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# IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Minutes from the meeting of May 10, 2019

**10:30 a.m.**

*Peter and Julie Cummings Library, Palm City, FL*

**Attendance:** Deb Denys, Tom Frick, Chris Dzadovsky, Stacey Hetherington, Doug Bournique, Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch, Bryan Lober, Susan Adams, Cesar Zapata.

### **Agenda Item 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Deb Denys led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order.

### **Agenda Item 2. Welcome**

Ed Ciampi welcomed those present and stressed collaborations among counties in his remarks.

### **Agenda Item 3. Introduction of Board Members**

Board members introduced themselves. Tom Frick announced that Aaron Adams, FDEP, would assume the FDEP membership on the IRL Council Board of Directors. Tom will remain as Alternate. Deb Denys thanked Bob Ulevich from Polymath Consulting for sponsoring breakfast.

### **Agenda Item 4. Staff Changes**

Duane introduced Daniel Kolodny as the new Chief Operating Officer for the program, and the promotion of Kathy Hill to Deputy Director.

### **Agenda Item 5. Agenda Revisions**

None.

### **Agenda Item 6. Resolutions, Recognition and Awards**

- a. Recognition of Chris Dzadovsky as past IRL Council Chair.
- b. Recognition of grant writer, Kelli McGee (Natua Strategies), for successful \$1.49M grant application on behalf of Brevard County to the Florida Board of Trustees, Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts Priority Ranking. This constitutes a ROI of \$236 to \$1.

### **Agenda Item 7. Public Comment**

Cesar Zapata commended the IRLNEP for the hard work with the CCMP, technical assistance and leveraging available funding; and for assisting with the recent field visit of the Region 4 Director.

## Agenda Item 8. Committee Reports

- a. **Management Board:** Bob Ulevich reported out on the May 7, 2019 Management Board meeting, noting that the Finance Subcommittee is working towards simplification of financial reporting. He gave an overview of the project review process and thanked staff for excellent work in fine-tuning the review process to make it simple and informative for reviewers. He endorsed the projects selected and reiterated maintaining the integrity of the process. The board discussed cost-benefit analysis, risks associated with several projects, an several other items, and fully endorsed the projects with unanimous votes.
- b. **STEM Committee:** Chuck Jacoby reported on the STEM Meeting held on May 7, 2019. He noted that there were many questions from the committee during the project reviews on the project management level, yet the votes were unanimous to endorse the selected projects. He noted the cost-benefit discussion was robust and was based on commoditizing certain outcomes. It was the feeling of the committee to move toward allocating funding with cost-benefit analysis included. He recommended a workshop to discuss future RFPs and the process going forward.
- c. **CAC Meeting:** Kathy Hill gave an update on the CAC meeting. The Committee reviewed all of the Projects and endorsed the selected projects; will be involved in project management for several of the planning projects; and fully endorsed the budget.

Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch recognized Jo Neeson as a new member of the CAC and thanked her for being willing to serve.

Duane De Freese noted that staff is expecting the focus of the August meeting will be a larger, strategic planning meeting. Deb Denys inquired about cost-benefit analysis. Duane replied that it is hard to quantify project benefits, and that no one, nationally, does this well. This will need to be a discussion point, but he wanted the Board to recognize there are no perfect metrics to quantify outcomes. Duane's recommendation for August is to return to a fall release of RFPs, to allow for robust discussion between a January deadline for submission and a March preliminary budget.

## Agenda Item 9. Water Quality Reports

- a. Chuck Jacoby, SJRWMD, gave the water quality report for the northern and central IRL. Salinities are up to about 33 ppt in Mosquito Lagoon (relatively high), 22-24 ppt in Banana River, 28-30 in Titusville, Eau Gallie has been between 12-20 in response to rains; and 27-33 in Vero. Temperatures are generally 76-86, with some spikes up to 90. Phytoplankton, measured as the amount of Chlorophyll in the water is <12 ug/L; Banana River is >40 and up to 200 ug/L; Titusville <20 ug/L with some spikes of *Pyrodinium*, Cocoa averages ~20ug/L but with patchy *Pyrodinium*; Vero is about 10 ug/L.

Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch asked about seagrass recovery. It is about 48% of where it was in 2009.

