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# IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Minutes from the meeting of February 11, 2022

**9:30 AM**

*Sebastian City Hall Council Chambers, Sebastian, FL*

**Attendance:** Joseph Flescher, Curt Smith, Jason Andreotta, Doug Bournique, Jaqui Thurlow-Lippisch, Jeff Brower, Chris Dzadovsky.

**Guests:** John Windsor, Tom Carey, Kathy LaMartina, Bob Musser, Marcy Frick, Courtney Calderone, Dr. Charles Jacoby, John Maehl, Jim Cannon, Tom Frick.

**Agenda Item 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** (Curt Smith, Vice Chair)

Vice Chair Curt Smith called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM and led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda Item 2. Introduction of IRL Council Board of Directors and Special Guests** (Curt Smith, Vice Chair)

Dr. De Freese introduced guests for the February 2021 meeting.

**Agenda Item 3. Agenda Revisions** (Curt Smith, Vice Chair)

There were no agenda revisions.

**Agenda Item 4. Resolutions, Recognition, Letters and Awards** (Curt Smith, Vice Chair)

There were no resolutions, recognitions, letters or awards.

**Agenda Item 5. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Agenda Item 6. Election of Officers** (Glen Torcivia)

Glen Torcivia explained the election of officers for the 2022 calendar year and suggested the succession cycle that has worked well in the past. For the 2022 calendar year, Curt Smith would become Chair, Chris Dzadovsky would become Vice Chair and Jeff Brower would become Secretary.

**Requested Action:** Elect Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for Calendar Year 2022.

JOSEPH FLESCHER MOTIONED TO ELECT THE CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND SECRETARY FOR THE 2022 CALENDAR YEAR IN THE SUCCESSION ORDER. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DOUG BOURNIQUE. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Agenda Item 7. Water Quality Reports**

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

Dr. Charles Jacoby gave the water quality report for the northern and central 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 (John Maehl for Dianne Hughes, Martin County)

Mr. Maehl from Martin County presented the southern lagoon water quality report for Dianne Hughes. Mr. Mayo discussed the inflows and outflows of Lake Okeechobee and mid-estuary and enterococcus. High sea and water levels were also discussed. Mr. Maehl additionally discussed stormwater projects and the Infrastructure Bill and how this money would be allocated to the C-23/24 north reservoir.

### **Agenda Item 8. IRLNEP Management Conference Committee Reports**

- a. Management Board Reports (Kathy LaMartina, Chair)

Ms. Kathy LaMartina discussed the highlights from the Tuesday, February 8, 2022 Management Board meeting which included the presentation from Mr. Mark Rains and Dr. Kai Rains about Wetland Restoration and their ongoing project as well as a project updated from Kirsten Jo "KJ" Ayres. Ms. LaMartina thanked the Board for her tenure as Chair and will be passing her Chair position to Tom Carey and Bob Musser will begin his tenure as Vice Chair. Dr. De Freese thanked Kathy LaMartina for her service as well as expanding on the presentation by Dr. Rains

- b. STEM Advisory Committee (Dr. Chuck Jacoby, Chair)

Dr. Charles Jacoby gave a brief overview of the STEM Advisory Committee meeting that occurred on Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022. He discussed the election of officers and recommended the Board of Directors host Dr. Mark and Kai Rains for the Wetland Restoration presentation.

c. Citizens' Advisory Committee (Frank Catino)

Ms. Kathy Hill on behalf of Frank Catino discussed items from the Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup> Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting, including a lengthy discussion on Quorums. Most of the attendees were the consistently present committee members and discussed how honored they feel to serve on the CAC.

**Agenda Item 9. Consent Agenda** (Curt Smith, Vice Chair)

a. Approval of November 29, 2021 Board of Directors meeting minutes.

b. Management Conference Appointment

1. Appointment of Mr. Kevin Coyne, FDEP, replacing Ms. Sara Davis as the FDEP representative.

c. Contract Approvals

1. Amendment of Contract **IRL2020-16**; Microplastics, Oysters and the Indian River Lagoon Project (University of Central Florida)
2. Amendment of Contract **IRL2021-10**; Validation of Inexpensive and Effective Modifications of Mosquito Impoundment Management Strategies to Increase their Value as Vital Fish Nurseries (Indian River Land Trust)
3. Amendment of Contract **IRL2021-18**; Indian River Lagoon Microalgae and Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring – North Stations (University of Florida)
4. Amendment of Contract **IRL2019-14**; The One Lagoon Monitoring Plan (Florida Atlantic University)
- 5.

**Requested Action:** Approval of Consent Agenda.

MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOSEPH FLESCHER. MOTIONED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Agenda Item 10. Presentation**

GeoCollaborate and Additional GIS Projects 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.

### **Agenda Item 11. Old Business**

NONE

### **Agenda Item 12. New Business**

- a. 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:** Authorize staff to adjust funding allocations for FY 2022 and issue new RFQs and RFPs as appropriate.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JOSEPH FLESCHER TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ADJUST FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FOR THE FY 2022 AND ISSUE NEW RFQS AND RFPs AS APPROPRIATE. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JAQUI THURLOW-LIPPISCH. 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:** Review and adopt the tentative budget for FY 2023 by Resolution 2022-01, pursuant to Florida Statutes.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JOSEPH FLESCHER TO ADOPT THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FY 2023 BY RESOLUTION 2022-01, PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JEFF BROWER. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Fiscal Year 2023 Water Quality RFP (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reviewed the fiscal year 2023 water quality RFPs and the top choices for funding.

