



LOXAHATCHEE RIVER MANAGEMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL  
MEETING

Monday, June 26, 2017 2:00 pm

**The River Center**  
805 N. US Highway 1  
Jupiter, FL 33477

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

Tom Howard called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

**II. Roll Call**

Albrey Arrington, Loxahatchee River District  
Pete Dewitt, US Dept of Interior  
Michael Dillon, South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD)  
Deborah Drum, Martin County  
Ingar Hansen, Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Tom Howard, Jupiter Inlet District  
Harold Jenkins, Martin County  
Ivette Leiva, Florida Department of Transportation  
Pat Magrogan, Gulfstream Council  
Jonathan Ricketts, Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District  
Gary Ritter, Florida Farm Bureau  
Dick Roberts, Martin County Conservation Alliance  
Jim Schuette, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)  
Hal Valeche, Palm Beach County  
Herb Zebuth, Florida Native Plant Society

**III. Approval of Minutes from the March 27, 2017 meeting**

Suggested changes to the minutes are as follows:

On Page 2, under V. Project Updates, paragraph 2 and 3 need to be amended as shown below.

- *Dick and Albrey asked, when widening from 90 to 125 ft., will there be any dredging associated with that. By dredging that channel and making it deeper, will that lead to additional salt water intrusion? This is a technical question that the ~~committee~~ Council has been concerned about.*
- *Consultant will get more data on the salt water intrusion issue and get back to the ~~committee~~ Council within 30 days.*

On Page 3, item B, the paragraph needs to be amended as shown below.

- *Lucine Dadrian provided an update on the Lainhart and Masten Dam refurbishment project. ~~Lainhart and Masten Dam was designated as the National Wild and Scenic River back in 1985.~~ Lainhart Dam functions as the stage and flow monitoring location for the Minimum Flow and Level rule (MFL) from back in 2003. As the dam deteriorates, there will be a loss of flow around the dams so the numbers will not always be accurate. This construction project should fix that issue and help get some better MFL numbers. Lucine shared about the existing issues with the dams. The project was awarded in February of this year and all permits have been received from DEP and the Corps. Project duration is approximately 500 days. The Project completion date is scheduled for July 2018. The construction cost is \$2.5 million. The District is coordinating with Riverbend Park on the necessary measures to minimize impacts to the park. The District has put up signage in the area to inform everyone about construction activity.*
- Lucine shared about the other existing issues with the dams.
- Lucine said the plantings should already be specified in the plans and specs species.

Minutes were approved with these corrections.

#### IV. Public Comment

#### V. Project Updates

##### A. Lainhart and Masten Dam Refurbishment Project update – Lucine Dadrian (15 min)

Lucine provided a construction update on the Lainhart and Masten Dam Project and shared some pictures of work that has been done. She thanked Dick Roberts for his help in working with Patti Gorman and the contractor to pick the plantings to get the right ones in place.

Dick Roberts asked Lucine what the decision was on the braided channel. She said she had the contractor place log and rip rap on the secondary channel to try to disperse the water. She believes that it is now working well.

Lucine shared that the construction on Lainhart is expected to start in July. The public will not be able to use the dam during this period; however, the contractor will be setting up a temporary portage that will be added on the east side of Lainhart for public access. The contractor is doing very well in working with the public in helping everyone during the construction.

Inger Hansen (FDEP) commented that she was very happy with how clean the construction area was and how well organized the construction process has been. That the project looked great, when she observed the site during a weekend trip.

##### B. George MacNeil Bequest for Pavillion at Jonathan Dickinson State Park—Mark Nelson (15 min)

Mark shared about a new facility that will be installed at the Park and some other projects the Park has been working on for the last few years as they were able to get some funding for these projects through some generous donations from the George MacNeil fund through Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Mark shared that the Park has identified the need early on for an outdoor

educational facility for kids, to get them out to experience nature and the outdoors. Mark presented some pictures of the proposed facility and map of the location. The proposed location is within 300 feet of the river buffer. Mark brought this before the Council to get feedback and approval to be able to build this facility within that 300-ft buffer. In addition to the need of the outdoor educational facility, there are existing dirt remnants which would need to be removed and some trail and boardwalk improvements that need to be made.

Deb Drum said that the pavilion for education is consistent with some of the Martin County projects that are moving forward now. The outdoor educational platform is something they've been working on in coordination with the Martin County Environmental Studies Center, and they have found that there is a need/demand for this type of facility.

### **Public Comment**

Dave Nickerson thanked all members for serving on this Council. He shared that this outdoor classroom has been on the plan for a long time. He serves on the Friends board of directors and they are 100 percent behind this program and have been trying to raise funds to build it. This gives an opportunity for all the learners at the Park to see the river and be on the river, while they're learning. He was asking for the Council's support in building this facility.

### **Motions made**

Tom Howard entertained a motion that the Coordinating Council support the outdoor educational facility project as presented for the following reasons: that the purpose is primarily and exclusively educational for public education. It will have minimal impact to the environment and is consistent with the unit plan for the Park and would be made of native American construction.