- b. Dianne Hughes, Martin County, gave the water quality report for the southern end of the lagoon. She recapped 2018. 127 days of discharges. Started June 1, stopped Sept. 5. In total, 87 billion gallons of polluted discharge, 32 million pounds of suspended sediments, 1.3 million pounds N, 147 thousand pounds P. Beginning in February 2019, Army Corps discharges 500 cfs daily. This was reduced to 250 cfs daily by April 6. Estuary's salinity envelope was decreased in just 2 weeks. No recent algae reports in estuary but algae is collecting against the 308 structure. Current Lake O stage is 11.25, so in the beneficial use band of lake management schedule. Currently C-44 basin discharges are being directed to the estuary.

#### **Agenda Item 10. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of meeting minutes from February 8, 2019.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BRYAN LOBER, SECONDED BY SUSAN ADAMS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

- a. Tetra Tech Inc. contract renewal for continuing Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan – “Looking Ahead to 2030” support.

**Requested Action:** Motion to renew Tetra Tech contract with new scope of work to complete the IRL CCMP.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY STACEY HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF THE TETRA TECH CONTRACT. TOM FRICK RECUSED HIMSELF. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Management Conference Appointments (Duane De Freese)  
**Requested Action:** Motion to approve new appointments to Management Board, STEM Advisory Committee and Citizens' Advisory Committee. The following nominations have been recommended for appointment. Support information for additional new appointments and or replacements are provided by staff to assist Board members in appointment decisions for August IRL BOD meeting. With the goal of full committee slates on/before new FY.
  - Commissioner Adams appointments:
    - IRC Utilities Director Vincent Burke to the Management Board,
    - Beth Powell, IRC Assistant Director, Parks and Conservation Resources to the STEM AC.
  - Commissioner Hetherington appointments:
    - Greg Braun and Jo Neeson to the CAC.
  - Management Board Changes:
    - Lynne Phillip, NASA, resigned; NASA requests replacement by Donald Dankert.

- William Tredik, SJRWMD, resigned; SJRWMD requests replacement by Gretchen Kelly on the Management Board and as an alternate on IRL Council Board of Directors.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG BOURNIQUE, SECONDED BY BRYAN LOBER TO APPROVE THE NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Duane De Freese reviewed the list of Management Conference members, their attendance, and staff recommendations for either retaining or replacing members, with no action to be taken until the August meetings.

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

- a. Community Outreach and Education Discussion (Bryan Lober)  
The Brevard County Tourist Development Council (TDC) has been approached with a proposal to contract with a journalist/writer to provide enhanced education and outreach products about Indian River Lagoon issues and restoration projects that are in progress. The TDC is requesting IRL Council consideration to allocate IRL Council funds to fulfil this lagoon-wide need for enhanced communication product development and distribution.

**Requested Action:** Consider allocating no less than \$14,600 toward lagoon education and outreach in the form of publications geared toward the general public on IRL topics that apply throughout all five counties.

Duane De Freese explained that Brevard Tourism Development Council is allocating \$1M toward lagoon restoration, including \$100,000 in community outreach activities. An item came to TDC about doing lagoonwide communication. Bryan Lober asked a relevant question about using these funds for lagoonwide communication when the IRLNEP is already established to do this work. IRLNEP is contemplating a budget with \$75,000 for communication lagoonwide. Our staff recommendation is that we will do lagoonwide communication and don't need the \$14,000. Staff will work with county TDCs and see where the needs are.

Bryan Lober outlined Brevard's expenditures on sales tax and TDC revenues. He stated everyone can agree that county-specific needs should be addressed within individual counties, but there are lagoonwide topics that we can address. It may be duplicative for each county to develop their own materials when an organization such as the NEP can develop materials that apply lagoonwide. He would like to see staff put together fact sheets, perhaps videos, etc. to benefit the whole lagoon.

Deb Denys suggested deferring this discussion for the budget discussion later.

Chris Dadovsky, TDC Chair for St. Lucie, agreed that NEP should be clearinghouse for information lagoonwide and is not against the idea. The NEP expertise should be leveraged. He suggested that the NEP go to the TDCs for grant support to disseminate information.

Susan Adams agreed that deferring the conversation to the budget discussion is most appropriate. Her feeling is that TDC dollars collected within a county should be spent to the benefit of the county in which they are collected. NEP Should be the tip of the spear and coordinate messaging, but that each county individually should take that message and disseminate it within their counties. She would be more comfortable with Brevard taking the NEP message to their community.

Duane thinks this may be an exciting opportunity. Staff will take care of these big questions with lagoonwide impacts and will reach out to the TDCs to see if partnership opportunities exist. He wants to insure that the NEP is synergistic and not overlapping. The real challenge is how to work better with these revenue streams.

