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# IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Minutes from the Meeting of Friday, February 7, 2020

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

**Attendance:** Susan Adams, Curt Smith, Aaron Watkins, Stacey Hetherington, Doug Bournique, Jackie Thurlow-Lippisch, Billie Wheeler, Chris Dzadovsky

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** (Susan Adams, Vice-Chair)

- Meeting called to order at 9:38 a.m.
- Commissioner Dzadovsky requested a moment of silence honoring fallen FHP Trooper Joseph Bullock.

**2. Introduction of IRL Council Board of Directors and Special Guests** (Susan Adams, Vice-Chair)

- Susan Adams introduced two new appointees to the IRL Council Board:
  - Billie Wheeler, Volusia County, replacing Deborah Denys
  - Curt Smith, Brevard County, replacing Bryan Lober
- Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch was welcomed back
- Welcomed Natalie Ellington and Jennifer DeMaio, EPA, viewing via live stream

**3. Agenda Revisions** (Susan Adams, Vice-Chair)

None

MOTION MADE BY STACY HERRINGTON, 2<sup>ND</sup> BY DOUG BOURNIQUE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**4. Resolutions, Recognition, Letters and Awards** (Susan Adams, Vice-Chair)

None

**5. Public Comment**

James Campo, Commissioner, Town of Sewell's Point addressed council advising they were attending today to make themselves available to answer any questions regarding their recently submitted RFP Proposal, specifically Item 10b.

**6. Water Quality Reports**

- a. Central and northern lagoon (Dr. Chuck Jacoby, SJRWMD)
  - Dr. Charles Jacoby, SJRWMD presented recent data from the Northern and Central IRL, provided a map of data collection locations along with a snapshot of collected data. Seagrass maps (Spring of 2019) are nearing completion and are expected to be released shortly.
- b. Southern lagoon (Katie Bowes, Martin County) and St. Lucie County (Jose Vega, St. Lucie County)

- Jose Vega, St. Lucie County presented data for the past quarter as reported for C-23, C-24 and 10-mile creek.
- Katie Bowes, Martin County presented recent data for the southern IRL and Lake Okeechobee. Lake Okeechobee discharges have been sent to the west. Presented the 5-year status of the BMAP
- Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch, added that SFWMD has some additional seagrass [monitoring, research?] that that she would like Martin County to present as well in the future.
- Dr. De Freese advised that several fishing guides have reported seeing some large drift algae aggregations starting to pile up on shorelines across the Lagoon region.

## 7. Consent Agenda

Requested Action: Approval of Consent Agenda (Susan Adams, Vice-Chair)

- Approval of meeting minutes from November 8, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting.
- Approval of Chair and Co-Chair in 2020 for STEM Advisory Committee, Management Board and Citizens' Advisory Committee
  - Management Board: Robert Ulevich, Chair; Kathy LaMartina, Co-Chair
  - STEM Advisory Committee: Dr. Charles Jacoby, Chair; Chad Truxal, Co-Chair
  - Citizens Advisory Committee: Frank Catino, Chair; Jesse W, Co-Chair
- Management Conference Appointments
  - i. Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) - new appointments  
Dallas Young, appointed by Deb Denys
  - ii. STEM Advisory Committee (STEMAC) –Dr. Alexandra Serna-Salazar, replaces Dr. Patti Gorman as SFWMD representative, appointed by Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch

MOTION MADE BY STACY HERRINGTON, 2<sup>ND</sup> BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## 8. IRLNEP Management Conference Committee Reports

- a. Management Board Report (Robert Ulevich, Chair)
  - Robert Ulevich presented a review of the Management Board meeting held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020. The Management Board recommends approval of the RFPs as presented, as well as the Tentative Budget.
- b. STEM Advisory Committee (Dr. Chuck Jacoby, Chair)
  - Dr. Chuck Jacoby presented the review of the recent STEM Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, the STEMAC recommends approval of the RFPs as presented, as well as the Tentative Budget. Updates were presented for the planning documents and the guest speaker was Dr. Kimberly Yates, USGS with an in-depth presentation on Ocean Acidification with cause and effect to local waters.
- c. Citizens' Advisory Committee (Frank Catino, Chair)
  - Kathy Hill, Deputy Director IRLNEP, presented the Citizens Advisory Committee update for Frank Catino. The CAC recommends approval of the RFPs as presented, as well as the Tentative Budget. Discussion was had regarding a plan for improving our social media presence.

