



IRL COUNCIL STEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes from the meeting of

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

1:30 PM

Up the Creek Farms, 3590 Valkaria Road, Grant-Valkaria, FL 32950

Attendance: Aaron Adams, Marina Barrineau, Kyle Bartow, Anne Birch, Hyun Jung Cho, Bob Day, TJ Friedrich, Dennis Hanisak, Chuck Jacoby, Kevin Johnson, Lisa Krinsky, Dan Macchiarella, Wendy Noke-Durden, Rich Paperno, Melanie Parker, Valerie Paul, Beth Powell, Mitch Roffer, Megan Stolen, Chad Truxall, Kelly Young, Elizabeth Kelly

Guests: Stacy Cecil, Diana Turner, Lauren Kleiman, Dale McGinnis, Doug Scheidt, Lauren Hall, Ashley Linswood, Jeff Eble, John Windsor, Wendy Swindell

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance (Dr. Chuck Jacoby, Chair)

The meeting was called to order by Chuck Jacoby at 1:35 p.m. Dr. Jacoby led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Introductions (Dr. Chuck Jacoby, Chair)

Chuck Jacoby led roundtable introductions, including new members and guests.

3. Election of Officers (Kathy Hill)

Ms. Hill informed the group that Chuck Jacoby is willing to remain in the role of Chair and Chad Truxall as Vice Chair. Ms. Hill opened the floor for new nominations.

Requested Action: Elect Chair and Vice Chair for Calendar Year 2023 for the STEM Advisory Committee

MOTION WAS MADE BY BOB DAY TO ELECT CHUCK JACOBY AS CHAIR AND TO ELECT CHAD TRUXALL AS VICE CHAIR OF THE STEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ANNE BIRCH. MOTION PASSED.

4. Agenda Revisions (Dr. Chuck Jacoby, Chair)

No agenda revisions were brought forward.

5. Minutes Approval (Dr. Chuck Jacoby, Chair)

A typo was noted in the minutes of November 15, 2022.

Requested Action: Approval of Minutes from the STEM meeting on November 15, 2022

MOTION WAS MADE BY LISA KRIMSKY TO APPROVE THE AMENDED MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 15, 2022. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BOB DAY. MOTION PASSED.

6. Public Comment

None

7. Water Quality Reports

- a. Northern IRL (Dr. Chuck Jacoby, SJWMD)

Dr. Chuck Jacoby reported that all water levels continue to recede. Salinity in December and January was highest in Mosquito and Vero, as is consistent. Water temperatures dipped in late December and returned. Chlorophyll-a showed activity at Cocoa and Eau Gallie, which coincided with the temperature dips. The C-1 Canal re-diversion of water from October to December removed nitrogen and phosphorus.

b. Southern IRL (Dr. Melanie Parker SFWMD)

Dr. Melanie Parker reported that the release of water from Lake Okeechobee has caused a slight decrease in salinity. The water remains at the optimal level for oysters at HR1 and US1 Bridge, and the A1A Bridge site fell to the upper stressful range. Oyster recruitment rates peaked in the Spring of 2022, decreased substantially in July but occurred consistently through December. Densities have increased steadily since March 2022.

8. Presentation

Why We Should Focus on the Science of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (David Jones)

David Jones presented the benefits of communicating and building bridges with priority populations to advance the goals of the IRLNEP and to develop access to the IRLNEP. With Mr. Jones's guidance, staff will define goals, determine measurable outcomes and outline the duties and commitments of a task force.

