



IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2021, 9:30 am

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

Attendance: Susan Adams, Chris Dzadosky, Doug Bournique, Curt Smith, Aaron Watkins, Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch, Jeff Brower, Stacey Hetherington.

Guests: Dianne Hughes, Chuck Jacoby, Dennis Hanisak, Vince Lamb, Bob Musser, Tom Carey, Laurilee Thompson, Virginia Barker, Ellen Prager, Dave Jones, James Halleran.

- 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** (Stacey Hetherington, Chair)
THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:40 A.M.
- 2. Introduction of IRL Council Board of Directors and Special Guests** (Stacey Hetherington, Chair)
- 3. Agenda Revisions** (Stacey Hetherington, Chair)
NONE
MOTION BY SUSAN ADAMS TO MOVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY KURT SMITH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- 4. Resolutions, Recognition, Letters and Awards** (Stacey Hetherington, Chair)
 - a. Former Chair Recognition Awards
 - Susan Adams, 2020 Chair
 - Deb Dennis, 2019 Chair
 - Kurt Smith, 2017 Chair
- 5. Public Comment** (Stacey Hetherington, Chair)
LAURILEE THOMPSON, MIMS RESIDENT AND IRL MANAGEMENT BOARD COUNCIL MEMBER TALKED ABOUT SHORELINE HABITAT AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING SANDY BEACHES FOR HORSESHOE CRABS, SHORE BIRDS AND DIFFERENT ANIMALS THAT NEED THOSE TYPES OF AREAS TO FEED AND NEST.
- 6. Water Quality Reports**

- a. Northern and Central Lagoon (Dr. Chuck Jacoby, SJRWMD)
DR. CHARLES JACOBY, SJRWMD PRESENTED FEB 2 – MAY 3 WATER QUALITY DATA FROM THE NORTHERN AND CENTRAL IRL COLLECTED FROM SIX RECORDING STATIONS IN THE LAGOON, A SALINITY REPORT, WATER TEMPERATURE AND CHLOROPHYLL LEVELS.
- b. St. Lucie County (Brandon Friedman, St. Lucie County)
BRANDON FRIEDMAN PRESENTED SFWWD RAINFALL DATA FOR NOV. 2 – APRIL 1, DAILY BASIN FLOWS TO ST. LUCIE RIVER NORTH FORK FOR JAN 1 – MARCH 31 AS WELL AS CENTRAL IRL BMAP PROGRESS.
- c. Southern Lagoon (Dianne Hughes, Martin County)
DIANNE HUGHES, MARTIN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS PRESENTED CURRENT LAKE OKEECHOBEE INFLOWS/ OUTFLOWS, MID-ESTUARY SALINITY LEVELS FOR JAN 2 – MAY 8, CURRENT ENTEROCOCCUS LEVELS AND CURRENT CONCERNS.

7. IRLNEP Management Conference Committee Reports

- a. Management Board Report (Kathy LaMartina)
KATHY LAMARTINA PRESENTED THE MANAGEMENT BOARD UPDATE. MANAGEMENT BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO SERVICE CONTRACT WITH INTEGRITY ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY, INC D/B/S IDEAS, AUTHORIZATION OF STAFF TO DEVELOP AND ADVERTISE A COMPETITIVE RFP FOR INDEPENDENT AUDIT SERVICES, ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2021-03, REALLOCATION OF FUNDS IN THE APPROVED FY 2021 EPA WORKPLAN, APPROVAL OF FINAL RANKED LIST OF SMALL GRANT PROPOSALS AND TO FUND THE TOP SIX PROPOSALS, DIRECT STAFF TO DEVELOP AND SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTENT IN RESPONSE TO THE EPA – RESTORE AMERICA’S ESTUARIES COASTAL WATERSHEDS GRANT PROGRAM, AND DIRECT STAFF TO DRAFT A LETTER FOR HABITAT RESTORATION.
- b. STEM Advisory Committee (Chuck Jacoby)
DR. CHUCK JACOBY PRESENTED THE REVIEW OF THE RECENT STEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING. STEM AC RECOMMENDS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADAPTATION OF RESOLUTION 2021-03, DIRECT STAFF TO DEVELOP AND SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTENT IN RESPONSE TO THE EPA – RESTORE AMERICA’S ESTUARIES COASTAL WATERSHEDS GRANT PROGRAM, AND DIRECT STAFF TO DRAFT A LETTER FOR HABITAT RESTORATION.
- c. Citizens’ Advisory Committee (Kathy Hill)
KATHY HILL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR IRLNEP, PRESENTED THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE ON BEHALF OF FRANK CATINO. THE CAC RECOMMENDS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINAL

RANKED LIST OF SMALL GRANT PROPOSALS AND APPROVAL OF FUNDING OF THE TOP 5 PROPOSALS, ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2021-03, REALLOCATION OF FUNDS IN THE APPROVED FY 2021 EPA WORKPLAN, AND DIRECT STAFF TO DRAFT A LETTER FOR HABITAT RESTORATION.