## 9. Old Business

None

## 10. New Business

- Election of Officers (Carolyn Ansay)  
As required by IRL Council By-Laws, officer elections occur annually  
Requested Action: Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary for Calendar Year 2020.  
Carolyn Ansay advised that historically Council has opted to rotate the Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary positions. Additionally, the Water Management Districts and FDEP have opted out of IRL Council leadership positions.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ELECT SUSAN ADAMS AS CHAIR, STACY HETHERINGTON AS CO-CHAIR, CURT SMITH, SECRETARY BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY, SECONDED BY DOUG BOURNIQUE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- RFP 2020-01 (Water Quality) Proposal Scores and Funding Recommendation (Duane De Freese, Daniel Kolodny).  
Requested Actions (By separate motions):
  - Motion to accept IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.  
Dr. De Freese presented the RFP process, sources of funding, and how monies will be allocated.

Daniel Kolodny presented the RFP outcomes:

- 11 proposals in Water Quality Restoration (\$1,299,723 requested/\$500,000 available/IRL Council contribution)
- 3 proposals in Habitat Restoration (\$242,020 requested/\$200,000 available/IRL Council contribution)
- 7 proposals in Community-Based Restoration (\$436,149 requested/\$200,000 available/IRL Council contribution)
- 10 proposals in Science and Innovation (\$687,890 requested/\$100,000 available/EPA Section 320 funds)

Daniel Kolodny presented the RFP recommendations for RFP 2020-01, Water Quality:

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS BY STACEY HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Motion to accept the Management Conference recommendations to fund the top proposals contingent and consistent with available funds and budgetary authority. Authorize staff to negotiate and enter into contracts with those applicants.
  - Fully fund - Kashi Church Foundation, Septic to Sewer Project, requested 89,956.00
  - Fully fund - Indian River County, North Sebastian Phase 2 Septic to Sewer Project, requesting \$204,017.69
  - Fully fund - Martin County, Connect to Protect Septic to Sewer Nutrient Removal Program, requesting \$150,000

- **TABLED:** Town of Sewall's Point, Sewall's Point Stormwater Treatment and Storage, requested amount \$150,000.00 (Partial funding of \$56,026.31 is available to fund this request. Full funding may be possible once audit results and the Program's cash forward position are documented). Item will be revisited for funding after the annual audit is completed.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO FUND THE TOP 3 PROPOSALS CONTINGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH AVAILABLE FUNDS AND BUDGETARY AUTHORITY. AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THOSE APPLICANTS BY STACEY HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Dr. De Freese presented a possible solution to fully fund Town of Sewall's Point, Sewall's Point Stormwater Treatment and Storage.

Joe Capra, Town of Seawall's Point, Engineer, spoke regarding the project and the Town's appreciation of the Council's efforts to fully fund to ongoing project.

MOTION WAS MADE TO DIRECT STAFF TO IDENTIFY FUNDING SOURCES FOR THE SEAWELL'S POINT PROJECT AND PRESENT A FUNDING PLAN AT THE MAY 6, 2020 MEETING BY CURT SMITH AND SECONDED BY STACEY HETHERINGTON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- RFP 2020-02 (Habitat Restoration) Proposal Scores and Funding Recommendation (Duane De Freese, Daniel Kolodny).

Requested Actions (By separate motions):

- Motion to accept IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.

