

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

DATE: October 2, 2006

SUBJECT: Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative
Jones Creek Phase II – Hammock Restoration Project - 4600000426

Background: The Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative (LRPI) is the outgrowth of the watershed management effort that was spearheaded by the Department of Environmental Protection in 1996. The initiative outlines several key projects that are critical in preserving the long-term health of the Loxahatchee River.

This project will include the removal of exotic vegetation, re-creation of historic flow-ways, vegetation relocation and/or planting, and installation of a nature trail, boardwalk and observation platform. The project will also involve improvements to an existing drainage ditch that supplies water from adjacent development (including Jupiter High School, Town Hall, Jupiter Elementary School and several residential subdivisions).

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan: This water quality improvement project supports the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan to restore watersheds and estuaries through local initiatives.

Funding Source: This is a 1 year cost share agreement with the Town of Jupiter Utilities, in the amount of \$450,000, of which the District's total contribution is \$225,000, for which dedicated funds (State Appropriations) are budgeted.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: The project is in the Loxahatchee River Watershed (Palm Beach and Martin Counties). The resource area impacted is the Coastal Ecosystems Division.

What concerns could this Board item raise? This project is supported by Loxahatchee River District, Jonathan Dickinson State Park, and the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative, and is one of several key projects that are critical in preserving the long-term health of the Loxahatchee River.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? The Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative selected this project to be funded by State Appropriation. If this project is not approved, invasive exotic vegetation will continue to spread and remain a maintenance problem in this area.

CM/tc
Attachments – Resolution, Map