IRL COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes from the meeting of

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

10:15 AM

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

Attendance: Marina Barrineau, Terri Breeden, Mel Bromberg, Tom Carey, Paul Carlisle, Tony Catanese, Jake Fojtik, David Fuss, Stu Glass, James Gray, Carter Henne, Chuck Jacoby, George Jones, Elizabeth Kelly, Gretchen Kelly, Bill Kerr, Kathy LaMartina, Vince Lamb, John Leslie, Kelli McGee, Matthew Mitts, Jim Moir, Robert Musser, Judy Orcutt, Brion Pauley, Gary Ritter, Kevin Shropshire, James Sullivan, Laurilee Thompson, Diana Turner, Charles Vogt III, Greg Wilson

Guests: Jeffrey Collins, Corinne Hermle, Jenn McGee, Stacy Cecil, Peter Eggert, Melissa Meisenburg, Kai Rains, Edgar Guerron-Orejuela, Keith Ramos, Jim Cannon

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** (Tom Carey, Chair)
   The meeting was called to order by Mr. Tom Carey at 10:17 a.m. Mr. Carey led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Introductions** (Tom Carey, Chair)
   Mr. Tom Carey led roundtable introductions, including new members and guests.
3. **Agenda Revisions** (Tom Carey, Chair)
   No agenda revisions were brought forward.
4. **Minutes Approval** (Tom Carey, Chair)

   Requested Action: Approval of Minutes from the Management Board meeting on February 7, 2023.

   MOTION WAS MADE BY TONY CATANESE TO APPROVE THE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 7, 2023. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY KEVIN SHROPSHIRE MOTION PASSED.
5. **Finance Sub-Committee Report** (Stu Glass, Chair)
   Mr. Stu Glass conducted a review of the agenda items. The Independent Audit Report and Findings were not discussed as the report had not yet been finalized. The Quarterly Financial Report was reviewed, and no further action was necessary. The committee has recommended adopting the FY 2024 Final Budget through Resolution 2023-02, pursuant to Florida Statutes.

   Requested Action: Accept Committee Report

   MOTION WAS MADE BY GREG WILSON TO ACCEPT THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY TONY CATANESE MOTION PASSED.
6. **Public Comment**
   Lou Kontnik from Brevard IRL Coalition and IRL Roundtable presented and made available a published document that aims to strike a balance between space development and the conservation of the Indian River Lagoon.

7. **Water Quality Reports**

   a. Northern IRL (Dr. Chuck Jacoby)
   Dr. Chuck Jacoby reported that this quarter's six continuous data sondes did not report any significant figures, as there were no weather events to note. Salinity levels remained normal, but temperatures did experience some typical winter dips. Chlorophyll levels in the central lagoon were relatively low, while the Cocoa area showed a short-lived increase. Dissolved oxygen levels remained at an acceptable level throughout the entire quarter. 700 camera drops indicated some seagrass recovery.

   b. Southern IRL (Kathy LaMartina)

   KJ Ayres-Guerra for Kathy LaMartina reported recent heavy rains caused the Tidal Basin to experience the highest freshwater inflows to the IRL, while Lake Okeechobee's releases took place from January 21 to April 14. The past few weeks have seen a slight decrease in salinity levels at all three monitoring sites, but they have remained within the optimal range since December 2022. As usual, the juvenile oyster (spat) recruitment rates were low from November 2022 to March 2023 but started increasing in April, indicating the beginning of the spawning season. Live oyster densities have been stable over the past two years, with an increase in densities from April 2022 to April 2023. Sincere gratitude to Lauren Hall of SJRWMD for sharing the seagrass maps and data. Since 2009, there has been an overall loss of 25% of seagrass in the SFWMD portion of the IRL, with a decrease of about 9% in acreage from 2019 to 2021. This month, SJRWMD will conduct a large-scale seagrass monitoring effort, dividing the southern IRL into six segments with about 30 randomly selected stations each. The measurements will include percent cover, canopy height, and water quality.

8. **Presentation**

Update on How Knowledge of Land Use Can Inform Water Quality Restoration in the IRL
(Dr. Kai Rains and Edgar Guerron-Orejuela, University of South Florida)

Dr. Kai Rains presented a restoration prioritization tool that can effectively indicate changes in land use. This tool is designed to assist in the identification of targets for restoration, preservation, and mitigation. It can also set queries and is easily expandable to include additional screening layers and data. The goal is to align the tool with stakeholder needs and regional priorities, thereby making it simpler for local governments to identify and target areas to conserve. Attendees discussed the possibility of expanding the tool's focus beyond wetlands to include septic to sewer prioritization, highlighting the tool's versatility. The presentation was well-received and ignited a dialogue among the participants.