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

a. Fiscal Year 2024 Water Quality RFP (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reviewed the top three RFPs and shared that the Management Board recommended amending the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority RFP, as it contains a line item to use IRLNEP funds to cover the cost of public water hookups. Mr. Kolodny explained that the contract can include details in the scope of work to exclude IRLNEP funds to be used for public water hookups.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP STEM Advisory Committee recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals; 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 BOB DAY TO REMOVE THE LINE ITEM FOR PUBLIC WATER HOOKUPS FROM THE FORT PIERCE UTILITIES AUTHORITY RFP AND RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP STEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS; 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. SECONDED BY CHAD TRUXALL. MOTION PASSED.

b. Fiscal Year 2024 Habitat Restoration RFP (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reviewed the two Habitat Restoration RFPs.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP STEM Advisory Committee recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals; 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 LISA KRIMSKY TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP STEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS; 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. SECONDED BY RICH PAPERNO. MOTION PASSED.

c. Fiscal Year 2024 Science and Innovation RFP (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reviewed the two Science and Innovation RFPs. The Mote Marine Lab will not be fully funded due to the current budget; additional funding could be made available in the future.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP STEM Advisory Committee recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals; 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 CHAD TRUXALL TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP STEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS; 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. SECONDED BY VALERIE PAUL. KEVIN JOHNSON ABSTAINED. MOTION PASSED.

d. Fiscal Year 2024 Tentative Budget (Danial Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reviewed the tentative budget for FY 2024.

Requested Action: Recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors review and adopt the tentative budget for FY 2024 by Resolution 2023-01, pursuant to Florida Statutes.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ANNE BIRCH TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEW AND ADOPT THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FY 2024 BY RESOLUTION 2023-01, PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LISA KRIMSKY. MOTION PASSED.

11. IRLNEP Staff Reports

a. Communications Report (Kathy Hill)

Ms. Hill reported that the social media posts' reach and interaction are increasing. The activity of the three Community Engagement Coordinators' collaboration was noted for the increase. The CECs are busy connecting and performing outreach throughout the length of the lagoon. Eight podcasts will be produced this year, requesting suggestions for topics and speakers.

b. Information Technology and Data Science Update (KJ Ayres)

Ms. Ayres reported that the FDEP Innovative Technology Project 13, GeoCollaborate, is completed, and the report has been submitted. The One Lagoon website has a link to all materials pertaining to this project. Envirothon will take place on February 24th, 2023, after a three-year hiatus. Website updates are ongoing.

c. IRL Project Update (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reported that CCMP Projects/Activities are in progress, with two projects completed during FY 2023 Quarter 1. Mr. Kolodny highlighted the two completed projects; City of Stuart – Tressler Drive Water Quality Improvement and the Florida Atlantic University/Harbor Branch – Sampling to Assess Toxins Produced by Harmful Algal Blooms in the Indian River Lagoon.

d. Executive Director Report (Kathy Hill)

Kathy Hill reported that Executive Director Dr. Duane De Freese is recovering from recent cancer treatment. Prior to treatment, Dr. De Freese met with NEP Directors and attended the FWC Fall

Manatee Forum in November. December meetings included the State and Federal Interagency Emergency Response Team and the Interagency Coastal Resilience with FDEP and Space Florida. Multiple conversations with state and federal elected officials, office staff members, and agency representatives regarding strategic planning for 2023 continue.

12. Final Comments (Committee, Staff, Public)

Mitch Roffer suggested reviewing the process of RFPs to make improvements.

Anne Birch proposed that the RFP review team meet and discuss results and lengthen the time to review the RFPs.

Lauren Hall advised persons submitting the RFPs to include personal CVs.

Aaron Adams requested that once projects are completed to have the awardees give a presentation to the Management Conference.

Dan Kolodny stated that the final task of presenting the results can be written into the contract.

Anne Birch commended the growth in the IRLNEP staff and the work being done.

13. Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

Up the Creek Farms, 3590 Valkaria Road, Grant-Valkaria, FL 32950

14. Adjourn

Chuck Jacoby adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

NOTE: If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes (2014).

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 48 hours before the workshop/meeting by contacting: Erin Bergman at (314) 347-5854. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service at 1(800) 955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800) 955-8770 (Voice). For more information, you may contact: Erin Bergman, IRL Council, 1235 Main St, Sebastian, FL 32958, (314)347-5854, or by email at bergman@irlcouncil.org.