



IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes from the Meeting of Friday, May 8, 2020 **Zoom Web Meeting**

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

Agenda Item 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance (Susan Adams, Chair)
Meeting called to order at 9:38 a.m. Chair recognized Carolyn Ansay who made a brief statement for the record about why the IRLNEP is conducting its meetings via Zoom. Kaylene Wheeler read the rules for the Zoom meeting, how to be recognized to speak, and how to offer public comment.

Agenda Item 2. Introduction of IRL Council Board of Directors and Special Guests (Susan Adams, Chair)
Chair recognized Senator Debbie Mayfield and her Legislative Assistants, Adrienne Cronebaugh and Kaitlyn Currey, along with representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Vince Bacalan, Partnership Programs Branch, EPA Headquarters, Jennifer DiMaio, Environmental Scientist, EPA Region 4, Tom McGill, Oceans, Wetlands, Steams Protections Branch Chief, EPA Region 4, Natalie Ellington, Oceans and Estuarine Management Section Chief, EPA Region 4.

Agenda Item 3. Agenda Revisions (Susan Adams, Chair)
4 revisions were noted.

MOTION MADE BY DOUG BOURNIQUE, 2ND BY SUSAN ADAMS TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH STATED REVISIONS, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item 4. Resolutions, Recognition, Letters and Awards (Susan Adams, Chair)
None

Agenda Item 5. Public Comment
Senator Debbie Mayfield update:

The Florida Senate passed the State budget on March 19, 2020 in the amount of 93.2 billion dollars, it is currently still awaiting the governor's signature. Included are:

- A total of \$690 million in water quality projects
- \$322 million for Everglades restoration
- \$50 million for springs restoration
- \$40 million for alternative water supplies
- \$198 million for water quality improvement
- \$25 million for septic to sewer and wastewater programs
- \$25 million to reduce TMDLs
- \$25 million for water quality for the northern Florida Rivers
- \$25 million for water quality improvements for the IRL, SJRWMD will be the agency overseeing those funds
- \$76.2 million for general water projects
- \$33 million for water quality addressing the algae blooms
- Florida Forever received \$100 million
- There were 134 projects for local community parks, \$12.3 million was funded for 100% grant awards
- Senate Bill 712 passed and includes: septic tank permitting was switched from FDOH to FDEP, impacts that wastewater treatment facilities will now need to report to FDEP
- \$4.8 million in local projects in Brevard and Indian River Counties funded.

EPA presentation: Vince Bacalan gave a brief presentation on NEP leveraging success. He noted the leveraging ratio for NEPs nationwide is 22:1 with the primary investments being in public education, monitoring and research and restoration. Nationwide in 2019, the NEPs leveraged \$6.3 billion for the 300 million provided to date. Jennifer DiMaio added that the IRLNEP has a higher leveraging level than most NEPs, with a 33:1 ratio. In 2015 when the IRLNEP was restructured, the Program not only utilized Clean Water Act funding for projects as a grant program, but also incentivized local commitment with a local costshare program. As a result, there is a sharp uptick in leveraged funds since 2015. This provides further evidence for the success of the program restructuring and is a great indicator as that the program is on the right path. Daniel Kolodny also added that many organizations that are requesting IRL Council funds already have a large portion of funds committed, which increases the Program's leveraging amount.

Agenda Item 6. Water Quality Reports

a. Central and northern lagoon (Dr. Chuck Jacoby, SJRWMD)

Dr. Charles Jacoby, SJRWMD, presented data from the northern and central IRL,

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.

Agenda Item 7. Presentation: FY 2018-2019 Independent Audit Report (Daniel Kolodny;

James Halleran, James Moore and Co.; Michael McElligott, Special District Services, Inc.) James Halloran, James Moore and Associates, offered a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the recent audit. There were no current year findings and the prior year finding, recording of Year-end Accruals was addressed. The overall financial condition assessment is favorable.

MOTION MADE BY DOUG BOURNIQUE, 2ND BY BILLIE WHEELER TO ACCEPT THE FY 2018-2019 INDEPENDENT AUDIT, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item 8. Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of meeting minutes from February 7, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting.
- Management Conference Appointments:
 - i. Management Board – Matthew Mitts, P.E., replacing Monte Falls as the City of Vero Beach representative, appointed by Susan Adams.

MOTION MADE BY BILLIE WHEELER, 2ND BY AARON WATKINS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item 9. 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, May 5, 2020.