9. **Old Business**
None

10. **New Business**

   a. One Lagoon Monitoring Plan Final Draft (EPA Concurrence Document) (Duane De Freese)
   One Lagoon Monitoring Plan Draft

   Dr. Duane De Freese expressed his gratitude to Dennis Hanisak, David Heuberger, and their team for their outstanding work in completing the contract project. The plan underwent a thorough peer review process, resulting in six valuable recommendations and the identification of gaps. The capability to update monitoring maps was also noted.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors adopt the One Lagoon Monitoring Plan and authorize staff to submit the plan to EPA for review and certification. If revisions are requested by EPA, the IRL Council Board of Directors authorizes staff to make recommended changes and finalize the document.

MOTION WAS MADE BY BILL KERR TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPT THE ONE LAGOON MONITORING PLAN AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SUBMIT THE PLAN TO EPA

FOR REVIEW AND CERTIFICATION. IF REVISIONS ARE REQUESTED BY EPA, THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZES STAFF TO MAKE RECOMMENDED CHANGES AND FINALIZE THE DOCUMENT. MOTION SECONDED BY LAURILEE THOMPSON. MOTION PASSED.

b. Long-term strategy for use of BIL Funds (EPA Required Document) (Duane De Freese)

Dr. Duane De Freese outlined the methods employed to create the Priority Communities classification for the IRL Watershed included in the strategy. These methods involved the use of various tools and documents, including detailed maps. The directed RFP is under development and it is anticipated to be issued in early 2024.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors adopt the long-term strategy for use of BIL funds and authorize staff to submit the strategy to EPA for review and certification. The EPA deadline is on or before June 1, 2023. If revisions are requested by EPA, the IRL Council Board of Directors authorizes staff to make recommended changes, finalize the document, and resubmit to EPA.

MOTION WAS MADE BY PAUL CARLISLE TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPT THE LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR USE OF BIL FUNDS AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SUBMIT THE STRATEGY TO EPA FOR REVIEW AND CERTIFICATION. THE EPA DEADLINE IS ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2023. IF REVISIONS ARE REQUESTED BY EPA, THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZES STAFF TO MAKE RECOMMENDED CHANGES, FINALIZE THE DOCUMENT, AND RESUBMIT TO EPA. MOTION SECONDED BY VINCE LAMB. MOTION PASSED.

c. FY 2024 Final Budget (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Dan Kolodny noted some minor modifications, including an increase in administrative services to accommodate the extra workload undertaken by Special Services District due to an uptick in IRLNEP staffing. SDS negotiated a higher interest rate on behalf of the IRL Council.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors review and adopt the Final Budget for FY 2024 by Resolution 2023-02, pursuant to Florida Statutes.

MOTION WAS MADE BY STU GLASS TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEW AND ADOPT THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FY 2024 BY RESOLUTION 2023-02, PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JAMES GRAY. MOTION PASSED.

d. Small Grants (Kathy Hill)

Ms. Kathy Hill shared that 19 proposals were submitted. Nine scored 70 or higher. One proposal eligible for an award was withdrawn; this allowed five proposals to be awarded within the budgeted amount. During the meeting, the funding of the three proposals that Scored above 70 was discussed, as well as one proposal that scored 69.9. The CAC supported funding all four proposals and recommended them to the Board of Directors.

Requested Actions: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations, approve the final ranked list of proposals, and fund the top proposals contingent and consistent with available funds and budgetary authority. Authorize staff to negotiate and enter into contract agreements with those applicants.

MOTION MADE BY KEVIN SHROPSHIRE TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS, APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS, AND FUND THE TOP PROPOSALS CONTINGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH AVAILABLE FUNDS AND BUDGETARY AUTHORITY. AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT AGREEMENTS WITH THOSE APPLICANTS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY GREG WILSON. MOTION PASSED.

e. Resolution to support East Central Florida Regional Planning Council in seeking funding from the Military Installation Resilience Review Program. (Duane De Freese)

Dr. Duane De Freese has noted that support resolutions are not commonly employed. Given the extensive growth and advancements at the Kennedy Space Center, it is imperative to address the vulnerability of coastal infrastructure, as it directly affects the IRL. The resolution grants the express permission of the Board for the Executive Director to pursue discussions and offer input as resilience plans move forward.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept IRLNEP Management Conference recommendations to adopt Resolution 2023-03, supporting ECFRPC's efforts to seek funding from the MIRRP and other coastal resilience initiatives.

