IRL COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes from the meeting of

Friday, February 10, 2023

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

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

Attendance: Joseph Earman, Rob Feltner, Jason Andreotta, Doug Bournique, Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch, Jeff Brower, Chris Dzadovsky

Guests: Amy Griffin, Brion Pauley, Kathy LaMartina, Melanie Parker, Tom Carey, Ruth Holmes, Jim Cannon, Chuck Jacoby, Virginia Barker

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** (Chris Dzadovsky, Vice Chair)
Mr. Dzadovsky called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance

2. **Election of Officers** (Glen Torcivia, Legal Counsel)
Mr. Torcivia explained the tradition of the Vice Chair becoming Chair and Secretary becoming Vice Chair. Secretary is traditionally an elected official rotated by county. Indian River County representative would be next in line as Secretary. Opened floor for nominations.

Requested Action: Elect Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for Calendar Year 2023.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JOSEPH EARMAN TO ELECT CHRIS DZADOVSKY AS CHAIR OF THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023. MOTION PASSED. MOTION WAS MADE BY JACQUI THURLOW-LIPPISCH TO ELECT JEFF BROWER AS VICE CHAIR OF THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOSEPH EARMAN MOTION PASSED. MOTION WAS MADE BY ROB FELTNER TO ELECT JOSEPH EARMAN AS SECRETARY OF THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023. MOTION WAS SECONED BY DOUG BOURNIQUE. MOTIONS PASSED.

3. **Introduction of IRL Council Board of Directors and Special Guests** (Chris Dzadovsky, Chair)
Mr. Dzadovsky asked all board members to introduce themselves and any guests present. The IRLNEP staff made introductions.

4. **Agenda Revisions** (Chris Dzadovsky, Chair)
Mr. Dzadovsky requested that Brion Pauley, Natural Resource Management Division Manager Environmental Resources Department, St. Lucie County, be added to the Consent Agenda as an appointee to the Management Board.

5. **Resolutions, Recognition, Letters and Awards** (Chris Dzadovsky, Chair)
None

6. **Public Comment**
No public comments were made.

7. **Water Quality Reports**
    a. Northern and Central Lagoon (Dr. Chuck Jacoby, SJRWMD)

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 Lagoon (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.

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch asked if a monitoring device was located on the south fork of the St. Lucie River, as this is the location of the Lake Okeechobee flow. USGS once provided the data, but due to budget cuts, it was removed. Dr. Parker will look for monitoring information for this location. Also requested was an updated satellite image of the area to accurately display the area. Discussion between Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch and Dr. Parker on the lake level and why it is necessary to release water to reduce the level at this time of year to have the least impact on wildlife.

Mr. Bournique asked why the ACOE was releasing water at this level when the dikes and levees can hold higher amounts of water. Dr. Parker's reply was that she is not privy to the decision-making process.

8. PRESENTATIONS

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

David Jones, Diversity of Thought, Inc., 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. IRLNEP Management Conference Committee Reports

a. Management Board Report (Tom Carey)

Mr. Carey reported 32 members and six guests attended the Management Board meeting. The election of officers confirmed Tom Carey will remain as Chair and Bob Musser as Vice Chair for the calendar year 2023. The Management Board recommends approval and funding of the Fiscal Year 2024 Water Quality, Habitat Restoration and Science and Innovation RFPs. The Finance Subcommittee and the Management Board recommend approval of the Fiscal year 2024 Tentative Budget. The upcoming RFPs for Small Grants Applications and Fiscal Year 2024 IIJA also were approved, as were the EPA Workplan and IRLNEP Business Plan. A robust discussion took place on the third-ranked Water Quality RFP proposal submitted by the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, which included language to pay for water hookups to homes. The Management Board felt this is outside the scope of IRLNEP mission to improve water quality; potable water hookups are a utility issue. The Management Board concluded that the approval of agenda item 12a is in order, with the exception that no IRLNEP grant funds be used for water hookups. The meeting came to order at 10:16 at concluded at 11:53 a.m.