Motion approved.

Albrey subsequently made a motion that the Coordinating Council conceptually support the Park's proposed interpretative trail improvements (boardwalk) and the environmental restoration (fill/overburden removal).

Motion approved.

### **C. Update Reasonable Assurance Plan (15 min)**

Tom Howard shared that at the last Council meeting, there was discussion about putting together a sub technical group for the Reasonable Assurance Plan. During that meeting, DEP shared that due to their schedules, they were not going to be able to spend a lot of time between the last meeting and this meeting with our technical group to try to work out the analysis. That's why there will not be a technical discussion during this Council meeting. We may need to call a special meeting and not wait until the next LRMCC meeting in September to discuss the Reasonable Assurance Plan.

Albrey asked that if there are projects that have been completed from 2008 to date or are on the books for the near future, now is the time to get a summary of those projects to Julie Espy at [julie.espy@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:julie.espy@dep.state.fl.us) and/or Cathy Foerster at [cfoerster@wildwoodconsulting.net](mailto:cfoerster@wildwoodconsulting.net). He said we are trying to create a list and now is the time to make sure we get these projects on the list. Albrey shared a copy of the list with the Council.

Tom Howard shared that everyone should have received a copy of the list the Friday before this meeting. He asked everyone to please review the list and see if there are any changes that need to be made or if your agency needs to add anything to the list.

Deb Drum agreed with what Albrey shared. She said that Martin County needs to take another look at the list to make sure the oyster restoration project is on it. She doesn't think it was initially included so they need to potentially look at it as an addition to the list. She said that for the record, from the beginning of this process, she never agreed to the 2008 cut-off date and that we should be looking at a larger scope because she thought the number was arbitrarily determined. The other BMAP timeframe has been extended to allow credit for projects completed and that's very important for Martin County. She wanted to state for the record that they would not accept 2008 as a final decision without having more discussion with DEP and others.

Tom Howard asked Albrey what the next step would be.

Albrey said the next step is that Julie and/or Cathy will give the Council an idea of when they will be prepared to meet. It should be within the next 60 days.

D. Assessment of Implementation of 2010 LRMCC Plan Objectives – Tom Howard  
(10 min)

**VI. Watershed Status Updates**

A. Loxahatchee River Dashboard Overview, Albrey Arrington, LRD (5 min)

Albrey provided an update on the Loxahatchee River Dashboard. The Dashboard can be found at [www.loxahatcheeriver.org](http://www.loxahatcheeriver.org) under river keeper. He said we had very low rainfall in November. Normal rainfall in December, January and February and very low rainfall in March. High rainfall in April and low flows in the River. Minimum flows are all the way down to 6 and 8 cfs. He said that this is dramatically low. Albrey suggested that if anyone goes out on the River in the upstream portion to look for juvenile cypress trees. Watch for them as there are a lot more juvenile cypress trees lately from Boy Scout Dock all the way up to Trappers.

B. Water Quality, Bud Howard, LRD (5 min)

Bud Howard was not present for an update.

**VII. Member Issues** (brief, verbal status update)

- A. Land Management – discuss getting land managers together
- B. Motor Boat Ordinance – follow-up from last month
- C. Flood Control
- D. Environmental Issues
- E. Recreation Opportunities
- F. Permits

Received \$335,000 for Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative in the state of Florida for two projects.

Tom Howard shared that the Jupiter Inlet District is one of the benefactors of LRPI funds on the Moonshine Creek oxbow restoration. The Jupiter Inlet District has been told that the Corps of Engineers sees nothing to cause it to be rejected at this point. They anticipate having the permit

within the next few weeks. Tom wanted to thank the Council for having supported this project in the past.

Ivette Leiva updated everyone on the replacement of the Jupiter US 1 bridge. A question was asked at the last Council meeting regarding salinity impacts to the Loxahatchee River. The consultants reviewed the hydrology and confirmed there is no impact to the flow or velocity and no dredging involved in this project; therefore, there are no impacts to salinity.

Tom Howard asked that Ivette confirm with the consultants/engineer that there will be no dredging and get back to the Council at the next meeting.

Albrey and Tom suggested a letter from FDOT be sent to Tom Howard and the Loxahatchee River Coordinating Council that will answer the following question. Will FDOT's project include any increase in the cross-sectional area of the waterway along with the confirmation regarding the dredging.

Kathy LaMartina received a call from a contractor working on the Florida Turnpike. They will be widening the bridge across the river so they would like to come to the September meeting and give a presentation about the project.

Pat Walker received a summary from Palm Beach County regarding extended improvements to River Bend Park and asked if the Council has received any communications regarding those improvements. She asked if the Council would have a representative come in and give an update on these improvements. Kathy suggested the Council have their January field trip at Riverbend Park.

Dick Roberts shared that their recent publication on the Tropical Hammocks of Florida was generated by the need to research the hydrological requirements for the hardwood hammocks within the Loxahatchee River floodplain, but they first had to add the Tropical Hammock designation to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. That required 3 years of research.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2017

## **VIII. Adjourn**