MOTION WAS MADE BY TONY CATANESE TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2023-03, SUPPORTING ECFRPC'S EFFORTS TO SEEK FUNDING FROM THE MIRRP AND OTHER COASTAL RESILIENCE INITIATIVES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PAUL CARLISLE. MOTION PASSED.

11. IRLNEP Staff Reports

a. Community Engagement Report (Kathy Hill)
Ms. Kathy Hill reported a significant increase in social media engagement thanks to the efforts of the three Community Engagement Coordinators. Brevard County has been ranked highly with cities with the most engagement, based on the metrics. Facebook followers are largely individuals aged 45 and above, while Instagram followers are mostly under 45 years old.

b. Information Technology and Data Science Update (KJ Ayres)
Ms. KJ Ayres-Guerra discussed the completed Maps & Database for Equity Plan to identify priority communities in the IRL watershed. A standard for publishing all Metadata has been established. Past Project Information has been organized and posted. The ArcGIS Online Data Hub has been successfully developed, and multiple datasets have been integrated. Future tasks will include Internal & External Project Map, an editorial in ECO – Environmental, Coastal & Offshore Magazine, and reorganizing the website.

c. IRL Project Update (Daniel Kolodny)
Mr. Daniel Kolodny reported that at the end of Quarter 2 of FY 2023 had 49 CCMP Projects/Activities in progress. Additionally, there was one CCMP Project pending, but no projects were completed during the quarter.

d. Executive Director Report (Duane De Freese)

Dr. Duane De Freese reported the EDC Space Coast feasibility study has gained significant momentum and support. The Florida Legislative budget has been released, and it includes funding requests for various projects aimed at improving the Indian River Lagoon. Ms. Kathy Hill and Mr. Dan Kolodny recently represented the IRLNEP in Washington, D.C. at the EPA Transformational Coastal Management Event. Ms. Hill delivered a presentation and participated in a panel discussion. Both the House and Senate Appropriation letters have been submitted with bipartisan support seeking funding for NEPs. Although the IRLNEP did not receive the NOAA funding grant, the proposal was ranked in the highest tier. An analysis of the project funding breakdown was presented, and it has been determined that future proposals should align with NOAA's traditional historic priorities, which focus on designated habitats.

12. Final Comments (Committee, Staff, Public)

Tom Carey reported that 200 septic to sewer conversions in Indian Harbor Estates has been completed. Oak Hill wastewater treatment plant is expanding.

Tony Catanese reported that St. Stevens Way on Crane Creek has a LID project to house homeless school children.
Kevin Shropshire reported that he achieved a committee appointment to the Small Communities Committee with the EPA and will be traveling to D. C. for meetings. Thanked Duane De Freese for the letter of recommendation.
Vince Lamb reported that bills passed at the state level need the Governor's signature to protect Brevard South Beaches – a State Area of Critical Concern. Protects the IRL from septic and package plants and protects from increased development.
Terri Breeden reported that the 75th SOIRL project has been completed.
Judy Orcutt reported that the city of Vero Beach will convert 20-35 low-income households from septic to sewer.
Bob Musser reported that Brevard County received a Section 206 grant to look at SR 528.
Gretchen Kelly reported on the work order update for the 2017 Stormwater treatment feasibility study.
Gary Ritter reported that the city of Okeechobee received three stormwater grants to help improve water quality going into Taylor Creek. The utility authority to convert septic to sewer in the southwest section of the city.
Kathy LaMartina announced that the City of Stuart received an award for the Tressler Dr. Stormwater Project, funded by the IRLNEP.
Kathy Hill announced that the new Lagoon license plate is now available.
Duane De Freese thanked Mel Bromberg for her service to the IRL Management Council as Mel is stepping down from the Management Board. Appreciation was also given for all the support during health treatment.

13. Next Meeting

Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 10:15 a.m.
Up the Creek Farms, 3590 Valkaria Road, Grant-Valkaria, FL 32950

14. Adjourn

MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING BY PAUL CARLISE AT 12:34. SECONDED BY KATHY LAMARTINA.

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.