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

Dr. Chuck Jacoby presented the review of the recent STEM Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, the STEMAC recommends approval.

c. Citizens' Advisory Committee (Frank Catino, Chair)

Kathy Hill, Deputy Director IRLNEP, presented the Citizens Advisory Committee update for Frank Catino for the meeting held on Thursday, April 30, 2020. The CAC recommends approval.

Agenda Item 10. Old Business

a. Sewell's Point Project Funding (Duane De Freese)

Requested Action: Motion to include the project on FY 2020-2021 funded project list and in FY 2020-2021 Business Plan pursuant to adoption of Resolution 2020-04 under New Business Item b. Authorize staff to negotiate and enter into contract pursuant to budget authority and availability of funds. Commissioner James Campo commented on his appreciation of the IRL Council and their processes that invites the public to participate.

MOTION MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY, 2ND BY JACQUI THURLOW-LIPPISCH TO APPROVE THE PROJECT ON THE FY 2020-2021 FUNDED PROJECT LIST AND IN THE FY 2020-2021 BUSINESS PLAN PURSUANT TO ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2020-04 UNDER NEW BUSINESS ITEM B. AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT

PURSUANT TO BUDGET AUTHORITY AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. IRL Council Board Alternates

Requested Action: No motion required, for information and discussion only.

- Brevard County
- Volusia County - Billie Wheeler advised that Volusia County will be submitting Fred Lowery as their Alternate.
- FDEP

Agenda Item 11. New Business

c. Budget Amendment FY 2019-2020 (Daniel Kolodny)

Requested Action: Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-02 amending the FY 2019- 2020 budget based on annual audit reconciliation.

MOTION MADE BY BILLIE WHEELER, 2ND BY SUSAN ADAMS TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2020-02 AMENDING THE FY 2019- 2020 BUDGET BASED ON ANNUAL AUDIT RECONCILIATION, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Aaron Watkins Aye
Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch Aye
Doug Bournique Aye
Billie Wheeler Aye
Curt Smith Aye
Chris Dzadoovsky Aye
Stacey Hetherington Absent
Susan Adams Aye

d. Final Adopted Budget Resolution FY 2020-2021 (Daniel Kolodny)

Requested Action: Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-03 adopting the final budget for FY 2020-2021 pursuant to IRL Council policy and Florida Statutes 200.065.

MOTION MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY, 2ND BY SUSAN ADAMS TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2020-03 ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FY 2020-2021 PURSUANT TO IRL COUNCIL POLICY AND FLORIDA STATUTES 200.065, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Aaron Watkins Aye
Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch Aye
Doug Bournique Aye
Billie Wheeler Aye
Curt Smith Aye

Chris Dzadovsky Aye
Stacey Hetherington Absent
Susan Adams Aye

e. 2020 Small Grants Program Proposal Scores and Funding (Kaylene Wheeler)

Requested Actions: (By separate motions):

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

MOTION MADE BY BILLIE WHEELER, 2ND BY JACQUI THURLOW LIPPISCH TO ACCEPT IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS, 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.

MOTION MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY, 2ND BY DOUG BOURNIQUE 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, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Kathy Hill added that the CAC plans on reviewing the Small Grants Program at their next regularly scheduled meeting to ensure that they program is reaching intended targeting audiences that will benefit most from the program. Duane De Freese thanked the CAC for thinking ahead and starting the planning process of what citizens engagement programs will look like in the future.

f. FY 2021-2022 Request for Proposals – Categories and Priorities (Duane De Freese)

Requested Action: Motion to authorize staff to develop and issue RFPs on or before November 1, 2020 pursuant to Management Conference recommendations.

MOTION MADE BY DOUG BOURNIQUE, 2ND BY BILLIE WHEELER TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO DEVELOP AND ISSUE RFPS ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2020 PURSUANT TO MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

g. Coastal Resilience Partnerships (Duane De Freese)

i. Requested Action: Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-04 to join the Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership (SCDRP) as an advisory board member.

MOTION MADE BY JACQUI THURLOW-LIPPISCH, 2ND BY SUSAN ADAMS TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2020-04 TO JOIN THE SOUTHEAST AND CARIBBEAN DISASTER RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP (SCDRP) AS AN ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ii. **Requested Action:** Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-05 to join the East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative Infrastructure Technical Advisory Committee.