b. STEM Advisory Committee (Dr. Chuck Jacoby)

Dr. Jacoby reports the election of offers took place, himself as Chair and Chad Truxall as Vice Chair. The Committee approved the Water Quality, Habitat Restoration and Science and Innovation RPs be approved with the caveat of not providing IRLNEP funds for water hookups. The Committee also approved Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2024.

c. Citizens' Advisory Committee (Kathy Hill)

Ms. Hill reported that Frank Catino was elected Chair, and Tess Sailor-Tynes was elected Vice Chair. The committee reviewed the Small Grant Application, and minor edits will be made. The committee is the body

to approve the Small Grant Proposals. The Fiscal Year 2024 RFPs and the Tentative Budget were also recommended for approval.

10. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of November 18, 2022, Board of Directors meeting minutes.

b. Board of Directors Appointments to IRLNEP Management Conference:

New Appointments

- Suzanne Scheiber, Dream Green Volusia, to the Citizens' Advisory Committee, replacing Libby Lavette
- Thomas Barrett, Riverside Conservancy, to Citizens' Advisory Committee
- Jim Moir, Indian Riverkeeper, transfer from CAC to Management Board
- Erin Cartmill, St. Lucie County, to STEM Advisory Committee
- Wendy Swindell, Indian River County, to STEM Advisory Committee, replacing Beth Powell
- Brion Pauley, St. Lucie County ERD, to Management Board

Requested Action: Approve Consent Agenda.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JOSEPH EARMAN TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SECONDED BY ROB FELTNER. MOTION PASSED.

11. Old Business

None

12. New Business

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

Mr. Kolodny stated a total of 17 proposals across three categories were received; two were deemed non-responsive and returned. Three Water Quality proposals were submitted, and all three are eligible. Mr. Kolodny spoke of the caveat pertaining to the potable water hookups in the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority proposal presented by the Management Board and STEM committee to address this issue in the scope of work when preparing the contracts.

Requested Action: (By separate motions)

1. Accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.

2. 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 ROB FELTNER TO ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS. SECONDED BY JEFF BROWER. MOTION PASSED.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ROB FELTNER TO 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 WITH THE CAVEAT OF FPUA BEING UNABLE TO USE IRLNEP FUNDS TO BE APPLIED TO WATER HOOKUPS. SECONDED BY JEFF BROWER. MOTION PASSED.

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

Requested Action: (By separate motions)

Mr. Kolodny reports two proposals were submitted, and both ranked as eligible.

1. Accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final list of proposals.

2. 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 ROB FELTNER TO ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS. SECONDED BY JOSEPH EARMAN. MOTION PASSED.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ROB FELTNER TO 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 JOSEPH EARMAN. MOTION PASSED.

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

Requested Action: (By separate motions)

Mr. Kolodny reports 10 proposals were received, and the top seven are eligible. The second-ranked proposal will be partially funded due to the remaining budget balance; this could change after the audit fund balance is known.

1. Accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations and approve the final ranked list of proposals.

2. 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 JOSEPH EARMAN TO ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS. SECONDED BY ROB FELTNER. MOTION PASSED.

MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG BOURNIQUE TO 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 ROB FELTNER. MOTION PASSED.

d. Fiscal Year 2024 Tentative Budget (Danial Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reviewed the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2024.

Requested Action: Review and adopt the tentative budget for FY 2024 by Resolution 2023-01, pursuant to Florida Statutes.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JOSEPH EARMAN TO RECOMMEND TO REVIEW AND ADOPT THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FY 2024 BY RESOLUTION 2023-01, PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ROB FELTNER MOTION PASSED.

e. Upcoming RFPs (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reported that the Citizens' Advisory Committee has reviewed and approved the Small Grants Application. The timeline for the IIJA RPs will be expanded to allow underserved communities to prepare.