Daniel Kolodny presented the RFP recommendations for RFP 2020-02, Habitat Restoration:

- Fully fund – University of Florida, Restoration of calm population in the Indian river Lagoon doe water quality improvement, requested amount \$122,020
- Fully fund Sea and Shoreline, LLC, Tucker Cove Seagrass Restoration Project, requested amount \$85,000

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS BY STACEY HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY BILLIE WHEELER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Motion to accept the Management Conference recommendations to fund the top proposals contingent and consistent with available funds and budgetary authority. Authorize staff to negotiate and enter into contracts with those applicants.

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

- RFP 2020-03 (Community-Based Restoration) Proposal Scores and Funding Recommendation (Duane De Freese, Daniel Kolodny).

Requested Actions (By separate motions):

- Motion to accept IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.  
Daniel Kolodny presented the RFP recommendations for RFP 2020-03, Community Based Restoration:
  - Fully fund – University of Central Florida, Improving Mosquito Lagoon Oyster Reef and Living Shoreline Restoration be Using Only Biodegradable Materials, requested amount \$99,233
  - Fully Fund – Indian River Land Trust, Validation of Inexpensive and Effective Modifications of Mosquito Impoundment Management Strategies to Increase Their Value as Vital Fish Habitat, requested amount \$73,950
  - Fully Fund - Florida Oceanographic Society, developing plastic-free alternatives for community-based oyster restoration in the Indian River Lagoon, requested amount \$22,364

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS BY STACEY HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY JACQUI THURLOW-LIPPISCH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Motion to accept the Management Conference recommendations to fund the top proposals contingent and consistent with available funds and budgetary authority. Authorize staff to negotiate and enter into contracts with those applicants.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO FUND THE TOP PROPOSALS CONTINGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH AVAILABLE FUNDS AND BUDGETARY AUTHORITY. AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THOSE APPLICANTS BY STACEY HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY JACQUI THURLOW-LIPPISCH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- RFP 2020-04 (Science and Innovation) Proposal Scores and Funding Recommendation (Duane De Freese, Daniel Kolodny).

Requested Actions (By separate motions):

- Motion to accept IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.  
Daniel Kolodny presented the RFP recommendations for RFP 2020-03, Community Based Restoration:

- Fully fund – University of Central Florida, Examining Microbial Dynamics and Sources of Microplastics in the Indian River Lagoon, requested amount \$56,941
- Fully Fund - Brevard County, Testing Steel Gabions and Concrete Core Modules for Use in Oyster Bars in the Indian River Lagoon, requested amount \$1,750
- Partially Fund – Florida Atlantic University, Monitoring prevalence of microcystin toxins using Solid Phase Adsorption Toxin Testing (SPATT), requested amount \$94,580 (funds available: \$41,309)

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS BY STACEY HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY BILLIE WHEELER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Motion to accept the Management Conference recommendations to fund the top proposals contingent and consistent with available funds and budgetary authority. Authorize staff to negotiate and enter into contracts with those applicants.

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

Dr. Dr Freese presented a funding plan to fully fund Florida Atlantic University, Monitoring prevalence of microcystin toxins using Solid Phase Adsorption Toxin Testing (SPATT).

MOTION WAS MADE TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT CONTINGENT ON FUNDING OF EPA AWARD OF GRANT BY BILLIE WHEELER AND SECONDED BY DOUG BOURNIQUE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION WAS MADE TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO DEVELOP THE EPA 2021 WORKPLAN AND SUBMIT BY JUNE 1, 2020 BY DOUG BOURNIQUE AND SECONDED BY BILLIE WHEELER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- FY2020-2021 Tentative Budget Approval (Duane De Freese, Daniel Kolodny) Requested Action: Motion to approve Resolution 2020-01 adopting the tentative budget for FY2020-2021 pursuant to IRL Council policy and Florida Statutes 200.065.

Dr. De Freese presented an overview of budget planning and Daniel Kolodny presented the tentative budget with full outlook of the anticipated expenses for FY2020-2021.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-01 BY DOUG BOURNIQUE, SECONDED BY BILLIE WHEELER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**11. IRLNEP Executive Director Report:** Chair, Susan Adams, requested that Dr. De Freese address the concern of a recent editorial appearing in TC Palm India River County edition.

