

River group could seek \$3.8 million from state

The Loxahatchee River Initiative already is studying plans for the 2005-06 fiscal year.

By Jeff Alexander
Senior Writer

With \$5 million in hand for projects for 2004-05 fiscal year, members of the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative already are thinking of projects in the following year.

At Monday's meeting at the Jupiter Emergency Operations Center, the 13 members of the Preservation Initiative culled through projects that could get state funding.

Among those entities represented are the Town of Jupiter, Friends of the Loxahatchee, state Department of Environmental Protection, the county's Department of Environmental Resources Management, South Indian River Water Control District and Jupiter Inlet District.

A total of about \$3.8 million in

matching funds could be sought from the state legislature, said Pat Magrogan, who represents the Friends of the Loxahatchee on the committee. That would be paired with \$3.8 million from the organization to fund more than \$7.5 million in projects during the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

"Next month is going to be the important meeting, that's when we're going to vote on (the proposed projects)," she said.

Among those projects proposed for 2005-06 are:

- Sediment removal from the C-18 Canal, costing \$400,000, with Jupiter Inlet District providing matching funds;

- Exotic vegetation removal by South Indian River Water Control District, costing \$284,000 with SIRWCD providing matching funds;

- Exotic pest and plant removal from the corridor of the federally designated Wild and Scenic portion of the river by biologists at Jonathan Dickinson State Park with state DEP providing matching funds of \$504,000;

- Hydrologic restoration of the planned Harborview Park at Alternate A1A by the Town of Jupiter, with the town providing \$200,000 in matching funds.

The Initiative received \$2.5 million from the state for 2004-2005 fiscal year, with another \$2.5 in matching money come from the organization's coffers.

The next meeting is Monday, Aug. 16 at noon, at the Jupiter Emergency Operations Center, 3133 Washington St.

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