LOXAHATCHEE RIVER MANAGEMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL

Monday, March 30, 2026, 2:00 pm

The River Center

805 N. U.S. Highway 1

Jupiter, FL 33477

Next Meeting: Monday, June 22, 2026, at The River Center

I. Call to Order

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	Present
South Florida Water Mgt. Dist.	
Cassondra Armstrong	Present
Treasure Coast Reg. Planning Council	
Thomas Lanahan	Present
Martin County	
Blake Capps	Present

Town of Jupiter	
Ron Delaney	Absent
Village of Tequesta	
Allyson Burg	Absent
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	Absent
Northern Palm Beach Co. Improvement Dist.	
Jonathan Ricketts	Present
Florida Farm Bureau	
Jake Fojtik	Absent
City of Palm Beach Gardens	
John Kemp	Present
Local River User Group - Palm Beach Pack & Paddle Club	
Inke Sunila	Present
Martin County Env. & Conservation Groups	
Dick Roberts	Absent
Landowner Representative	
Pat Magrogan	Present

III. Approval of the February 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Ricketts requested approval of the minutes of the February 9 meeting. Mr. Lanahan issued a correction and moved to adopt as amended. Ms. Drum seconded. Motion approved.

IV. Public Comment

No members of the public offered comment.

V. Project Updates

A. Water management in the Loxahatchee Watershed, Rodrigo Musalem-Jara, SFWMD
Mr. Musalem-Jara provided an update on how the SFWMD manages water in the watershed through pumps, culverts, and gates throughout the C-18 basin, the headwaters of the northwest fork of the Loxahatchee. The mission is to "maximize flows to the river while managing flood control risk." He described water management in three general scenarios: "normal", "very wet", and "dry" (the current condition of the system). He touched on Flow-ways 1 and 2. Discussion ensued, and the SFWMD offered to present at the next meeting with a Flow-way subject matter expert.

B. MFL Technical Working Group Update, Cassondra Armstrong, SFWMD
Dr. Armstrong discussed plans to establish the Loxahatchee MFL working group, with invitations to agencies coming soon and hopes for an initial meeting in May. Please contact Dr. Armstrong if you are interested in the group.

C. SR-7 extension to Northlake Blvd, Ann Broadwell, FDOT
Ms. Broadwell reported on the history and evolution of the State Road 7 extension. FDOT has addressed many public concerns and corrected common misconceptions. The current plan is out for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permitting. Ms. Broadwell described the environmental benefits of this project in the Loxahatchee watershed and requested a letter of support from the Council. After discussion, Dr. Arrington made, and Dr. Reinert seconded, a motion to authorize the Chair to draft and submit a letter of support at the appropriate time, highlighting the environmental benefits to the Loxahatchee watershed. The motion carried, with 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstaining (South Florida Water Management District, Florida Department of Transportation, and Palm Beach County; NOTE: Mr. Kemp of Palm Beach Gardens had to leave the meeting prior to the vote).

VI. Watershed Status Updates

A. MFL Status Update, Albrey Arrington, LRECD
Dr. Arrington provided an update on flow conditions in the watershed. It is very dry right now. There have been 73 days this year below 35 cfs and 58 days of salinity exceedance ($\leq$2 ppt). Dr. Arrington recommended the McVicar Consulting website for daily hydrographs in the south Florida system: https://www.macvicarconsulting.com/readings/

B. Water Quality, Albrey Arrington, LRECD
No report.

VII. Member Issues (brief, verbal status update)

Mr. Tom Howard mentioned that the Jupiter Inlet District continues to receive public comment in support of a marked channel through the ebb shoal in the Inlet. JID is authorizing their engineers to begin discussions with ACOE and DEP to evaluate and draft a potential project. Many questions remain. SFWMD has some salinity modeling expertise in the area and can assist. JID has increased the frequency of bathymetric surveys of the ebb shoal in the inlet; these data are available on their website to inform mariners of the most recent inlet conditions. NOTE: Data are not 'real-time' and should be used for informational purposes only.

Ms. Drum said that the County would be carefully monitoring the ebb shoal channel proposal and has concerns regarding changes to sediment transport and potential beach erosion. They are also concerned about potential changes to the estuary's salinity regime. Mr. Tom Howard noted that the JID would gratefully accept any data or modeling results that addressed those concerns.

VIII. Field Trip Discussion

Dr. Armstrong described the difficulties and challenges of hosting field trips for the SFWMD Governing Board, mostly related to meeting public meeting requirements and complying with Florida Sunshine Laws. Through discussion, the Council tabled consideration of future Council field trips. Dr. Arrington recommended that Council members avail themselves of the ample recreational opportunities that exist throughout the watershed.

IX. Adjourn

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Ricketts recognized Mr. Kennedy (in absentia) for authoring a draft resolution for future consideration that reaffirms LRMCC's function and the responsibility of the SFWMD to provide support for those responsibilities. Mr. Ricketts then requested agenda items for the next meeting and asked that any associated materials be sent to Ms. West (mwest@sfwmd.gov) two weeks in advance. Dr. Arrington suggested combining the LRECD MFL and Water Quality reports into a ~5-minute report, and adding a "Natural Area/Conservation Lands Update" (~10-minute report).

Mr. Lanahan moved to adjourn, Dr. Reinert seconded, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.