- Dr. De Freese presented the Florida Sunshine Law and reiterated the IRL Council Advocacy Policy as it relates to the Management Conference. He noted that members of the Management Conference may not speak on behalf of the Council or the NEP without having express permission to do so from the Board of Directors.
- Duane De Freese reviewed 2 bills moving forward in the State legislature: 2020 Legislative Activities: House Bill 4044 and Senate Bill 3171
- Dr. De Freese was recently appointed as the Elected External Affairs Representative to the Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP).
- Thumb Drives - One Lagoon Call to Action Video, CCMP and 2019 Annual Report
- Florida Coastal and Ocean Strategic Plan/Economic Analysis draft plan has been completed and will be released in late February.
- Florida Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force update
- Multiple Upcoming Events:
  - FAU-HBOI IRL Science Symposium February 13-14
  - Marine Technology Society –FL TechSurge April 1-2.

## **12. IRL Council Member Reports**

- Chris Dzadovsky: Offered thanks for support and efforts to disallow the open-air commercial biosolids composting project that was presented in St. Lucie County. The project and associated lawsuits have been withdrawn. St. Lucie County fully supports the FDEP's effort in the rulemaking process. Also wanted to thank the private citizens who wrote 4400 emails and letters that were sent from Saint Lucie County alone.
- Aaron Watkins: FDEP just completed a record number of compliance inspections. This is the first time that within a years' time FDEP has inspected all wastewater treatment facilities and FDEP stormwater discharge MSGP permits that were in addition to our normal levels of service. In total, DEP added 2000 inspections across the state, with 500 in the central district.
- Stacey Hetherington –Martin County priorities has been highly active in LOSUM by providing a significant amount of input through all the stages. Last year, Martin County embarked on a 10-year plan to convert 10,000 septic tanks to sewer. Martin County Public Works' Street Sweeping program was highlighted at last month's Commission meeting. More than 760 miles of roadway were swept, removing 278 pounds of debris from roadways and preventing it from entering the IRL. The Commission was given a one cubic foot box as a visual example of the volume of debris being kept out of our storm and sewer systems. The total debris removed last year would have been equal to 7,000 of those cubes and if they were stacked end on end they would be 5.5 times higher than the Empire State building.
- Susan Adams - Indian River County has been focused on legislation. There are several water quality bills that the County is following and advocating for, including the bio solids bill.
- Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch - Looking forward to getting more involved with IRLNEP. She thanked Dr. Patty Gorman for her service and noted the district has recently hired Dr. Carolina Moran to fill a resiliency position.

- Doug Bournique - Noted it's nice to get a governor that cares that much about the lagoon and about water issues in the state. He discussed a foreign firm that heard about Florida's algal bloom issues and traveled to his office at the USDA lab to discuss possible solutions. If the solutions seem viable, he will get them in contact with the water management districts and FDEP.
- Billie Wheeler – Discussed the upcoming Southeast Volusia County Water Quality Update, scheduled for Saturday, February 8 at the Edgewater City Hall starting at 8:30 a.m.
- Curt Smith – Discussed Brevard County's the Save Our Indian River Lagoon program, noting the half-cent sales tax has raised over \$43 million this year. This raises the annual estimated revenue to \$50 million over the next 10 years.

### **13. IRL Council – Next Meeting Announcement**

- a. Next IRL Council Meeting will be held on:

Friday, May 8, 2020  
Sebastian City Hall Council Chambers  
1225 Main Street, Sebastian, FL  
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

### **14. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Meeting can be viewed in its entirety here: [https://youtu.be/Sck3si\\_zkE8](https://youtu.be/Sck3si_zkE8)

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### **Informational reports provided in Board briefing package (No Board actions required)**

- a. Staff Report: IRLNEP Activities and Progress to Date.
- b. Monthly Financial Statements, including the IRLNEP active projects list and quarterly cash flow summary.