MOTION MADE BY BILLIE WHEELER, 2ND BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2020-05 TO JOIN THE EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL RESILIENCE COLLABORATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

h. COVID-19 Response – Bridging the Gap with Summer Internships (Duane De Freese)
Requested Action: Motion to approve and fund 10 internships contingent and consistent with available funds and budget authority already approved.

MOTION MADE BY DOUG BOURNIQUE, 2ND BY BILLIE WHEELER TO APPROVE AND FUND 10 INTERNSHIPS CONTINGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH AVAILABLE FUNDS AND BUDGET AUTHORITY ALREADY APPROVED, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item 12. IRLNEP Executive Director Report: Chair, Susan Adams, requested that Dr. De Freese address the concern of a recent editorial appearing in TC Palm Indian River County edition. Dr. De Freese reminded the Board that no volunteer within the IRLNEP Management Conference has the authority to speak for the IRL Council unless specifically requested to do so. He advised that they would be reminded of this information as part of annual reminders regarding sunshine law, public records law, and ethics laws.

- COVID-19 considerations as we move forward: Business is moving forward as planned although staff is working remotely. Staff is negotiating all of the contracts at this time but we will hold off on signing them until we get a clearer picture moving forward.
- FL Legislative Update – As stated by Senator Mayfield staff is staying tuned to the Budget process.
- Federal Legislative Update – The appropriation for 2021 letters have been having in the House and beginning in the Senate for appropriating the full amount that was authorized in our previous reauthorization which we are still in. Reauthorization bills staff had two strongly supported bi-partisan bills HR4044 and SB3171 both Bills are proposing our FY2022-2027 reauthorization appropriations changing from to 26.5mm to the NEP nationally to 50mm nationally. The Senate Bill addresses the appropriation and authorization of the competitive grants program, the House Bill did not.
- Mid-Year Progress Report and Annual Workplan to EPA – Dan Kolodny has submitted the mid-year progress report and annual work plan in for EPA for next year.
- IRLNEP Projects and BMAP/RAP Alignment – Kaylene Wheeler is working on cross referencing every BMAP project in all of the BMAPs and the projects that have been proposed in the mosquito lagoon reasonable assurance plan with all projects that are on the IRLNEP project list so staff can begin to track between our funded projects and what is being reported to FDEP for BMAP compliance.

- OneLagoon.org website - Staff has completed the onelagoon.org website update to assure ADA compliance and beginning at the end of this month the irlcouncil.com website will be retired anybody who uses the previous URL will be automatically advanced over to the new website which is active onelagoon.org.

Agenda Item 13. IRL Council Member Reports

- Aaron Watkins: FDEP Offices are still closed due to COVID-19, however work is getting done and the Department has seen an uptick in complaints received as more people are staying home.
- Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch - The District is doing well adjusting to COVID-19. The C23/C24 reservoir changed the footprint for the STA reservoir due to cultural resources, and Indian burial remains, the new footprint is slightly smaller but it will still be effective. C23/C24 reservoir has received an additional \$130,000,000 extra of funding for design and permitting.

- Doug Bournique – Advised he has been spending a lot of time on the Lagoon and is pleased to see how clear and blue the water has been lately. SJRWMD is working to reconnect South Florida with St. Johns River to take about 150,000 acre-feet of fresh water or more out of the lagoon. The Safe Harbor agreement is moving forward that will give land owners the relief they need to know that there once they're done with water farming they can go back to their original footprint and farm again if they choose, or sign back up to hold water to benefit the lagoon in the long run.

- Billie Wheeler –The Arial canal water quality improvement project identified within the Mosquito Lagoon Reasonable Assurance Plan is moving forward and is expected to remove 1300 pounds of total nitrogen and 210 pounds a year of total phosphorus beyond what the current system is providing.

- Curt Smith – No Report.

- Chris Dzadovsky – Expressed his pleasure with the C23/C24 Canal project moving forward. Advised that St. Lucie County has invested approximately \$10 million for the McCarty Ranch project to assist in the reduction of discharges. Indian Hills oyster bed restoration is showing tremendous growth.

- Stacey Hetherington – Absent

- Susan Adams – Indian River County continues to work on water quality projects including the Jones Pier habitat restoration project.

Agenda Item 14. IRL Council – Next Meeting Announcement

a. Next IRL Council Meeting will be held on:

Friday, July 31, 2020

Sebastian City Hall Council Chambers (Tentative)

1225 Main Street, Sebastian, FL
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 15. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:51 p.m.