



IRL COUNCIL CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes from the meeting of

Thursday, August 10, 2023

1:30 P.M.

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

Attendance: Christine Bamberger, Frank Catino, Cheryl McPhillips, Suzanne Scheiber, Tess Sailor-Tynes

A QUORUM WAS NOT PRESENT.

Guests: Ashley Weber, Katherine Harris, Jennifer DiMaio

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance (Frank Catino, Chair)

Mr. Catino called the meeting to order at 1:32 P.M. and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Introduction & Public Comments (Frank Catino, Chair)

Mr. Catino led the introductions of the group.

3. Agenda Revisions (Frank Catino, Chair)

No agenda revisions were brought forward.

4. Approval of Minutes (Frank Catino, Chair)

Requested Action: Approve Minutes from the CAC Meeting on May 4, 2023.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 4, 2023 MEETING WAS TABLED UNTIL NOVEMBER DUE TO LACK OF A QUORUM.

5. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

6. Old Business

a. Grant Writing Workshop (Jessy Wayles)

Ms. Wayles reviewed developing a webinar with our grant-writing partners. The goal is to give access to smaller organizations the opportunity to engage in the Small Grant RFP process competitively.

Requested Action: Discussion to provide input into planning for a grant writing workshop to optimize the quality of new grant submissions.

NO MOTION WAS MADE DUE TO LACK OF A QUORUM, HOWEVER, A CONSENSUS OF THOSE MEMBERS PRESENT RECOMMENDED APPROVAL TO HOLD A GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP.

7. New Business

a. FY2024 EPA BIL Workplan (Dan Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny stated that the process to receive EPA funding work plans must be submitted. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) plan covers three projects and activities. The continuation of the seagrass nurseries, the contract with Diversity of Thought and priority communities as outlined in the long-term equity plan.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors approve the FY2024 EPA BIL Workplan and authorize staff to submit the plan to EPA.

NO MOTION WAS MADE DUE TO LACK OF A QUORUM, HOWEVER, A CONSENSUS OF THOSE PRESENT FAVORED RECOMMENDING APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

b. FY 2024 and FY 2025 Request for Proposals (RFPs) (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese reviewed the timeline for releasing the RFPs. Staff suggested changing the criteria for Habitat Restoration, Community Based Habitat Restoration and Science and Innovation. Each suggestion was reviewed. Mr. Kolodny reviewed the scoring criteria, and one notable change was made: underserved or underrepresented to be changed to priority community. It was shared that a discussion among STEM committee members took place on the topic of moving funds from Water Quality to Science and Innovation based on the hypothesis that better science will improve water quality. The suggested amount was \$100,000.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors authorize staff to develop and release the Water Quality RFP for the 2025 funding cycle, review and rank proposals, and return to the Management Conference for funding approval.

NO MOTION WAS MADE DUE TO LACK OF A QUORUM, HOWEVER, A CONSENSUS OF THOSE PRESENT FAVORED RECOMMENDING APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors authorize staff to develop and release the Habitat Restoration RFP for the 2025 funding cycle, review and rank proposals, and return to the Management Conference for funding approval.

NO MOTION WAS MADE DUE TO LACK OF A QUORUM, HOWEVER, A CONSENSUS OF THOSE PRESENT FAVORED RECOMMENDING APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors authorize staff to develop and release the Community-Based Habitat Restoration RFP for the 2025 funding cycle, review and rank proposals and return to the Management Conference for funding approval.

NO MOTION WAS MADE DUE TO LACK OF A QUORUM, HOWEVER, A CONSENSUS OF THOSE PRESENT FAVORED RECOMMENDING APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors authorize staff to develop and release the Science and Innovation RFP for the 2025 funding cycle, review and rank proposals, and return to the Management Conference for funding approval.

NO MOTION WAS MADE DUE TO LACK OF A QUORUM, HOWEVER, A CONSENSUS OF THOSE PRESENT FAVORED RECOMMENDING APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CHERYL MCPHILLIPS RECOMMENDED MOVING \$100,000 INTO SCIENCE AND INNOVATION FROM WATER QUALITY.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors authorize staff to develop and release the Priority Community RFP for the 2025 funding cycle, review and rank proposals, and return to the Management Conference for funding approval.

NO MOTION WAS MADE DUE TO LACK OF A QUORUM, HOWEVER, A CONSENSUS OF THOSE PRESENT FAVORED RECOMMENDING APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors authorize staff to develop and release the Small Grants RFP for the 2025 funding cycle, review and rank proposals, and return to the Management Conference for funding approval.

NO MOTION WAS MADE DUE TO LACK OF A QUORUM, HOWEVER, A CONSENSUS OF THOSE PRESENT FAVORED RECOMMENDING APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

c. FY 2023 Final Budget Amendment (Dan Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reviewed the adjustments to the FY 2023 Final Budget Amendment. This included changes in funding sources for some projects and incorporating the audited fund balance in the budget. By reconciling this balance to prior FY projects in progress, total expenditures increased. A decrease in administrative costs was due to the single audit not occurring.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors approve the Amendment to the FY 2023 Final Budget by Resolution 2023-04.

