiter Farms)
- 2) Chad Kennedy, South Indian River Water Control District - South Indian River Water Control District has a 1984 maintenance agreement with FDOT for the Turnpike. Work is currently underway to dredge the east side of the turnpike. The purpose of dredging is specifically conveyance maintenance but there is confidence that there will be water quality benefits. This canal discharges at the spillway downstream of S46.
- 3) Albrey Arrington, Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District stated that on 2/9/26 at 2pm there is an LRMCC Meeting at the River Center.
- 4) Jim Davis, Jupiter Inlet District stated that Jupiter Inlet District is currently dredging the inlet, they have removed about 100,000 CY of sand and work will be completed in the next 7-10 days. Sand has been moved to the south shore.

- 5) John Maehl, Martin County, Ecosystem Restoration Division stated that the Martin County Forever program will be acquiring three Properties in Cypress Creek. Two of the three properties are very close to agreements. Four other properties are located in the Kitching Creek basin and are working towards agreements.
- 6) Amanda Barnes, Town of Jupiter stated that the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, meeting may need to be relocated due to construction and carpet cleaning. Jim Davis, Jupiter Inlet District stated that the meeting can be held at Jupiter Inlet District facility 400 N Delaware Blvd. Jupiter FL

**8. Public Comment**

- A. No public comment

**9. Adjournment 1:21 p.m.**

- A. Motioned: Patricia Magrogan, Landowner Rep, PBC
- B. Seconded: Chad Kennedy, South Indian River Water Control District
- C. Passed unanimously

Next Meeting: April 13, 2026, at 12 p.m.