LOXAHATCHEE RIVER MANAGEMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL
Monday, September 14, 2026, 2:00 pm
The River Center
805 US-1 N
Jupiter, FL 33477

I. Call to Order

Chairman Ricketts gaveled the meeting in at 2:01 pm.

II. Roll Call

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	
Andrew Eastwick	Absent
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	
Jon Moore	Absent
Florida Department of Transportation	
Ann Broadwell	Absent
U.S. Department of Interior	
Peter DeWitt (Alternate)	Absent
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission	
Tom Reinert	Present
Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services	
Brynne Talas	Present
South Florida Water Management District	
Cassondra Armstrong	Present
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council	
Thomas Lanahan	Present
Martin County	
Blake Capps	Present
Town of Jupiter	
Ron Delaney	Present

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Village of Tequesta	
Allyson Burg	Present
Palm Beach County	
Deborah Drum (Alt)	Present
Jupiter Inlet District	
Tom Howard	Present
Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District	
Albrey Arrington	Present
South Indian River Water Control District	
Chad Kennedy	Present
Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District	
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
Landowner Representative	
Pat Magrogan	Absent
Martin County Environmental & Conservation Groups	
Dick Roberts	Present

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III. Approval of July 13, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Drum corrected her item in Member Issues. Mr. Lanahan moved to adopt the minutes as amended, Vice Chair Roberts seconded. Motion was unanimously approved

IV. Nomination of Officers

A. Chair – Mr. Kennedy nominated Dr. Arrington for Chair. No other nominations were heard. Dr. Arrington accepted.
B. Vice Chair – Mr. Roberts nominated Mr. T. Howard for Vice Chair. No other nominations were heard. Mr. Howard accepted.
C. Secretary - Dr. Thomas Reinert – nominee. No other nominations were heard. Dr. Reinert accepted.

V. Public Comment

A. Mr. Sergi Kelley, Florida Keepers, spoke to encourage the Council to be aware of encroaching development in the whole watershed, not just along the river. He mentioned the Suni Sands development as an example.
B. Ms. Linda Smithe, Sierra Club, seconded Mr. Kelley's remarks and also raised concerns about the Suni Sands development in the Jupiter Inlet.

VI. Project Updates

A. Discussion and approval of Resolution by the Council for SFWMD Governing Board to include salinity as a criterion within its minimum flows and levels and other items.

   Ms. Drum introduced the resolution she drafted; discussion followed. Several edits and modifications were put forward, all accepted by Ms. Drum. Mr. Lanahan moved to adopt the resolution; Dr. Arrington seconded. The motion passed 14-0-1, with Dr. Armstrong abstaining.
B. Discussion and approval of Resolution by the Council for SFWMD to continue its administrative support and other statutory roles.

   Chairman Ricketts introduced the resolution he drafted; discussion followed. The Council determined that the resolution was not warranted at this time. Dr. Reinert and Chairman Ricketts both noted how well Ms. Toro was performing in her support role, and Dr. Armstrong clarified that SFWMD legal staff would oblige a request for a Florida Sunshine presentation, but they would be mindful of not providing direct legal advice. Resolution was tabled for lack of a motion.
C. 2027 Calendar Meeting Schedule – January 11th, March 29th, June 21st, September 27th

   Dr. Reinert moved for adoption of the 2027 Meeting dates as presented. Vice Chair Roberts seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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VII. Watershed Status Updates

A. MFL Status and Water Quality Update, Mr .B. Howard, LRECD
Mr. Howard provided the water quality update by demonstrating the LRECD dashboard, specifically the MFL section. He showed how little water the system was receiving during this year's "rainy season." Since November 1, 2025, there have been 113 days below the MFL (35 cfs), and 64 days in exceedance of the salinity metric (2 ppt). Mr. Howard also noted that when flows are low, a distinct lunar signature (salinity spikes) can be seen during the ¾ lunar phase. Further, cumulative flows at Lainhart dam are among the lowest seen at this point in the year. The Water Quality score card was mostly green, owing to lack of rainfall and inputs to the system. Dr. Arrington noted that seagrasses were looking good throughout the system. Mr. Rossmanith (Jonathan Dickinson State Park) concurred and noted the FWC and Florida Fish and Wildlife Foundation long-term project of replanting eelgrass seemed to be successful, with evidence of plants outside the protective cages growing and showing signs of herbivory.

B. Natural Area/Conservation Lands Update, Makenzie Langley, FWC
Ms. Langley is the lead area biologist for the John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area. The area is just over 16K acres with diverse habitats and floral and faunal communities. It is part of the Ocean-to-Lake wildlife and habitat corridor. Recreational opportunities include hiking, biking, camping, hunting, and bird watching.

VIII. Member Issues (brief, verbal status update)

Mr. Lanahan offered thanks to LRECD for maintaining the water quality dashboard, a very useful resource.

Mr. Delaney noted that water quality in the river looks great now.

Mr. T. Howard thanked Ms. Drum for her work on the resolution. Mr. Howard noted that the ebb shoal continues to grow and fill in. JID provides monthly or bimonthly bathymetry on their website for the general knowledge of local mariners. JID is seeking permits from the DEP for a pilot project, one-time dredge of a 300' wide x 14' deep channel, to follow the original natural channel, just east of the inlet. They will monitor and see how it fares and will look for any downstream effects. Salinity changes upstream (in the river) are not expected.

Dr. Arrington lamented that he was busy here at the meeting and not taking advantage of the mullet run currently going on.

Vice Chair Roberts noted that he may have historical plant records for the eastern half of the Hungryland WEA and offered them to FWC.

Ms. Drum informed the group that her program was putting forward a third-party conservation easement proposal to the Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners at the November 17

BOCC meeting. This would be for the Loxahatchee Slough, which is revealing many significant archaeological finds. She encouraged those interested to visit the PBC ERM YouTube channel to see a two-part video about the discoveries.
Mr. Yustin (Martin County) noted the recent discovery of an invasive seagrass (*Halophila stipulacea*) in the Indian River Lagoon. They discovered 70+ acres in a recent survey. Dr. Arrington noted seeing some on the ICW side of Coral Cove Park.

IX. Adjourn

Vice Chair Roberts moved to adjourn, Mr. Lanahan seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 11, 2027, at The River Center