LOXAHATCHEE RIVER MANAGEMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL

Monday, February 9, 2026, at 2:00 pm

The River Center

805 N. US Highway 1

Jupiter, FL 33477

Next meeting: Monday, March 30, 2026

I. Call to Order

Meeting gaveled in at 2:00 pm by Chairman Ricketts. Dr. Armstrong announced that Ms. West had taken on a new role at SFWMD and would no longer be assisting the Council. SFWMD will work to find a replacement.

II. Roll Call

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	
Andrew Eastwick	Absent
Florida Dept. of Env. Protection	
Jon Moore	Present
Florida Dept. of Transportation	
Ann Broadwell	Present
US Department of Interior - Department of Land Bureau	
Peter DeWitt (Alternate)	Absent
Florida Fish & Wildlife Cons. Comm.	
Tom Reinert	Present
Florida Dept. of Ag. & Consumer Services	
Brynne Talas	Absent
South Florida Water Mgt. Dist.	
Cassondra Armstrong	Present

Treasure Coast Reg. Planning Council	
Thomas Lanahan	Present
Martin County	
Michael Yustin (Alternate)	Present
Town of Jupiter	
Ron Delaney	Present
Village of Tequesta	
Allyson Burg	Present
Palm Beach County	
Deborah Drum (Alternate)	Present
Jupiter Inlet District	
Tom Howard	Present
Loxahatchee River Env. Control Dist.	
Albrey Arrington	Present
South Indian River Water Control Dist.	
Chad Kennedy	Present
Northern Palm Beach Co. Improvement Dist.	
Jonathan Ricketts	Present
Florida Farm Bureau	
Jake Fojtik	Absent
City of Palm Beach Gardens	
John Kemp	Absent
Local River User Group - Palm Beach Pack & Paddle Club	
Inke Sunila	Present
Palm Beach County Env. & Conservation Groups	
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Martin County Env. & Conservation Groups	
Greg Braun (Alternate)	Present
Landowner Representative	
Pat Magrogan	Present

III. Approval of Minutes for the September 29th, 2025, meeting

Mr. Ricketts requested approval of the minutes of the September 29 meeting. Mr. Moore requested a clarification be added to one comment. Dr. Arrington moved to adopt as amended; Mr. Lanahan seconded. Motion approved.

IV. Election of Officers

Slate:

A. Chair – Mr. Jonathan Ricketts – nominee
B. Vice Chair – Mr. Richard "Dick" Roberts – nominee
C. Secretary – Dr. Thomas Reinert – nominee

Mr. Ricketts asked if there were any floor nominations to be added to the slate. Having none, a vote on the slate as previously approved was put forth. The slate of officers for 2026 was adopted.

V. Public Comment

Ms. D.D. Halpern asked if the LRMCC meeting agendas were posted online and where, and further asked that the meeting announcements and materials be more available to the public.

VI. Project Updates

A. Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) – Cassondra Armstrong, SFWMD
Dr. Armstrong provided a handout explaining the basics of MFLs, with specific details on the current Loxahatchee MFL. Dr. Armstrong noted that the SFWMD would be re-evaluating the Loxahatchee MFL, having last been reviewed in 2002. A recent Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC) ruling prohibits salinity as a metric for MFLs, stating that only "flows" and "levels" may be used. Currently, the Loxahatchee has a salinity metric. Dr. Armstrong stated that the SFMWD would use modelling to determine flow metric(s) that would approximate the intent of the current salinity metric. Discussion ensued. Dr. Armstrong offered a staff presentation at a future meeting on MFLs and the upcoming re-evaluation process. Several Board members requested to be included in the process of re-evaluation. Ms. Terrie Bates (former SFWMD) provided public comment to recommend establishment of a Working Group to represent all interests in how the new MFL standards are designed and implemented.

VII. Watershed Status Updates

A. Water Quality Updates – Bud Howard, LRD
Mr. B. Howard provided a presentation that had been prepared for the LRD Board and updated for the Council on historic rainfall in the Loxahatchee basin and impacts to water quality. Conditions currently remain very dry, with dry conditions predicted into the near future. Water quality remains good under these conditions, but MFL

exceedances on both the salinity and flow metrics continue to occur.

VIII. Member Issues (brief, verbal status update)

Mr. Braun noted that the Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative was still going strong and closing in on their third acquisition, with the help of the Martin County land acquisition referendum. Mr. Braun provided a Loxa-Lucie informational brochure.

Mr. Kennedy noted that SIRWCD maintenance dredging projects continue, with a goal of continuing water quality improvements.

Ms. Sunila noted water levels were almost too low for kayaking. Almost.

Dr. Armstrong noted Ms. West's departure and that any information for group dissemination could be sent to her. She also asked for those interested in forming a Lox MFL Working Group to contact her separately.

Mr. Moore noted the recent retirement of Inger Hansen and recognized her for her years of service and dedication. All agreed and collectively wished her well.

Mr. T. Howard noted that JID had completed core sampling in the inlet and analysis was underway. JID also is investigating adding a channel through the ebb shoal of the inlet.

Mr. Lanahan noted that the RPCs (TC and South Florida) were completing an inland flooding study and updated flood map for the area and looking at multi-jurisdictional mitigation projects. The TCRPC is also conducting a 'study of studies' reviewing all land studies and acquisitions in western Martin County, with an eye for advising the Martin County land acquisition team.

Mr. Yustin commented on the Martin County Land Acquisition Team and noted that 18 projects have been identified so far. He noted that two of the project areas are directly associated with the Loxahatchee River drainage basin.

Ms. Broadwell noted the current FDOT Northlake/710 extension project and would like a letter of support from the Council. She will provide a presentation to the Council at the next meeting for consideration.

Ms. Burg noted that the Village of Tequesta was completing an LRPI-funded joint project with the Town of Jupiter to improve water quality.

Dr. Reinert provided a summary of FWC's efforts to take advantage of the abnormally cold weather that recently occurred in south Florida and remove cold-stunned invasive green iguanas from the landscape. Throughout south Florida, FWC received ~5200 iguanas from the public and municipal, county, and state partners.

IX. Field Trip Discussion and Planning

Dr. Arrington led a discussion on planning the next Council field trip. Several ideas were discussed. Mr. Derek Cox (SFWMD) offered to assist in off-line planning.

X. Adjourn – Mr. Moore moved to adjourn, Mr. Lanahan seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:34 pm.