

**Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council**  
June 30, 2008 Minutes of Workshop Meeting and Council Meeting

I Call to Order

Chairwoman Sarah Heard called to order the continuation of the workshop meeting regarding the Wild and Scenic River Management Plan at approximately 12:10 PM at the Jupiter Community Center.

I.A. Rob Rossmanith (FDEP-Park Service) accepted comments and suggestions from various Council members during an interactive ± 90-minute discussion of the revised draft plan, which had previously been transmitted in electronic version to the Council. It was noted that Karen Smith has spent considerable time reviewing and re-organizing the draft plan to reduce duplicity and improve organizational format. Although discussion items included all portions of the Management Plan, the primary focus was Section 3 – Plan Objectives and Implementation. A variety of suggestions were made regarding the Strategies and Tasks sub-sections. Mr. Rossmanith agreed to continue with revisions and provide an updated version of the Management Plan to Council members.

I.B. At approximately 2 PM, Chairwoman Heard called to order the quarterly meeting of the Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council at the Jupiter Community Center.

II Roll Call: Council Members present: Vince Arena, Greg Braun, Gale English, Sarah Heard, Tom Howard, Chad Kennedy, Marge Ketter, Pat Magrogan, Jim Ostrander, Sam Payson, Karen Smith and Herb Zebuth. Non-voting representatives: Albrey Arrington (representing Loxahatchee River District – letter designating Mr. Arrington as the District’s new representative pending).

III Approval of Minutes from May 7, 2008 Meeting

The minutes were unanimously approved without change.

IV.A Tanah Keetah Boy Scout Reservation Plan Update

Mark Mathes (Lucido and Associates) used Power Point slides and aerial photography to describe the proposed Master Plan improvements, and addressed many of the Council’s previous questions (March, 2008), including a clarification of which of the improvements that are proposed on the 640-acre site would be conducted within the limits of the Wild and Scenic portion of the River. A lengthy question/answer session period ensued, which included issues regarding existing infrastructure, historic use of the property, fire management, shoreline plantings, proposed improvements/relocation of the shooting sports ranges and others. **G. English then made a motion, seconded by T. Howard ...”to approve the proposed master plan update for improvements at Camp Tanah Keetah”.** Additional discussion ensued regarding the connection of the scout camp to regional sewer infrastructure, the resolution of various FDEP ‘regulatory activity’, the status of review of the project by various governmental entities, phasing of construction and possible impacts on water quality and the wilderness experience of River users.

Jeff Isaac, CEO Scout Executive addressed the Council to respond to questions/statements that arose during discussion.

**During discussion, a motion was made and seconded to “Call the question”, which was seconded and approved by majority.**

After a willingness to address additional Council questions was voiced by a Scout representative, a **motion by T. Howard to re-open the topic for input by the public and other members of the Council was seconded and approved unanimously.**

Former Council member Geraldine Genco addressed the Council, advising of the physical magnitude of the improvements, which include 600,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of stabilized parking - comparing them to the size of Jupiter High School. Ms. Genco voiced additional concerns about potential adverse impacts on water quality in the River and on protected species, including sandhill cranes, gopher tortoises, indigo snakes, manatees and scrub jays, and questioned the stewardship dedication of the scouts, given  $\pm$  472 tons of debris that was reportedly discarded into a borrow pit.

Various Council members, including the Chair then posed questions regarding voting eligibility, access to the site by non-scouts, use of the River by camp users, potential commercial use, site planning regarding protection of rare and endangered habitat, lead shot abatement, expansion of the Boat House within the River Corridor and the projected timing for WMD and County review and approvals.

Mr. Mathes responded to a R. Rossmanith question by advising that there would be no lead shot used at the shooting range.

Loxahatchee River user Katherine Winseck addressed the Council, advising of recent amendments to the master site plan, and requested that the Council withhold decision-making until various additional questions/issues are addressed.

C. Kennedy expressed concern about an apparent lack of faith by Council members that the regulatory reviews would not adequately protect the Loxahatchee River. SFWMD staff regulatory analyst Mindy Parrott advised that the District has received an application for the project and the District has requested additional information regarding topography, 100-year floodplain, water quality treatment and other issues that will need to be provided by the applicant prior to the development of a WMD staff report. H. Zebuth indicated that pertinent permitting information should be provided by WMD (and/or FDEP) to the Council prior to consideration by the Council.