Tom Frick asked if Mr. Lober was asking for a \$14,600 carve-out for this specific campaign as part of the \$75,000 NEP Communications budget. Mr. Lober said, yes.

Deb Denys stated that nothing has been presented in writing and nothing has been presented to the Board. She suggested moving on unless there was a motion and having the discussion as part of the budget discussions.

**BRYAN LOBER MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO PRESENT THE BOARD WITH AN OPTON IN THE BUDGET TO CARVE OUT \$14,600 FOR THIS PURPOSE WHEN THE BUDGET IS BROUGHT FORWARD. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.**

- b. RFP 2019-01 (Restoration Projects) Proposal Scores and Funding Recommendation (Kathy Hill).

Requested Actions (By separate motions):

- Motion to accept IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.
- Motion to accept the Management Conference recommendations to fund the top eight proposals contingent and consistent with budgetary authority and authorize staff to negotiate and enter into contracts with those applicants.

Kathy Hill reviewed the projects summary and process of RFP review. Deb Denys requested just a summary of the project categories, not details of each project.

There was no public comment.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY, SECONDED BY TOM FRICK TO ACCEPT THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROJECTS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY, SECONDED BY TOM FRICK TO ACCEPT THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUND THE TOP EIGHT PROPOSALS CONTINGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH BUDGETARY AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THOSE APPLICANTS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. RFP 2019-02 (Community-Based Restoration Projects) Proposal Scores and Funding Recommendation (Kathy Hill).

Requested Actions (By separate motions):

- Motion to accept IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.
- Motion to accept the Management Conference recommendations to fund the top four proposals contingent and consistent with budgetary authority and authorize staff to negotiate and enter into contracts with those applicants.

There was no public comment.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY STACEY HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY SUSAN ADAMS TO ACCEPT THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROJECTS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY STACEY HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY TOM FRICK TO ACCEPT THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUND THE TOP FOUR PROPOSALS CONTINGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH BUDGETARY AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THOSE APPLICANTS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bryan Lober left the meeting.

- d. RFP 2019-03 (State of the Lagoon Technical Report) Proposal Scores and Funding Recommendation (Kathy Hill).

Requested Actions (By separate motions):

- Motion to accept IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.
- Motion to accept the Management Conference recommendations to fund the top ranked proposal contingent and consistent with budgetary authority and authorize staff to negotiate and enter into a contract with the applicant.

There was no public comment.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY, SECONDED BY SUSAN ADAMS TO ACCEPT THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROJECTS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY, SECONDED BY TOM FRICK TO ACCEPT THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUND THE TOP PROPOSAL CONTINGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH BUDGETARY AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE APPLICANT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- e. RFP 2019-04 (Habitat Restoration Plan) Proposal Scores and Funding Recommendation (Kathy Hill).

Requested Actions (By separate motions):

- Motion to accept IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.
- Motion to accept the Management Conference recommendations to fund the top ranked proposal contingent and consistent with budgetary authority and authorize staff to negotiate and enter into a contract with the applicant.

Ed Fielding asked why there is no cost share associated with this project. Kathy replied that no cost share was required for this RFP. There was no other public comment.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY, SECONDED BY STACEY HETHERINGTON TO ACCEPT THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROJECTS. TOM FRICK RECUSED HIMSELF FROM THIS VOTE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY, SECONDED BY SUSAN ADAMS TO ACCEPT THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUND THE TOP PROPOSAL CONTINGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH BUDGETARY AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE APPLICANT. TOM FRICK RECUSED HIMSELF FROM THIS VOTE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- f. RFP 2019-05 (Lagoonwide Monitoring Plan) Proposal Scores and Funding Recommendation (Kathy Hill).

Requested Actions (By separate motions):

- Motion to accept IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.
- Motion to accept the Management Conference recommendations to fund the top ranked proposal contingent and consistent with

budgetary authority and authorize staff to negotiate and enter into a contract with the applicant.

There was no public comment.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUSAN ADAMS, SECONDED BY STACEY HETHERINGTON TO ACCEPT THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROJECTS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUSAN ADAMS, SECONDED BY STACEY HETHERINGTON TO ACCEPT THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUND THE TOP PROPOSAL CONTINGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH BUDGETARY AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE APPLICANT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- g. RFP 2019-06 (Lagoonwide Asset Mapping) Proposal Scores and Funding Recommendation (Kathy Hill).

Requested Actions (By separate motions):

- Motion to accept IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.
- Motion to accept the Management Conference recommendations to fund the top ranked proposal contingent and consistent with budgetary authority and authorize staff to negotiate and enter into a contract with the applicant.