1. Small Grants Application
2. Fiscal Year 2024 Restoration Benefiting Priority Communities (IIJA)

Requested Action: Authorize staff to develop and release RFPs for FY 2024 Small Grants and IIJA.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ROB FELTNER TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO DEVELOP AND RELEASE RFPS FOR FY 2024 SMALL GRANTS AND IIJA. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOSEPH EARMAN. MOTION PASSED.

f. Fiscal Year 2024 EPA Workplan and 2024 IRLNEP Business Plan (Daniel Kolodny)

Requested Action: Authorize staff to finalize and submit the FY 2024 EPA Workplan and complete the FY 2024 IRLNEP Business Plan

Mr. Kolodny reviewed the timetable for the EPA Workplan, which includes only EPA-funded projects, and the Business Plan, which includes all projects funded in FY 24.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JOSEPH EARMAN TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO FINALIZE AND SUBMIT THE FY 2024 EPA WORKPLAN AND COMPLETE THE FY 2024 IRLNEP BUSINESS PLAN. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ROB FELTNER. MOTION PASSED.

13. 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. Ms. Hill displayed the updated Lagoon License plate proof. Encouraged members to use the #onelagoon hashtag on social media entries if it pertains to the lagoon.

b. Information Technology and Delivery Update (KJ Ayres)

Ms. Ayres reports 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 reports CCMP Projects/Activities are in progress, with two projects completed during FY2023 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 reports 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.

14. IRL Council Member Reports

Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch reported that the recent SFWMD meeting was held in Coral Springs. The change in venue and scenery solidified the importance of the need to get water quality right.

Jason Andreotta praised the governor's initiatives to improve water quality statewide and the efforts to

fund Indian River Lagoon improvements.

Rob Feltner reported Brevard Board of County Commissioners passed the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan for the coming year.

Joe Earman reported the Moorhen Marsh will be online in early summer. A stormwater project to divert water from the Main Relief Canal to be filtered at the old water treatment plant for irrigation use by communities is underway. The recently passed bond referendum will allow for the future purchases of land for conservation use, removal of exotic vegetation and upgrades on conservation land. Recognized the work of those involved in making the Oyster Bay Marsh Conservation Area happen.

Jeff Brower reported the Aerial Canal Water Quality Improvement project was made possible with the partnerships with the FDEP and SJRWMD funding. Praised the Governor's Environmental plan and the work to help Volusia County after coastal decimation from the recent hurricanes. The work of DEP and other agencies on how to rebuild the coast and not damage the environment is important. Recently a conference for Low Impact Development was held, and topics included how to protect the lagoon and deal with stormwater. Rewriting the standards on development; what should be required. The Biorock, a private project, survived the hurricanes, and it is calcifying. The area has been seeded with a few oysters and clams; the goal of the project is to grow seagrass.

Doug Bournique announced his recent appointment to Chair of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. Asked the IRLNEP Staff to be progressive and consider leading a plan to ban plastics and sunscreen throughout the watershed. Mr. Bournique stressed the importance of Diverting water to the St. John's River where there is a need for it.

Chris Dzadovsky supported the governor's environmental work. Credited the voters for advocating water quality issues and the need to recharge the aquifers. Recently attended a Beach and Preservation conference; the beach damage and large amounts of damaged boats leaking into the bay will require a huge amount of work to fix. FPUA is moving forward with breaking ground for a new wastewater treatment plant and thanked all organizations involved in the effort. Mr. Dzadovsky introduced Brion Pauley, who thanked the Board for the appointment to the Management Board. Amy Griffin, Environment Resources Department, gave an overview of projects and plans taking place in St. Lucie County.

15. IRL Council – Next Meeting Announcement (Chris Dzadovsky, Chair)
The IRL Management Board meeting will be held on: Friday, May 12, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Sebastian City Hall, Council Chamber, 1225 Main Street, Sebastian, FL

16. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.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.