**The motion to approve the proposed master conceptual site plan was then approved by a majority of the Council.**

#### IV.B. Tree Brothers/Jupiter RV Park Update

Joni Brinkman (Kilday and Associates) addressed the Council on behalf of property owners/re-zoning applicants Jan and Paul Thomas. Ms. Brinkman provided copies of the Preliminary Master Plan/Site Plan for the development of an RV Resort Park on a 17-acre tract of land that is located on the north side of Indiantown Road and surrounded on the remaining three sides by the Cypress Creek Natural Area. Permit applications have not yet been transmitted to WMD, but the Palm Beach County Commission required that a presentation about the project be made to the Council. A request to construct a waste water treatment plant on the site has been withdrawn (although a water plant is still included) and it is anticipated that the facility will be connected to a River District sewer pipeline. An initial request for rezoning to construct a 156-RV lot resort was reduced to 140 lots prior to approval by the Palm Beach County Commission and the more recent site plan presented is for a 116-lot facility with an 8,000 ft<sup>2</sup> clubhouse. A 45'-wide cleared lane will be maintained as a fire break buffer along the north, east and west property lines.

Project engineer Alan Wertepny (Mock-Roos & Associates) addressed the extension of the sewer line from the Jupiter Country Club through the Publix Shopping Center to the site and described the proposed flow of surface water into on-site surface water lakes, through a baffle structure and then east along the north side of Indiantown Road and then north to Cypress Creek along Gulfstream Rd; having no connection to the SIRWCD canal system. The surface water detention system will be designed to meet 50% more than the requirement (for a total of the first 1.5" of rain), which will further limit the volume of runoff that could potentially reach the Loxahatchee River.

The clubhouse/recreation building will contain restroom facilities. PB County has indicated they have no money for public acquisition of the tract. Detailed engineering of pre- and post groundwater elevations have not yet been developed, but will take into consideration hydrologic restoration activities by PB County on the Cypress Creek Tract.

Kathy Fahey, VP Jupiter Farms Environmental Council, indicated the objection of the Environmental Council to the project based on concerns about water quality and potential adverse impacts on Cypress Creek by RV Resort users who will have non-motorized access to the Cypress Creek tract in the northeaster corner of the RV resort property.

Susan Kennedy, President Jupiter Farms Environmental Council and co-chair of the Loxahatchee River Coalition, re-affirmed the opposition to the project by the Environmental Council, including their appeal of the rezoning recently approved by Palm Beach County. Ms. Kennedy voiced concern that the 1.5" of stormwater detention is inadequate to protect a cypress wetland into which stormwater from the property will be discharged.

Patrick Hayes, Executive Director Loxahatchee River Coalition, advised of the Coalition's concern regarding the water quality, and volume of discharge from the site and the need to meet a non-degradation standard.

Dick Roberts reminded the Council of the need to ensure that the River Management Plan includes consideration of this new point of public access onto public lands.

T. Howard recommended that the Chair transmit correspondence to WMD advising of the Council's interest in staying informed about permitting developments on the subject tract and being provided permit-related documents on a timely enough basis that the Council can review and provide comments for consideration by the District. The Chair also received concurrence from the Council that it is their desire to be given the opportunity to re-consider the project when Environmental Resource Permit, Consumptive Use Permit and any other permit applications are being reviewed by the District.

#### IV.C. Administrative Procedures of the Council

Item deferred/postponed, with information to be distributed electronically for review in preparation for discussion at the next meeting.

#### V. Updates from Member Agency/Organization Activities

A. Arrington advised of a recent vote by the River District that he be appointed as their representative on the Council. Mr. Arrington also advised of the scheduled date for the grand opening of the River Center on August 23, 2008.

Chairwoman Heard repeated the earlier acknowledgment of the work by K. Smith on the updating of the Wild and Scenic River Management Plan.

VI. Public Comments

Patrick Hayes requested that an up-date on the flow test of the Rock Pits by WMD be an item on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

VII. Council Comments

H. Zebuth asked that an update on the Rock Pit water quality also be included in the next presentation.

K. Smith invited members of the public to contact her if they have questions/challenges with accessing permitting information on the WMD website. Ms. Smith also reminded the Council that detailed design information is not typically available when applicants are requesting master plan or conceptual site plan approvals.

Additional suggested agenda items for the next meeting included discussion/resolution of the spatial realm (i.e., River corridor, River watershed ...) of projects that warrant review by the Council and the potential establishment of a permit review subcommittee that could meet frequently enough to effectuate timely input to WMD and/or FDEP permitting/regulatory staff by the Council.

VIII. Announcements

None

IX. Adjournment

With no further action items, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Braun, Secretary