- 8. 2020 Independent Audit.** (Introduction by Daniel Kolodny, Presentation by James Moore and Company.

Requested Action: Accept the audit report.

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ADAMS TO ACCEPT THE AUDIT REPORT, SECONDED BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 9. Consent Agenda** (Stacey Hetherington, Chair)

Requested Action: Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of February 12, 2021 Board of Directors meeting minutes

MOTION WAS MADE BY SUSAN ADAMS FOR THE APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 12, 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN, SECONDED BY CURT SMITH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Presentations (Duane De Freese to introduce speakers)

- a. Brevard County Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Program (Virginia Barker, Director of Brevard County Natural Resources Management Department)
- b. Update from GeoCollaborate on Harmful Algal Bloom Innovation project funded by FDEP. (Duane De Freese introduction, presentation by Dave Jones, CEO StormCenter Communications, Inc.)

11. Old Business

- a. Update - Strategy for Financing the CCMP report (Duane De Freese)

Requested Action: Information only – no action requested.

- b. Amendment to Service Contract with Integrity Arts and Technology, Inc., d/b/a IDEAS (Daniel Kolodny)

Requested Action: Authorize staff to amend the current service contract to change the scope of services and compensation from “shall not exceed” based to task assignment based.

MOTION BY SUSAN ADAMS TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO AMEND THE CURRENT SERVICE CONTRACT TO CHANGE THE SCOPE OF SERVICES AND COMPENSATION FROM "SHALL NOT EXCEED" BASED TO TASK ASSIGNMENT BASED, SECONDED BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH JACQUI THURLOW-LIPPISCH ABSENT.

12. New Business

- a. Independent audit services. (Daniel Kolodny)

Requested Actions: Board has two options:

1. Renew current contract as specified in FY 2016 RFP and contract language with James Moore & Company pursuant to cost schedule provided.
2. Authorize staff to develop and advertise a competitive RFP for Independent Audit services. Term of service 5 years.

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ADAMS, SECONDED BY CURT SMITH TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO DEVELOP AND ADVERTISE A COMPETITIVE RFP FOR INDEPENDENT AUDIT SERVICES. TERM OF SERVICE 5 YEARS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. FY 2022 Final Budget Adoption (Daniel Kolodny)

Requested Action: Board of Directors review and adopt the FY 2022 final budget by Resolution 2021-03 with revisions to tentative budget adopted by Board of Directors on February 12, 2021.

MOTION MADE BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY, SECONDED BY SUSAN ADAMS TO ADOPT THE FY 2022 FINAL BUDGET BY RESOLUTION 2021-03 WITH REVISIONS TO TENTATIVE BUDGET ADOPTED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON FEBRUARY 12, 2021. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. EPA Workplan modification – EPA mandatory travel funds (Daniel Kolodny)

Requested Action: Motion to accept Management Conference recommendation and approve reallocation of funds in the approved FY 2021 EPA Workplan as allowable by EPA in response to the Covid pandemic.

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ADAMS, SECONDED BY JEFF BROWER TO ACCEPT MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVE REALLOCATION OF FUNDS IN THE APPROVED FY 2021 EPA WORKPLAN AS ALLOWABLE BY EPA IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID PANDEMIC. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- d. 2021 Small Grants Program Proposal Scores and Funding (Daniel Kolodny)

Requested Actions:

1. Motion to accept IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.
2. 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 KURT SMITH, SECONDED BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY TO ACCEPT IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS AND TO FUND THE TOP SIX PROPOSALS CONTINGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH AVAILABLE FUNDS AND BUDGETARY AUTHORITY. AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THOSE APPLICANTS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- e. Authorization to submit a letter of intent to the EPA – Restore America’s Estuaries Coastal Watersheds Grant Program (Duane De Freese)

Requested Action: Motion to direct staff to develop and submit a letter of intent in response to the RFP and develop and submit a full proposal if invited.