**Requested Action: (By separate motions)**

1. Accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JAQUI THURLOW-LIPPISCH TO ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOSEPH FLESHCHER. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. 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 JOSEPH FLESCHER TO FUND THE TOP PROPOSALS CONTIGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH AVALAIBLE FUNDS AND BUDGETARY AUTHORITY; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THOSE APPLICANTS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHRIS DZADIVSKY. MOTION PASSED UNANIMUOSLY.

d. Fiscal Year 2023 Habitat Restoration RFP (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reviewed the fiscal year 2023 Habitat Restoration RFP and the top choices for funding.

**Requested Action: (By separate motions)**

1. Accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.

MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG BOURNIQUE TO ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOSEPH FLESHCHER. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. 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 JOSEPH FLESCHER TO FUND THE TOP PROPOSALS CONTIGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH AVALAIBLE FUNDS AND BUDGETARY AUTHORITY; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THOSE APPLICANTS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DOUG BOURNIQUE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMUOSLY.

- e. Fiscal Year 2023 Community-Based Restoration RFP (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reviewed the 2023 community-based restoration RFPs and the top choices for funding.

**Requested Action: (By separate motions)**

1. Accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JOSEPH FLESCHER TO ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DOUG BOURNIQUE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. 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 CHRIS DZADOVSKY TO FUND THE TOP PROPOSALS CONTIGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH AVALAIBLE FUNDS AND BUDGETARY AUTHORITY; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THOSE APPLICANTS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DOUG BOURNIQUE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMUOSLY.

- f. Fiscal Year 2023 Science and Innovation RFP (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reviewed the fiscal year 2023 Science and Innovation RFPs and the top choices for funding.

**Requested Action: (By separate motions)**

1. Accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.

MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY TO ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOSEPH FLESCHER. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. 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 JOSEPH FLESCHER TO FUND THE TOP PROPOSALS CONTIGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH AVALAIBLE FUNDS AND BUDGETARY AUTHORITY; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THOSE APPLICANTS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY. MOTION PASSED UNANIMUOSLY.

- g. Fiscal Year 2023 Market Research RFP (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny explained how there were no submitted RFPs for the fiscal year 2023 in market research that reached over the 70% threshold.

**Requested Action: (By separate motions)**

1. Accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.

NOT APPLICATABLE FOR THIS RFP.

2. 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.

NOT APPLICABLE FOR THIS RFP.

- h. Review and Accept Small Grants Application Packet (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reviewed the small grants application packet and protocol.

Requested Action: Review, accept and authorize staff to release FY 2022 Small Grants application.

MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY TO REVIEW, ACCEPT AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO RELEASE FY 2022 SMALL GRANTS APPLICATION. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOSEPH FLESCHER. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- i. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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:** Authorize staff to finalize and submit the FY 2023 EPA Workplan and complete the FY 2023 IRLNEP Business Plan.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JOSEPH FLESCHER TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO FINALIZE AND SUBMIT THE FY 2023 EPA WORKPLAN AND COMPLETE THE FY 2023 IRLNEP BUSINESS PLAN. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHRIS DZADVOSKY. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- j. Enterprise FL, Florida Defense Support Task Force grant to the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese discussed the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station and Kennedy Space Center still have a joint wastewater collection and treatments system that dates back to the 1950's. 100 miles of sewer mains with 50 miles located within Kennedy Space Center. In conjunction with Linda Weatherman from the EDC, the IRLNEP began discussing the need for WWTP improvements at Kennedy Space Center over a year ago. The EDC submitted a proposal to the Enterprise FL Florida Defense Support Task Force for funding to initiate a feasibility study to explore a new regional wastewater facility. A \$200,000 award was granted to the EDC on January 20, 2022. The IRLNEP would like to get this RFP out for consideration.

**Requested Action:** Authorize staff to assist the EDC Space Coast with the implementation of the grant award to include development, release and review of a competitive RFP and providing administrative and financial oversight to the project as needed.

MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG BOURNIQUE TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ASSIST THE EDC SPACE COAST WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GRANT AWARD TO INCLUDE DEVELOPMENT, RELEASE AND REVIEW OF A COMPETITIVE RFP AND PROVIDING ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT TO THE PROJECT AS NEEDED. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOSEPH FLESCHER. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- k. Request to Adjust Limits on IRL Council Credit Card (Daniel Kolodny)



Dr. De Freese explained the need to adjust the IRL Council shared corporate card from \$3500 to \$5000 to accommodate staff, especially for travel.