RECOMMENDATION BY COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE FY 2023 FINAL BUDGET AMENDMENT BY RESOLUTION 2023-04

d. FY 2024 Final Budget Amendment (Dan Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reported FY 2024 Final Budget Amendment adjustments to include an increase of funding from EPA Section 320. Other changes included an increase in travel to the FY 2023 level and an increase in rents and leases to accommodate a potential new lease with the City of Sebastian.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors approve the Amendment to the FY 2024 Final Budget by Resolution 2023-05.

RECOMMENDATION BY COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE FY 2024 FINAL BUDGET AMENDMENT BY RESOLUTION 2023-05.

e. Resolution in support of the South Florida Water Management District and the St. Johns River Water Management District proposing hydrologic reconnection of the Central and South Florida Flood Control project. (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese explained the opportunity that would join the two water districts and private property in a transformational project. 7,800 acres would hold water, and 120,000 ac-ft of water would be diverted from the lagoon along with the corresponding nutrients. The St. John's River Water Management District and the South Florida Water Management District would have the ability to move water north and south as needed for customer use. The language in the resolution has been reviewed by both water management districts as well as the DEP. Currently, the water in the prescribed area flows into the lagoon and is lost from use.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors approve a resolution In support of the hydrologic reconnection of the Central and South Florida Flood Control Project.

RECOMMENDATION BY COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT RESOLUTION.

8. IRLNEP Staff Reports

a. Communications Update (IRLNEP Team)

o Website, Information Technology, and Social Media (KJ Ayres-Guerra)

Mrs. KJ Ayres-Guerra reviewed highlights from this quarter's activities. Reviving an Ecosystem: Creating Capacity for Seagrass Restoration appeared in ECO magazine. Attending the ESRI User Conference was informative, and the presentation was well received. Next up is the completion of the project storyline, database and dashboard.

Mrs. Ayres-Guerra also presented the communications report on behalf of Ms. Kathy Hill. Social media numbers continue to rise. The viral video of the juvenile marsh rabbit has reached 6.5 million people. A billboard campaign for the new IRL license plate will start with three locations: Ormand Beach and Cocoa, both on US-1 and West Melbourne at I-95. The Community Engagement Coordinators continue to interact with local government and community meetings, attend events and fieldwork projects and engage the public in presentations.

- Northern IRL Community Engagement (Jessy Wayles)

Ms. Jessy Wayles reported on developing partnerships within the region, as well as her representation at NERT/ECERT Steering Committee meetings. Presentation highlights included the Trailer Trash Podcast and a WFTV-9 appearance on the topic of horseshoe crab monitoring. Ms. Wayles continues to support ShORE (Sharing Our Research with Everyone), along with spending 15 days doing habitat fieldwork.

- Central IRL Community Engagement (Heather Stapleton)

Ms. Heather Stapleton discussed various opportunities for community involvement - she attended 13 lagoon-centered events and had several speaking requests centered around Earth Day. She celebrated the actual day of Earth Day with the City of Sebastian at Riverview Park. Everyone enjoyed using and signing the "lagoon friendly selfie frames," a proven behavior change tool. She had 14 days of fieldwork with Brevard Zoo's Restore Our Shores and FOS' Seagrass Matting and Citizen Science Seagrass Network Monitoring.

- Southern IRL Community Engagement (Caleta Scott)

Ms. Caleta Scott described the various engagement activities. One highlight was earning Florida Master Naturalist certification in Coastal Restoration, and another was becoming a Martin County Water Ambassador. Ms. Scott established sponsorships, participated in Earth Day Celebrations and spent 21 days doing habitat fieldwork.

- b. IRL Project Update (Dan Kolodny)

Mr. Dan Kolodny reported 50 CCMP Projects/Activities in progress. Three Small Grant projects were completed. An overview of the following was provided: ORCA: One Health Fish Monitoring Citizen Science Project, Florida Institute of Technology: Impacts of glyphosate on growth and nutrient cycling; informing aquaculture and restoration efforts to improve seagrass outcomes and Marine Discovery Center: Virtual Reality – Oyster Reef Exploration.

- c. Dr. Duane De Freese shared FY 2023 milestones. Standouts included 50 projects funded and administered, record expanding funding, expanded program capacity and completion of strategic planning. Various events, meetings, task force participation, and workshops were attended. Looking ahead to FY 2024, 17+ projects are currently funded and in contract development. The NOAA Habitat Restoration Grant proposal is being modified and will be resubmitted. The new IRL specialty license plate campaign is in progress. The One Lagoon Habitat Restoration workplan is to be completed. Two new atmospheric deposition stations are planned for construction. Community listening sessions, webinars, and priority community engagement plans are being finalized.

9. Final Comments (Committee, Staff, Public)

Tess Sailor-Tynes announced that the next ShORE event will occur on April 11, 2024, at the Brannon Center in New Smyrna Beach.

Dan Kolodny announced his TEDx talk is available on YouTube and the release of two new podcasts, his Professional Guides Talk Fishing on IRL: Past and Present and Heather Stapleton's Conservation Lands Create Unique Recreation Opportunities on the IRL.

Duane De Freese announced that his podcast with Charle Sembler is completed, and Caleta Scott will create one with her father on his experience on the lagoon. Dr. De Freese also noted that Kathy Hill is absent due to her upcoming wedding.

Erin Bergman and Heather Stapleton discussed the International Coastal Cleanup and expressed many opportunities to volunteer throughout the lagoon.

10. Next Meeting

Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. Sebastian City Hall Council Chambers,
1225 Main Street, Sebastian, FL 32958

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 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, 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.