MOTION MADE BY CHRIS BOURNIQUE, SECONDED BY SUSAN ADAMS TO DIRECT STAFF TO DEVELOP AND SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTENT IN RESPONSE TO THE RFP AND DEVELOP AND SUBMIT A FULL PROPOSAL IF INVITED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. IRLNEP Staff reports

- a. Project Updates (Daniel Kolodny)
- b. Communication Report (Kathy Hill)
- c. Executive Director Report (Duane De Freese)
Legislative Update

STATE LEVEL – FLORIDA HOUSE AND SENATE HAVE AGREED TO TRANSFER THE IRL FLORIDA SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE TO THE IRL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION. ONCE FULLY APPROVED, THE COUNCIL WILL ADMINISTER PLATE FUNDS, DISBURSING MONIES FOR VOLUSIA, BREVARD AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTIES, AND GIVING SFWMD FUNDING TO ADMINISTER ST. LUCIE AND MARTIN COUNTY FUNDING. STAFF WILL EXPLORE A REDESIGN OF THE LICENSE PLATE TO DRIVE SALES WITH THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE ACTING AS A FOCUS GROUP TO CHOOSE NEW ARTWORK. STAFF WILL CONDUCT STRATEGIC MARKETING TO INCREASE REVENUE IN THE COMING YEARS.

FEDERAL LEVEL – (HANDOUT FOR IRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HOUSE APPROPRIATION LETTER WITH 61 SIGNATURES BYPARTISAN SUPPORT). SHOULD CONGRESS APPROPRIATE THE FULL AMOUNT AUTHORIZED, THE IRLNEP COULD SEE AS MUCH AS \$1.4 MILLION PER NEP, WHICH WOULD DOUBLE OUR FY2022 FEDERAL AMOUNT FROM EPA. THE ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGAMS IS WORKING WITH ALL NEP DIRECTORS TO MOVE THAT GOAL FORWARD.

INFRASTRUCTURE BILL - (HANDOUT FOR IRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS) FORMER REQUEST THROUGH ANEP FOR \$10 MILLION PER NEP AND \$100 MILLION FOR THE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGAM SHOULD AN INFRASTRUCTURE BILL BE MOVED FORWARD. THE REQUEST WAS RESUBMITTED IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS TO CURRENT LEADERSHIP. BILL DEVELOPMENT IS BEING CLOSELY WATCHED. DUANE DE FREESE AND ANEP WANT TO ENSURE THAT THE NEP IS AT LEAST POSITIONED FOR CONSIDERATION FOR FUNDING.

FY 2021 PRIORITIES (NEXT 5 MONTHS) – GOAL IS TO COMPLETE FY 2021 ON TASK AND ON BUDGET. FY2020 WAS A PRODUCTIVE YEAR DESPITE OF THE COVID PENDAMIC AND FY2021 IS ON TRACK TO BE JUST AS PRODUCTIVE.

LOOKING AHEAD TO FY 2022 – A WORKFORCE ANALYSIS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE PRESENTED TO IRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN AUGUST.

TITUSVILLE CAUSEWAY AND HORSESHOE CRABS -DUANE DE FREESE REPORTED THAT THE ISSUE CAME UP IN OUR CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE WITH A MEMBER RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL TO WRITE A LETTER FOR HABITAT RESTORATION TO FWC IN SUPPORT OF PROTECTING SANDY BEACH HABITATS FOR HORSESHOE CRAB NESTING AND CONTINUED PUBLIC ACCESS. JACQUI THURLOW-LIPPISCH OFFERED TO WORK WITH DUANE DE FREESE ON THESE ISSUES THOUGH THE SFWMD.

14. IRL Council Member Reports

REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO CONSENT AGENDA BY JEFF BROWER:

- a. NOMINATE LIBBY ANNE HIGBY TO THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL.

MOTION MADE BY JEFF BROWER, SECONDED BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY TO NOMINATE LIBBY ANNE HIGBY TO THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH DOUG BOURNIQUE ABSENT.

- b. REQUEST FOR DR. DE FREESE TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE VOLUSIA COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT/COAST/LAGOON.

NO MOTION REQUIRED - ACCEPTED

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTED ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF SEVERAL ONGOING PROJECTS OCCURRING IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTY/DISTRICT.

15. IRL Council – Next Meeting Announcement (Stacey Hetherington, Chair)

August 13, 2021

9:30am – 12:30pm

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

16. Adjourn

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 12.50 P.M.

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

- a. Financial Statements, IRLNEP active projects list and quarterly cash flow summary.