

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUPITER INLET DISTRICT
MINUTES**

January 14th, 2026

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

George Gentile, Chair
Gail Whipple, Vice Chair (in attendance until 8:00 P.M)
James Davis, Secretary/Treasurer
Thomas Howard
Michael Martinez

OTHERS PRESENT

Joseph B. Chaison, Executive Director
William R. H. Broome, Attorney
Ken Craig, Taylor Engineering
Cami Cunningham, Assistant Director

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Jay Carpenter
Chris Ball

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None.

1. Call to Order

Chair Gentile called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance*

2. Election of Officers for Calendar Year 2026

Chair Gentile opened the floor to nominations for Chairperson.

Commissioner Whipple nominated Chair Gentile to continue in the role of Chair. There being no further nominations, the Commission voted unanimously that Chair Gentile maintain his position as Chair.

Chair Gentile opened the floor to nominations for Vice Chair.

Commissioner Martinez nominated Commissioner Howard for the role of Vice Chair. There being no further nominations, the Commission voted unanimously for Thomas Howard to assume the role of Vice Chair.

Chairman Gentile opened the floor to nominations for Secretary/Treasurer.

Commissioner Martinez nominated Secretary/Treasurer Davis to continue in the role Secretary/Treasurer. There being no further nominations, the Commission voted unanimously that Treasurer Davis maintain his position as Secretary/Treasurer.

3. District Representatives for 2026

The results of discussion of Agency Representation for Calendar Year 2026 are as follows:

1. Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council (LRMCC) –
Thomas Howard; Alternate: Gail Whipple
2. Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD) –
Gail Whipple; Alternate: Joseph Chaison
3. Palm Beach County League of Cities –
George Gentile; Alternate: Gail Whipple
4. Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative (LRPI) –
James H. Davis; Alternate: Joseph Chaison
5. Northern Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce –
George Gentile; Alternate: Gail Whipple

4. **Comments from the Public** *(please note all meetings are recorded & available upon request)*
None.

5. Approval of Minutes

➤ December 10th, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

There were changes made by Commissioner Whipple. Chair Gentile entertained a **MOTION to approve the December 10th, 2025 Minutes as presented and amended**; Commissioner Whipple so **MOVED**; Commissioner Howard **SECONDED**. There being no further discussion, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

6. Approval of Bills

Submission of December 2025 Bills:

Chair Gentile entertained a **MOTION to approve the December 2025 Bills as presented**. Treasurer Davis so **MOVED**; Commissioner Whipple **SECONDED**. There being no further discussion, the **MOTION CARRIED**.

Submission of Payroll, Utility Bills and Health Insurance Invoice for January 2026:

Chair Gentile entertained a **MOTION to approve the Utility Bills and Health Insurance Invoice for January 2026**. Treasurer Davis so **MOVED**; Commissioner Martinez **SECONDED**. There being no further discussion, the **MOTION CARRIED**.

7. Treasurer's Report

Approval of December 2025 Treasurer's Report:

Chair Gentile entertained a **MOTION to approve the December 2025 Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Davis so **MOVED**; Commissioner Howard **SECONDED**. There being no further discussion, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

8. Executive Director's Report

Jupiter Inlet District Signage:

Mr. Chaison reported that Floridian Signs installed our street front signage on December 18th. The Town of Jupiter was helpful with permitting and guidance locating the sign. The next steps will include native plantings and lighting.

Drone Based Bathymetry Demonstration at Jupiter Inlet:

Following direction from the Board at our December 2025 meeting, Mr. Chaison has been coordinating with SPH Engineering to schedule a demonstration of their drone based bathymetric surveying technology. During this process, Staff learned that SPH is requesting fees and reimbursement totaling \$2,424 for their proposed demonstration (proposal included in agenda packet).

There was a discussion that followed. The Board decided that the proposal provided by SPH needed more details and clarifications before the District moved forward. The Board tasked Staff, Legal and Engineering to work through the details of a contract. It was also determined that a control survey would be required to validate the data.

If needed, there will be a Workshop Meeting on January 28th, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. to review the updated contract.

