



# MARTIN COUNTY

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

2401 S.E. MONTEREY ROAD • STUART, FL 34996

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April 28, 2021

Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative  
P.O. Box 787  
Hobe Sound, FL 33475

Re: Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative

To Whom it May Concern:

The Martin County Board of County Commissioners was pleased to receive a presentation concerning the Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative (the Initiative) as an Agenda item at our meeting on March 9, 2021. The Initiative proposes to acquire and permanently conserve vacant properties in the headwaters of the South Fork of the St. Lucie River and the headwaters of Kitching Creek by purchasing critical parcels and/or by purchasing development rights or conservation easements from willing sellers.

Key purposes of the Initiative include protecting water quality, restoring wetland hydrology, reducing the potential for regional flooding, protecting wildlife, increasing public access to nature, and enhancing local economies and quality of life. As hydrologic conditions are restored, the Initiative is also expected to involve the removal of invasive flora, help lessen salt water intrusion into the surficial aquifer and the portion of the Loxahatchee River that has been designated by the federal government as a Wild and Scenic River and improve coastal resilience.

The Board of County Commissioners is pleased to join other governmental and non-governmental organizations by unanimous support of this grassroots initiative. The County and its residents have a well-earned reputation as leaders in environmental protection, and we hope that our endorsement of this initiative will be the catalyst for establishing a new land conservation program that will connect environmentally sensitive lands, for people, for nature and for the future.

Sincerely,

  
Stacey Hetherington, Chair  
Martin County Board of County Commissioners

Cc: Don Donaldson, Deputy County Administrator  
Jim Gorton, Public Works Department Director  
John Maehl, ERM Division Manager  
Duane DeFreese, IRLC Executive Director