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# IRL COUNCIL MANAGEMENT BOARD

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## **Minutes from the meeting of February 8, 2022**

**10:15 AM**

*Up the Creek Farms, 3590 Valkaria Road, Grant-Valkaria, FL 32950*

**In Attendance:** Mel Bromberg, Tom Carey, Kevin Coyne, Jake Fojtik, Stu Glass, James Gray, Hannah Hart, Chris Hendricks, Dianne Hughes, George Jones, Gretchen Kelly, Bill Kerr, Mike McCabe, Kelli McGee, Julie Mitchell, Matt Mitts, Bob Musser, Beth Powell, Kevin Shropshire, Laurilee Thompson, Robert Ulevich, Greg Wilson.

**Guests:** Jeffrey Omins, Paul Gray, Tom Penn, Kai Rains, Mark Rains, Jeff Collins.

### **1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** (Tom Carey, Vice Chair)

Tom Carey called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **2. Introductions & Public Comments** (Tom Carey, Vice Chair)

Ms. Sara Davis, FDEP, introduced her replacement, Mr. Kevin Coyne, to the Management Board.

### **3. Agenda Revisions** (Tom Carey, Chair)

There were no agenda revisions.

### **4. Approval of Minutes** (Tom Carey, Vice Chair)

**Requested Action:** Approval of Minutes from the meeting of November 16, 2021.

MOTION WAS MADE BY BILL KERR TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 16, 2021 WITH EDITS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY KEVIN SHROPSHIRE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **5. Finance Sub-Committee Report** (Stu Glass, Chair Finance Subcommittee)

**Requested Action:** Accept Committee Report.

Mr. Stu Glass presented the Finance Subcommittee report which included the approval of November 2021 minutes, auditor update, election of calendar year 2022 officers, quarter one financial review, fiscal year 2023 tentative budget and the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Law.

MOTION WAS MADE BY BOB MUSSER TO ACCEPT THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT.  
MOTION WAS SECONDED BY GREG WILSON. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **6. Water Quality Reports**

### **a. Central and Northern Lagoon (Dr. Chuck Jacoby, SJRWMD)**

Dr. De Freese presented the water quality report for the central and northern lagoon. Salinity, Temperature, Chlorophyll-A (at or above bloom concentrations) and DO were discussed. Manatee provisioning began on December 20, 2021 with approximately 20-30 pounds of vegetation per day, however, it was not consumed. Active manatee feeding began on January 20, 2022 in warm water with approximately 15,000 pounds of vegetation provided per week.

### **b. Southern Lagoon (Dianne Hughes, Martin County)**

Dianne Hughes presented the water quality report for the Southern IRL lagoon. Ms. Hughes discussed the inflows and outflows of Lake Okeechobee and mid-estuary and enterococcus. High sea and water levels were also discussed. It was mentioned that the committee would like to see a presentation/speaker about Water Farming.

## **7. Presentations**

### **a. Fewer Wetlands, More Ditches: How Knowledge of Land Use Change Can Inform Water Quality Restoration in the Indian River Lagoon**

Mark Rains, Professor, University of South Florida and Kai Rains,  
Research Associate Professor, University of South Florida

Dr. Mark Rains and Kai Rains presented their project timeline, which began in 2011, to map, classify and evaluate wetlands from the 1850's through the 2000's. The focus of this project was to quantify changes to wetland extent and distribution, quantify changes to landscape hydrological connectivity, and to use this and related information in conservation planning. Over 86% of wetland area was lost between the 1850's through the 2000's, and much of it in the western part of St. Lucie County. 77% of wetland loss was due to agricultural conversion. While discussing the changes to landscape hydrological connectivity, they explained the drainage density has increased from over 300% between 1850's to the 2000's. Dr. Kai Rains discussed the goal of having a multimetric toll for restoration and conservation prioritization in

the IRL watershed. The finalization of the tool and outreach is underway with a finalization goal of Fall 2023. For more information on this project, please contact [Dr. Mark Rains](#), [Dr. Kai Rains](#)  
b. GeoCollaborate and Additional GIS Project Update

Kirsten Jo Ayres, GIS Coordinator, IRLNEP

Kirsten Jo “KJ” Ayres presented her GeoCollaborate and additional GIS Project updates including metrics on the GeoCollaborate Instance #2 Webinar Series and outlined the Instance #3 Emergency Response Scenario basic storyline. The Instance #3 storyline will include a focus on the 2016 HAB and fishkill with a simulated emergency response. This webinar is planned for the end of March/beginning of April. Ms. Ayres further discussed the IRLNEP GIS Data HUB and completed maps including public boat ramps on the IRL, One Lagoon Monitoring Network locations, and the IRLNEP Lagoon boundary maps. Ms. Ayres discussed future projects including additional project maps, storymap of old fishermen tales along the IRL and defining our management conference.

## **8. Old Business**

NONE

## **9. New Business**

### a. Election of Officers (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese explained the process of election of officers. Tom Carrey will take over the role of Chair and Bob Musser will take over the role of Vice Chair.