Chris Dzadovsky asked what is defined by asset. Duane replied that in all of the planning docs there will be a need for maps. The management conference will decide which maps are needed. Staff will ensure that all planning document teams and staff are working together without duplication to develop a set of asset maps (stormwater outfalls, septic systems within counties, seagrass maps, maritime industries, federal assets in the watershed, etc.).

There was no public comment.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY, SECONDED BY SUSAN ADAMS TO ACCEPT THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROJECTS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY, SECONDED BY SUSAN ADAMS TO ACCEPT THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUND THE TOP PROPOSAL CONTINGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH BUDGETARY AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE APPLICANT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



- h. RFP 2019-07 (Lagoon-Friendly Boater's Guide) Proposal Scores and Funding Recommendation (Kathy Hill).

Requested Actions (By separate motions):

- Motion to accept IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.
- Motion to accept the Management Conference recommendations to fund the top ranked proposal contingent and consistent with budgetary authority and authorize staff to negotiate and enter into a contract with the applicant.

Doug Bournique suggested that marinas can be assisted in caring better for wash water.

Chris Dzadovsky recommended the recipient be in contact with St. Lucie and other counties to gather existing information and assets. He also recommended that private funding be brought to printing and distribution of the Boater's Guide, as well as developing an app for smartphones. Duane De Freese responded that staff will take this as a directive to raise private funding as appropriate to support the program mission. Chris Dzadovsky recommended speaking with the county's EDC as a resource.

Cesar Zapata agreed that private funding would be valuable, as would be the app for boater's, particularly those from out of areas.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY, SECONDED BY STACEY HETHERINGTON TO DIRECT STAFF TO WORK WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO EXPAND PROGRAM FUNDING AS APPROPRIATE IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THE MISSION AND GOALS FO THE PROGRAM AND TO DEVELOP AND DISTRIBUTE RESOURCES SUCH AS APPS, PRINT AND OTHER MATERIALS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

There was no public comment.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY, SECONDED BY SUSAN ADAMS TO ACCEPT THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROJECTS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY, SECONDED BY SUSAN ADAMS TO ACCEPT THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUND THE TOP PROPOSAL CONTINGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH BUDGETARY AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE APPLICANT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- i. FY 2019-2020 Final Budget (Duane De Freese)

A detailed FY 2019-2020 budget will be presented by staff to support final FY 2019-2020 budget adoption in order to meet the June 1, 2019 State of Florida deadline.

Requested Action: Motion to approve Resolution 2019-04 adopting the budget for FY 2019-2020.

Duane De Freese reviewed the staff-recommended budget as a summary and in detail. He advised that staff will come back in the August meeting with audit results and an unencumbered cash-forward position.

Deb Denys suggested cash reserves need to be increased, and that she would also like to see Board discussion at the August meeting of a pay increase for Duane De Freese and cost-of-living increases for staff.

Chris Dzadovsky praised Duane's leadership and agreed that the Board needs to recognize this. Doug Bournique agreed and stated he is in favor a pay increase for the Executive Director.

Carolyn Ansay suggested that the legal budget is approximately twice what actual expenses are. She noted there is available funding to accommodate an increase.

Tom Frick agreed and requested staff do a salary survey of executive directors in the NEP structure to give the board an idea and what the differential might be. Susan Adams agreed.

Chris Dzadovsky asked Cesar Zapata to speak to the issue as a large funder of the NEP. Cesar replied he is not aware of what other EDs make, but that the IRLNEP work in the last 5 years has been extraordinary. Duane is widely recognized as national leader.

MOTION WAS MADE BY STACEY HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY SUSAN ADAMS, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2019-04 ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FY 2019-2020.

There was no public comment on the budget.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Duane De Freese requested a staff directive to expend no less than \$15,000 on development of lagoonwide resources for public education and outreach that each county can use.

Susan Adams offered that she agreed so long as resources are regionally focused, with all counties included. It is her concern to avoid parsing budget for each county, so that if Brevard gets a carve-out of funding, then other counties would also want to follow. It is important that the Board remain focused on a collective or regional culture. Duane agreed and reminded the Board that when the IRL Council was formed, the overarching priority was to create a culture of One Lagoon and make collective decisions on what is important for the lagoon without regard for geography, political considerations or special interests.

Deb Denys asked if a motion was required, Duane replied that a directive is sufficient.