Loxahatchee River Bathymetry and Dredged Material Management Area (DMMA) Offloading:

The District recently completed the Loxahatchee River Bathymetric Survey as part of our Sedimentation Study. It has been shared and well received by our partners. This survey shows that depths remain stable around the enhanced clearance span of the FEC railroad bridge. It also shows that the west end of the main channel of the central embayment retains most of the depth established in the 2021 maintenance dredging. However, there are signs of deposition and dredging may be expected to be required.

Efforts to partner with a public project for use of the DMMA material have not yet been successful. Staff plans to begin working with our legal counsel and engineer to develop a plan for DMMA offloading. If the sand is not used for a public project, the State permit requires the District to pay a \$2.25/ CY severance fee.

2026 Mangrove Island Seagrass Survey:

The District has been performing seagrass surveys of our mangrove island restoration project since 2019. Following fulfillment of the permit-required surveys, JID has continued to survey every second year. If the Board wishes to continue this interval, the seagrass growing season of 2026 would be the next interval.

There was a discussion and it was decided to pause the surveys.

SB 1288 Andrew "Red" Harris Shoal Designation:

Senate Bill SB 1288 was filed on January 7th, sponsored by Senator Gayle Harrell. This bill relates to the mangrove island restoration project north of Cato's Bridge along the Intracoastal Waterway. It proposes to name the island Andrew "Red" Harris Shoal and have the FDEP erect signage. The bill has incorrectly described the island as being "a shoal within the Jupiter Inlet".

There was a discussion. The Board directed Mr. Chaison to contact Senator Harrel and Rep. Snyder's offices to correct the Bill's language.

7. Engineer's Report

General Engineering:

Jetty Observation

Mr. Craig of Taylor Engineering performed the Jetty Observations on January 14th. It was noted that there is a large accumulation of sand North of the inlet, and not much to the South.

Mr. Craig also presented the **Ebb Shoal Modeling & Analysis Proposal for a lump sum of \$61,580**. There was a discussion. **Commissioner Howard made a MOTION to approve the Proposal; Commissioner Martinez SECONDED.** There being no further discussion, the **MOTION CARRIED.**

River Sedimentation Study:

Mr. Craig stated that all the initial sediment samples have been collected. They are now in the lab to be analyzed.

2026 Sand Trap Proposal:

Atlantic and Gulf Dredging, LLC (AGD) has begun the process of mobilization. The dredge is expected to be on site Friday, the 16th with dredging to begin the following day.

BLM JILONA Shoreline Stabilization Project Update:

Mr. Craig gave the Board an update on the Stabilization Project.

8. Legal Report

There was no written report this month and Mr. Broome had nothing further to add.

9. New Business

None.

10. Unfinished Business

➤ Jupiter Inlet Ebb Shoal and Navigation Discussion

The Board noted that this discussion had previously occurred during Taylor Engineering's Modeling & Analysis Proposal review. Chair Gentile recognized attendees for public comment.

Mr. Carpenter suggested to the Board that an advisory committee be established, with himself and Mr. Ball as members.

Mr. Ball noted hazardous conditions outside of the inlet, especially south of the inlet alongshore the beach. He also noted that vessels have grounded and that boats, surfers, and swimmers are in close proximity. He also noted that he had found examples of the Corps of Engineers issuing Letters of Permissions (LOPs) and/or Nationwide Permits (NWP) for similar work.

The Board thanked both for their comments.

Commissioner Howard asked Mr. Craig to investigate these Federal permit types and report back to the Board.

11. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Martinez

None.

Commissioner Howard

None.

Secretary/Treasurer Davis

None.

Vice Chair Whipple

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Chair Gentile

None.

12. Next Meeting Date(s)

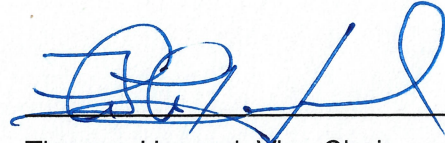
- Wednesday, January 28th, 2026 - Workshop Board Meeting
- Wednesday, February 11th, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting

13. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Commission, Chair Gentile called for a **MOTION to Adjourn**. Treasurer Davis so **MOVED**; Commissioner Martinez **SECONDED**. There being no further discussion, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.



George G. Gentile, Chair



Thomas Howard, Vice Chair