**Requested Action:** Elect Chair and Vice Chair for Calendar Year 2022 for the Management Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY KELLI MCGEE TO ELECT TOM CAREY AS CHAIR AND BOB MUSSER AS VICE CHAIR FOR THE 2022 CALENDAR YEAR. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LAURILEE THOMPSON. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### b. Fiscal Year 2023 Tentative Budget (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reviewed the 2023 tentative budget and touched upon the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Law. Resolution 2022-01 was discussed as well as expenditure details including additional staffing and IRL Council Strategic Programs.

**Requested Action:** Recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors approve the FY 2023 tentative budget by Resolution 2022–01, pursuant to Florida Statutes.

MOTION WAS MADE BY STU GLASS TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE FY 2023 TENTATIVE BUDGET BY RESOLUTION 2022-01, PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DIANNE HUGHES. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Fiscal Year 2023 RFPs (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny discussed the fiscal year 2023 RFP's including the highest ranked projects in the categories of water quality restoration, habitat restoration, community-based habitat restoration, Science and Innovation and Market Research.

**Requested Action:** Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals; fund the top proposals contingent and consistent with available funds and budgetary authority; and authorize staff to negotiate and enter into contracts with those applicants.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JAMES GRAY TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS; FUND THE TOP PROPOSALS CONTINGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH AVAILABLE FUNDS AND BUDGETARY AUTHORITY; AND AUTHROZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WIT THOSE APPLICANTS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY KEVIN SHROPSHIRE. RECUSALS INCLUDED BETH POWELL, KELLI MCGEE, GREG WILSON, DIANNE HIGES AND KEVIN COYNE. MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY EXCEPT FOR RECUSALS.

d. Fiscal Year EPA Workplan and IRLNEP Business Plan (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolody discussed the EPA Workplan and how the budget and projects from the category four (Science and Innovation) will be included in the workplan. The deadline is June 1st and the IRLNEP is looking to assemble this plan with the projects that were awarded. This workplan goes into the IRLNEP Business Plan.

**Requested Action:** Recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors authorize staff to finalize and submit the FY 2023 EPA Workplan and complete the IRLNEP Business Plan. MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT ULEVICH TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ATHROIZE STAFF TO FINALIZE AND SUBMIT THE FY 2023 EPA WORKPLAN AND COMPLETE THE IRLNEP BUSINESS PLAN. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BETH POWELL. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

e. Planning for Congressional Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Law (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese summarized the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Law. The timeline could be a challenge as EPA would like these projects to hit the ground quickly. The IRLNEP has identified five projects, one in each county, that meet the definition. These projects will start

this year by allocating \$500K to those five projects. This will be a budgeting change, but not a project change. The IRLNEP plans going into October 2022 with 1.3 million in projects.

**Requested Action:** Discussion of procedures for identifying and funding eligible projects; recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors authorize staff to develop and release a Request for Proposal or Request for Qualifications as appropriate.

MOTION WAS MADE BY BILL KERR TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZE STAFF TO DEVELOP AND RELEASE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL OR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AS APPROPRIATE. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY GEORGE JONES. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

f. Committee Quorum Update (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese discussed the current issues some advisory committees are facing in terms of having a consistent quorum present at each quarterly meeting. Dr. De Freese thanked the Management Board for having consistent attendance.

**Requested Action:** Review and discuss potential options and recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors direct staff to make policy changes as directed.

NO RECOMMENDATION WAS MADE AS MEETING A QUORUM HAS NOT BEEN AN ISSUE FOR THE MANAGEMENT BOARD.

## 10. IRLNEP Staff reports

a. IRL Project Update (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny highlighted the projects completed at the end of quarter one of fiscal year 2022, which included Coastal Resources: Pelican Island Phase V Restoration, IRLT: Validation of Inexpensive Impoundment Management Strategies to Increase Their Value as Vital Fish Nurseries Phase I, and FAU: Monitoring Prevalence of Microcyston Toxins Using SPATT.

b. Communications Report (Kathy Hill)

Ms. Hill discussed the 2021 Annual Report in her Communications Report, along with metrics from the Guiding Flow Television IRLNEP sponsored episodes. Ms. Hill reviewed the social media metrics for October, November and December of 2021 and highlighted the top performing posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Also discussed was the IRL Specialty Tag update, which included next steps with the Florida Department of Transportation.

c. Executive Director Report (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese highlighted the Manatee UME update in his Executive Director Report. He additionally discussed the Florida Legislative Sessions and the attached IRL appropriations. Dr. De Freese reviewed upcoming events including the FAU-HBOI IRL Science Symposium, the Bat Area Scientific Symposium, the 8th Biennial Water Institute Symposium and the Marine Technology Tech Surge with FAU-HBOI.

#### **11. General Public Comment**

There were no General Public Comments.

#### **12. Adjourn**

Next Management Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 10, 2022

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE MCCABE TO ADJORN THE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY GREG WILSON. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:07 PM.