- j. FY 2019-2020 EPA Work Plan and IRLNEP Business Plan (De Freese)  
The plans have been reviewed by the IRLNEP Management Conference. Management Conference advisory committee recommendations will be communicated to the IRL Council Board.

Requested Action (By separate motions):

- Motion to approve the IRLNEP Business Plan for FY 2019-2020 and authorize staff to negotiate and enter into contracts identified in the plan contingent and consistent with budget authority.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM FRICK, SECONDED BY SUSAN ADAMS, TO APPROVE THE BUSINESS PLAN FOR FY 2019—2020 AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE PLAN CONTINGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH BUDGET AUTHORITY. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Motion to authorize staff to submit the FY 2019-2020 EPA Work Plan proposal on or before the June 1, 2019 EPA deadline.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY, SECONDED BY STACEY HETHERINGTON TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SUBMIT THE FY 2019-2020 EPA WORK PLAN ON OR BEFORE THE JUNE 1, 2019 DEADLINE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- k. Looking Ahead to IRL Council FY 2020-2021 budget – IRL Council Inter-Local Agreement and member revenue contributions. (Duane De Freese)

Requested Action: Information only. No action required. Issue will be addressed at August 2019 IRL Council Board of Directors Meeting.

Carolyn Ansay reviewed the Interlocal Agreement, noting the sunset review provision that was included. This is to occur in February 2020. Review language states the agreement will be reviewed after 5 years with the Board deciding whether to continue. A majority vote of the parties can dissolve the agreement. Should no action occur, the agreement remains in effect. She requested that Board members have the conversations in their own jurisdictions and come back for further discussion.

Chris Dzadovsky noted the county investments made in the Program come back “in spades”. He requested that Carolyn and Duane draft a resolution to take back to individual counties so that the discussions can be held and debated and the relationship with the NEP can be extended. He also requested that each county consider increasing their contributions to the IRLNEP by \$10,000 as a means of showing community commitment to the Program and encouraging other funding from state sources.

Carolyn suggested the Interlocal does not necessarily have to be amended for counties to increase their contributions. It will cost thousands of dollars to amend the interlocal agreement. The motion can be made and agreed upon without amending the interlocal.

Deb Denys noted she was in favor of formally changing the Interlocal Agreement. Chris Dzadovsky requested that Carolyn and Duane come back to the Board in August with options.

Duane suggested that counties could do an annual non-binding “supplemental”. Deb Denys requested that be included in the options to be discussed in August.

### **Agenda Item 13. Executive Director Report**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Progress and Activities to date.
- Legislative Update (Federal and State).
- CCMP Revision: Progress update and next steps to IRL Council Adoption with comments by César A. Zapata, Deputy Director, Water Division EPA Region 4.

Duane De Freese reviewed the Florida legislative session and the Federal budget standing for the NEP program, noting strong bipartisan support for NEPs. There were 80 signatures to request taking NEP funding to the authorized amount of \$750,000. This would be a significant jump in funding.

He also noted that the Program will be working on a statewide proposal to address Harmful Algal Blooms and apply for additional EPA funding.

Duane provided an update on the CCMP, reviewing several changes that have been made to the document, particularly pertaining to cost estimates for actions in the plan. This final draft is posted on the [www.irlcouncil.com](http://www.irlcouncil.com) website. He anticipates the Board can adopt the final CCMP in either August or November.

Cesar Zapata reviewed EPA progress on certification of the CCMP. He envisions the document being certified by August when it can be used as the roadmap for the program going forward. Duane thanked Cesar for the hard work done at Region 4 and recognized Jennifer DiMaio for her dedication to the Program.

### **Agenda Item 14. Member Reports**

**Susan Adams:** Thanked Duane for speaking to the IR County Taxpayers Association. Indian River County is working on their IRL Plan and she will report more on that as it develops.

**Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch:** Reported that the St. Lucie River and IRL are again on the SFWMD map and the agency is again communicating regarding the lagoon. Her feeling was the agency had largely ignored the lagoon and its issues for a long time previous to the current administration. She recognized Gov. Desantis for insisting that the agency operate

with transparency going forward. Happy to see leadership gaps are being closed in terms of leadership roles regarding nutrient pollution. She recognized Ed Fielding for his leadership in the IRL Council.

**Stacey Hetherington:** Martin County has embarked on the LOSUM process. A countywide team went to almost every Corps. meeting and put together the scoping comments for the Martin County Board. Recently, a 5-county meeting came together in Okeechobee County to dialog about the needs, working more closely, improving communication, etc. Also, Martin County is working to eliminate single-use plastics and develop a communications plan to recognize local restaurants participating in this ocean-friendly initiative.