**Requested Action:** Authorize staff to request adjustment of Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer's single credit card to \$5,000.00.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JOSEPH FLESCHER TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO REQUEST ADJUSTMENT OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S SINGLE CREDIT CARD TO \$5,000.00. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

l. EPA 5-Year Performance Evaluation Update (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese discussed the EPA 5-Year Performance Evaluation for programmatic delivery and financial security. This 5-year review will be happening in May, the week of the next Management Conference, which will include site visits and invites the Board of Directors to join us. In May, they will present their preliminary findings at the Board of Directors meetings.

**Requested Action:** No motion required. For information only.

m. Committee Quorum Update (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese discussed the current issue with obtaining a quorum for the STEM Advisory Committee and the Citizens' Advisory Committee. Discussions with both committees led to them recommending the three unexcused absence rule and the idea of having alternates. The staff will also reach out to consistently absent members to see if they are still interested and available for each committee. Commissioner Joseph Flescher suggested the two-strike rule, instead of three, as committees only meet four times a year. Commissioner Chris Dzadovsky mentioned that the Board of Directors would like to be notified if their appointees are consistently not present at meetings in order to replace a committee member, if needed. Joseph Flescher, Chris Dzadovsky and Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch all voiced their support for the two-strike rule.

**Requested Action:** Review and discuss potential options and authorize staff to make policy changes as directed.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JOSEPH FLESCHER TO ADOPT THE TWO-STRIKE RULE AND MEMBERS CAN BE REPLACED IF ABSENT TWICE IN A YEAR AND AUTHORIZED STAFF TO MAKE THIS POLICY CHANGE. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHRIS DZADOVESKY. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

n. Executive Director Annual Performance Review (Glen Torcivia)

Mr. Torcivia explained the process of the Executive Director Annual Performance Review. Mr. Torcivia previously provided the Board of Directors with the spreadsheet evaluating that Dr. De Freese was awarded a score of 3.9 out of 4.0.

**Requested Action:** Review and accept the Executive Director Annual Performance review.

MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG BOURNIQUE TO ACCEPT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

o. IRL Specialty Plate (Kathy Hill)

Ms. Hill discussed was the IRL Specialty Tag update, which included next steps with the Florida Department of Transportation and buy-back protocol. Doug Bournique would like to see the text a little larger, if possible, but supports this item.

**Requested Action:** Authorize staff to work with Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to sell down existing stock of IRL specialty license plates and buy-back remainder of plates in order to begin circulation of new plate design.

MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG BOURNIQUE TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO WORK WITH FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES TO SELL DOWN EXISTING STOCK OF IRL SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES AND BUY-BACK REMAINDER OF PLATES IN ORDER TO BEGIN CIRCULATION OF NEW PLATE DESIGN. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOSEPH FLESCHER. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Agenda Item 13. IRLNEP Staff Reports**

a. 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.

b. 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.

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. He also mentioned a possible webinar regarding seagrasses with our partners about what seagrass restoration will look like for short and long-term success. Dr. De Freese reviewed upcoming events including the FAU-HBOI IRL Science Symposium, the Bay Area Scientific Symposium, the 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Water Institute Symposium and the Marine Technology Tech Surge with FAU-HBOI. Dr. De Freese would like to be scheduled with all respective commissioners and council members to present the 2021 review.

### **Agenda Item 13. IRL Council Member Reports**

Commissioner Chris Dzadovsky discussed moving forward with funding for water quality projects. He thanked everyone who attended the Taylor Creek Dredge event and they are discussing putting a permanent pump in the creek for continuous dredging. They had to demobilized due to Manatee UME, however, it should be back in April of 2022 and invites the IRLNEP staff and EPA as a site visit.

Commissioner Brower thanked Dr. De Freese for his work over the past year and his continued commitment to the IRL. He additionally discussed a water quality workshop on February 22, 2022 and would like to schedule Dr. Pierce to discuss low-impact development. In Volusia County, they were able to use HARPA money to fund ten new stormwater projects to reduce nutrient loads. City of Oak Hill will break ground for a septic to sewer project which is a collaborate among the City of Oak Hill, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Indian River Lagoon Council and St. John's River Water Management District. Volusia County also recently celebrated the shuck and share program.

Commissioner Joseph Flescher thanked Dr. De Freese and the IRLNEP staff for our hard work on finding solutions to the success of the Indian River Lagoon. Indian River County is working on a few projects including the Indian River Lagoon Plan, the Lost Tree Project, Septic to Sewer project, and the Jones Pier project. He thanked the Estuary program for supporting the Jones Pier project. In addition, the five Nitrogen Phosphorus projects is showing great success in removing nutrients from the lagoon.

Mr. Andreaotta addressed the great success of the Septic to Sewer projects adjacent to the Indian River Lagoon. With regards to the EPA Performance Evaluation, Mr. Andreaotta said he and Mr. Aaron Wilkens would like to be present for their visit.

Commissioner Curt Smith discussed how Brevard County has completed its fiftieth project since the SOIRL tax was initiated. This was a 2.6-million-dollar stormwater project which will have great benefit to the Indian River Lagoon.

**Agenda Item 14. Next Meeting** (Curt Smith, Vice Chair)

Friday, May 13, 2022

City of Sebastian, Council Chambers, 1225 Main Street, Sebastian, FL 32958

**Agenda Item 15. Adjourn**

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY CURT SMAITH AT 11:42 AM.