**Chris Dzadovsky:** Addressed being in Washington, DC regarding the biosolids issue. biosolids are an increasing threat to Florida and nationwide. Biosolids rules need to be addressed and tightened. New technology needs to be implemented, landspreading or composting needs to end as it currently exists. The county currently is trying to block a permit application at SFWMD for a biosolid facility wishing to discharge its surface water directly into the C-25 canal. He Stated statewide, counties and other entities are spending millions to billions to clean contaminants from the system. This is our opportunity to not let it into the water in the first place. This facility is looking to do 8,000 pounds of biosolids composted material, which includes 20,000 pounds of septage in the mix as open-air processing. The site has 400 miles of internal canals and an unlined pond, but states it intends to keep its water onsite. As composting proceeds the nutrients will migrate to their canals and into the C-25 for discharge directly to the lagoon. How can there be a future for the lagoon to recover if we are permitting facilities like this right on water bodies?

Wastewater plants on the lagoon need to be moved off and away from the lagoon. He would like to see the St. Lucie plant moved off the lagoon and is looking for support from agencies to incentivize this process. He is also interested in working toward completion of moving some large developments off septic to central sewer. With help from the NEP, St. Lucie is nearing completion of Paradise Park subdivision septic to sewer conversion.

He would also like to see what St. Lucie's contribution in cfs is to Ten Mile Creek and the C-23 and C-24, which discharge into the lagoon in Martin County. He noted that Lake Okeechobee is not solely responsible for damage when St. Lucie is dumping into Martin County. County does need assistance to develop this information and quantify what is being discharged.

County has received a grant to fund Becker Reserve to reconnect the oxbow. This will be a benefit downstream.

To FDEP, City of Ft. Pierce has annexed the old Cargill facility in St. Lucie County. This site has had extreme toxins placed into the ground from that facility. County has raised the issue over and over with SFWMD and FDEP. Now, an auto salvage facility is looking to go in. This property directly abuts 10-Mile Creek. How can we continue to permit uses of this kind with the contaminants associated with them and allow them to be near water sources? He and Cesar Zapata discussed brownfields funding potential to remediate the site.

**Doug Bournique:** St. Lucie Issues Team was a great benefit for the St. Lucie Basin. In recent years, funding has dried up from highs of approximately \$20M per year. He would

like to see the Board consider creating sub-basins of the lagoon, with a northern basin, central basin and southern basin, and ask for people working in these areas to participate and recommend to the Council what needs to be done to improve the basin.

Duane suggested that task forces could be set up who could be our proposal reviewers. Task forces can be outside of Sunshine, but their recommendations could come into the Management Conference via the Management Board. The program wants to work as One Lagoon, but perhaps it would be useful to have area experts for several sub-basins.

Duane mentioned that license plate revenues have been flat or tapering and staff has contemplated updating the artwork. Perhaps it is time to discuss with SFWMD and SJRWMD about bringing the plate under the NEP.

**Tom Frick:** FDEP's \$250,000 is in the recurring budget from here out. The Department is moving forward with updating biosolids rules and will be holding workshops to discuss language, making sure the agency is being protective in permitting, focusing on phosphorus as well as nitrogen, and innovative means of using biosolids.

Chief Science Officer, Dr. Tom Frazier began last week. He is working on transparency, technology, innovation, and permitting programs. He will be holding one or more meetings of the Harmful Algal Bloom task force.

Regarding the DOT issue with causeways. He has discussed with folks in Tallahassee to further discuss the issue with the agencies, port, and NEP to work through some of the issues. That will be coming up shortly.

**Deb Denys:** Duane De Freese received the Marine Resources Council Krogel Award for government service and quickly passed the award on to Dianne Hughes of Martin County. Duane mentioned that he was honored but passed the award to Dianne because of her incredibly hard work in Martin County during the cyanobacterial blooms. He noted it's a tough place to be in as county staff during a public health emergency.

#### **Agenda Item 15. Next Meeting Announcement**

Deb Denys announced the next meeting will be held Friday, August 9, 2019 at the north county library in Sebastian. She suggested the next meeting be moved to the Sebastian City Hall.

Kathy Hill asked about whether there was interest in moving the year's last meeting as well, since the change would need to be publicly noticed. Chris Dzadovsky noted he would rather be back at the Sebastian council chambers where the meeting can be recorded for television. This will help the Board reach more people and let the public know about what is going on throughout the watershed. There was general consensus about returning to Sebastian City Hall.

#### **Agenda Item 16. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned.