This meeting is open to the public.

Tuesday, May 9, 2023
10:15 AM - 1:00 PM

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

The order of items appearing on the agenda is subject to change during the meeting and is at the discretion of the presiding officer. Anyone wishing to speak on any item is requested to complete a speaker's card.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance (Tom Carey, Chair)

2. Introductions (Tom Carey, Chair)

3. Agenda Revisions (Tom Carey, Chair)
   
   Note any known changes and inquire if any members have suggested revisions.

4. Approval of Minutes (Tom Carey, Chair)
   
   Requested Action: Approval of Minutes from the Management Board meeting on February 7, 2023.

5. Finance Sub-Committee Report (Stu Glass, Chair Finance Sub-Committee)
   
   Requested Action: Accept Committee Report.

6. Public Comment

7. Water Quality Reports
   
   a. Northern IRL (Dr. Chuck Jacoby, SJRWMD)
   b. Southern IRL (Kathy LaMartina, SFWMD)

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).

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
       
       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.

    b. Long-term Strategy for Use of BIL Funds (EPA Required Document)
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.

c. FY 2024 Final Budget (Daniel Kolodny)
   **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.

d. Small Grants (Kathy Hill)
   **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.

e. Resolution to support East Central Florida Regional Planning Council in seeking funding from the Military Installation Resilience Review Program. (Duane De Freese)
   **Requested Actions:** Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the Management Board recommendations to adopt Resolution 2023-03, supporting ECFRPC’s efforts to seek funding from the MIRRP and other coastal resilience initiatives.

11. IRLNEP Staff reports
   a. Community Engagement Update (Kathy Hill)
   b. Information Technology and Data Science Update (KJ Ayres-Guerra)
   c. IRL Project Update (Dan Kolodny)
   d. Executive Director Report (Duane De Freese)

12. Final Comments (Management Board, Staff, Public)

13. Next Meeting
   Management Board meeting: Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 10:15 a.m.
   Up the Creek Farms, 3590 Valkaria Road, Grant-Valkaria, FL 32950

14. Adjourn

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**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.
Minutes from the meeting of
Tuesday, February 7, 2023
10:15 AM
Up the Creek Farms, 3590 Valkaria Road, Grant-Valkaria, FL 32950


Guests: Stacy Cecil, Peter Eggert, Jim Cannon, Amy Eason, Keith Ramos, David Jones

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance (Tom Carey, Chair)
   The meeting was called to order by Tom Carey at 10:17 a.m. Tom Carey led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Introductions (Tom Carey, Chair)
   Tom Carey led roundtable introductions, including new members and guests.

3. Election of Officers (Kathy Hill)
   Ms. Hill informed the group that Tom Carey is willing to remain in the role of Chair and Bob Musser as Vice Chair. Ms. Hill opened the floor for new nominations.
   
   Requested Action: Elect Chair and Vice Chair for Calendar Year 2023 for the Management Board Committee

   MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM CAMPENNI TO ELECT TOM CAREY AS CHAIR AND TO ELECT BOB MUSSER AS VICE CHAIR OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY KELLY MCGEE. MOTION PASSED.

4. Agenda Revisions (Tom Carey, Chair)
   No agenda revisions were brought forward.

5. Minutes Approval (Tom Carey, Chair)
   
   Requested Action: Approval of Minutes from the Management Board meeting on November 15, 2022.

   MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM CAMPENNI TO APPROVE THE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 15, 2022. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PAUL CARLISLE. MOTION PASSED.

6. Finance Sub-Committee Report (Tom Campenni, Vice Chair)
   Mr. Campenni reviewed the Finance Subcommittee meeting, which examined the Quarter One Financial Statements. Recommended approval of the following items:

   Approval of Amendment 1 to Contract IRL2022-20 Atmospheric Deposition of Nutrients Monitoring and the Fiscal Year 2024 Tentative Budget
**Requested Action:** Accept Committee Report

MOTION WAS MADE BY ANTHONY CATANESE TO ACCEPT THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JAMES GRAY. MOTION PASSED.

7. **Public Comment**

Judy Orcutt announced that Clay Henderson was tonight’s E-Series speaker at the Emerson Center in Vero Beach and encouraged members to attend.

8. **Water Quality Reports**

   a. **Northern IRL (Dr. Chuck Jacoby)**

   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 (Kathy LaMartina)**

   Kathy LaMartina 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 in July, then occurred consistently through December. Densities have increased steadily since March 2022.

9. **Presentation**

   **Justice, 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 for the priority populations. With Mr. Jones’ guidance, staff will define goals, determine measurable outcomes and outline the duties and commitments of a task force.

10. **Old Business**

    None

11. **New Business**

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

   Mr. Kolodny reviewed the top three RFPs. Tom Carey opened the floor for discussion on 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 Management Board 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 TOM CAMPENNI 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 MANAGEMENT BOARD 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 CHARLES VOGT III. TWO OPPOSED. 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 Management Board 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 ANTHONY CATANESE TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT BOARD 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 TOM CAMPENNI. 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 Management Board 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 JAMES GRAY TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT BOARD 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 KEVIN SHROPSHIRE. ANTHONY CATANESE ABSTAINED. MOTION PASSED.

d. Fiscal Year 2024 Tentative Budget (Daniel 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 TOM CAMPENNI 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 BILL KERR. KELLI MCGEE ABSTAINED. MOTION PASSED.

e. Upcoming RFPs (Daniel Kolodny)

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

Mr. Kolodny informed the committee that the Citizens’ Advisory Committee will review the Small Grants Application at the upcoming meeting. The IIJA may not be available until August due to the requirements are not fully outlined at this time, and the projects must fit the new requirements.

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

MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM CAMPENNI TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO DEVELOP AND RELEASE RFPS FOR FY 2024 SMALL GRANTS AND IIJA. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY VINCE LAMB. MOTION PASSED.

f. Fiscal Year 2024 EPA Workplan and 2024 IRLNEP Business Plan (Daniel Kolodny)
Requested Action: Recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors authorize staff to finalize and submit the FY 2024 EPA Workplan and complete the FY 2024 IRLNEP Business Plan

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE MCCABE TO RECOMMEND THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZE STAFF TO FINALIZE AND SUBMIT THE FY 2024 EPA WORKPLAN AND COMPLETE THE FY 2024 IRLNEP BUSINESS PLAN. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JAMES GRAY. MOTION PASSED.

12. IRLNEP Staff Reports
   a. Communications Report (Kathy Hill)
      Ms. Hill reported that the social media posts reach and interaction is 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. Enviroticon 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)
      Ms. 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.

13. Final Comments (Committee, Staff, Public)

   Kathy LaMartina asked for the status of the IRL license plate. Ms. Hill responded that the next step was to purchase the remaining stock then the new plate will be available.
   James Gray reported that the annual Sebastian Inlet Seagrass monitoring report is in Draft form and is expected to be completed this March. The report will contain 10 years of seagrass data. The Balmoral Group has been contracted to update the SITD Regional Economic Benefits study, with expected completion in August/September 2023.
   Kathy Hill announced that an opening on the Financial Sub-committee is available and requested a volunteer. Paul Carlisle volunteered to fill the vacancy.

14. Next Meeting
   Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 10:15 a.m.
   Up the Creek Farms, 3590 Valkaria Road, Grant-Valkaria, FL 32950

15. Adjourn
   MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING BY MIKE MCCABE AT 11:53 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).

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This is the link to the One Lagoon Monitoring Plan Draft
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)  
Long-Term Strategic Plan and Equity Strategy

A plan to apply Federal funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to initiate projects that deliver lasting change with expanded outreach to all communities within the Indian River Lagoon watershed.

June 1, 2022

Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program

Written in compliance with the U.S. EPA National Estuary Program Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding Implementation Memorandum for Fiscal Years 2022-2026

Recommended by the IRLNEP Management Conference [DATE]; adopted by the IRL Council Board of Directors on [DATE]; Certified by the USEPA on [DATE]
PREFACE

On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed into law the "Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021" (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) (BIL). The law allocates a historic $50 billion to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for water infrastructure, making it the largest federal investment in water infrastructure to date. Among its provisions, the IIJA designated $132 million in funding for the National Estuary Programs (NEPs), a group of 28 long-standing programs focused on protecting and restoring coastal estuaries. The funding will be disbursed evenly among the NEPs, providing each program with an annual grant of $909,800 and a total of $4,549,000 over the next five fiscal years. Importantly, these funds do not expire and will be available until fully utilized.

In January 2021, President Biden’s Executive Order 14008, “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad,” announced the Justice40 initiative (J40), which mandated that at least 40% of the benefits of certain federal programs must flow to “disadvantaged communities”.

The Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRLNEP) viewed these two initiatives as historic opportunities to apply available BIL funds to meet three broad and overarching goals that align EPA BIL guidance with the IRL Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan – Looking Ahead to 2030 (CCMP adopted in 2019):

- Respond to the immediate ecological crisis from losing 89% of seagrass coverage throughout the IRL from harmful algal blooms that have been seasonally occurring since 2011.
- Identify “Priority Communities” throughout the IRL watershed to include disadvantaged, distinguished, overburdened, capacity-limited, underserved, underrepresented, environmental justice or other community descriptors that may evolve and change over time (see Section 2 Equity Strategy).
- Establish a process to enhance communication and engagement with these Priority Communities to understand and better respond to community needs.

IRLNEP HISTORY

The Indian River Lagoon (IRL) was nominated as an Estuary of National Significance in 1990 and joined the NEP in 1991. The Program’s Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) was first adopted in 1997 and updated in 2008. In 2011, the IRL experienced an intense harmful algal bloom (HAB) of a novel species of pico-cyanobacteria. That HAB lasted eighteen months and impacted much of the IRL. It was the beginning of a series of seasonally recurring HABs of varying species that continued into 2020. The rapid decline in water quality caused by the initial 2011 bloom, resulted in a 60% loss of IRL seagrasses and prompted local communities along the IRL to work with the IRLNEP Management Conference to restructure and refinance the program beginning in 2014.
In 2015, under the authority of §163.01, FL. Statutes, and §189.012(3), FL. Statutes, the IRL Council was created through an Interlocal Agreement among state and local partners. The sole responsibility of the IRL Council is to serve as the sponsor and policy Board for the IRLNEP and to provide matching funds required by the EPA for NEPs. The IRLNEP operational boundary is defined by the program watershed boundary established in the CCMP (Figure 1).

Figure 1: IRLNEP boundary map.

The IRL Council serves as the host agency and the local sponsor for the IRLNEP. The IRL Council Board of Directors is represented by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and the five counties with shorelines along the IRL.
(Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin Counties). Each IRL Council member makes an annual contribution to the IRLNEP pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement as a direct cash match to annual EPA Section 320 funding. Two IRL counties, Palm Beach County and Okeechobee County are located within the IRL watershed, but did not join the IRL Council Interlocal Agreement. They are both eligible for IRLNEP Management Conference participation and grants.

Several overarching goals guided the development of the CCMP: 1. Restructure and implement a more effective and efficient program that could better address the urgent environmental needs of the IRL; 2. Expand program activities to include human elements of estuary restoration and stewardship; and 3. Simplify the complexities of estuary science, restoration and stewardship to be easy to understand. To position the program for strategic growth and evolution as a National Estuary Program, the IRLNEP Management Conference anchored the CCMP around 32 “vital signs” of ecosystem health that integrated the One Lagoon-One Community-One Voice” mission (Figure 2).

Fig. 2: The IRLNEP Vital Signs wheel depicting the thirty-two CCMP actions.
The CCMP recognizes that much work needs to be done to expand program outreach and address the needs of all communities throughout the watershed. To address that priority, the CCMP identified a specific vital sign, “Distinctive Lagoon Communities”, within the One Community segment of the IRLNEP mission statement. BIL funding will assist the IRLNEP to advance and expand the vital sign goals and recommended actions.

**STRATEGY FOR USE OF BIL FUNDING**

This IRLNEP BIL strategic plan for FY 2022-2026 aligns with and supports the four EPA directives outlined in the BIL Implementation Memorandum issued on July 26, 2022. It:

- Accelerate and implement CCMP recommended actions.
- Ensure that benefits reach all communities in the IRL watershed with a special focus on Priority Communities.
- Build the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities.
- Leverage additional resources.

The IRLNEP BIL strategic plan also aligns with and supports the seven directives of a NEP Management Conference authorized by the U.S. Congress in Section 320 of the Clean Water Act (reauthorized in 2021)

- Assess trends in water quality, natural resources, and uses of the estuary.
- Collect, characterize, and assess data on toxics, nutrients, and natural resources.
- Develop the relationship between in-place loads and point and nonpoint loadings of pollutants.
- Develop a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan that recommends priority corrective actions and compliance schedules.
- Develop plans for the coordinated implementation of the plan.
- Monitor the effectiveness of actions taken pursuant to the plan.
- Review all Federal financial assistance programs and Federal development projects in accordance with the requirements of Executive Order 12372, as in effect on September 17, 1983, to determine whether such assistance program or project would be consistent with and further the purposes and objectives of the plan prepared under this section.

Finally, the IRLNEP BIL strategic plan recommends strategic actions and activities that fulfill IRLNEP Core Values, Mission and Goals as adopted in the CCMP.

**VISION:** Healthy Ecosystem–Healthy Communities–Healthy Economy

**MISSION:** One Lagoon – One Community – One Voice

**PROMISE** Clean Water for People and Nature
GOALS:
- Water and sediment quality that supports a healthy estuary.
- A healthy estuary that supports endangered & threatened species, fisheries, commerce, and recreation.
- Heightened public awareness and coordinated interagency management.
- Development of long-term funding sources for projects and programs.

The IRLNEP FY 2022 and FY 2023 BIL Workplans have been submitted and accepted by EPA. Early BIL projects are in various stages of implementation with some already completed. Projects that provide benefits to Priority Communities are specifically identified in the workplans. The following information provides an outline of the long-term BIL strategy.

FY 2022
The goal of the FY 2022 workplan, released in February 2022, was to identify infrastructure projects ready for partner implementation within the 5 counties and provide an equitable benefit to each county from the first year of BIL funding of approximately $100,000 per county. Six projects were identified that represented $500,000 of the $909,800.

A second goal for BIL funding was to provide seed funding to establish a lagoonwide seagrass nursery and restoration network. This transformative goal was developed in response to potential supply chain issues with habitat restoration components such as adequate supplies of oyster shell, clams, shoreline plants and seagrasses. This investment builds infrastructure capacity that will continue to support habitat restoration activities beyond the 5-years of BIL funding. Seagrasses were identified as the most pressing and immediate need in the IRL and there is immense public and scientific interest in planting seagrasses and advancing seagrass research as a means of jumpstarting IRL recovery. The IRLNEP has previously funded pilot projects for land-based and site-based seagrass restoration. A competitive Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was issued and five organizations responded that were all deemed qualified. These sites provide unique opportunities for training and internships. The IRLNEP estimates approximately $81,960 of the annual BIL funding budget in FY 2023 will inure benefits to Priority Communities.

FY 2023
The FY 2023 BIL workplan continues the commitment to the seagrass nursery network with $500,000. Six additional projects were identified for this workplan, four restoration projects and two stormwater remediation projects. One of the stormwater projects has a strong Trash Free Waters component. The IRLNEP estimates approximately $509,800 of the annual BIL funding budget in FY 2023 will inure benefits to Priority Communities.

FY 2024 - FY 2026
Requests for Proposals (RFPs) will be issued to identify projects in each of the three remaining fiscal years of BIL funding. Resulting workplans will continue the IRLNEP commitment to the seagrass nursery network with a total of $1.5 million over the remaining three years. Specific RFPs targeting Priority Communities will be released and projects will be identified through a competitive process. A FY 2023 Request for
Qualifications was issued to identify services to support capacity- and relationship-building with Priority Communities, as well as the establishment of an IRLNEP Task Force to better address the needs of Priority Communities. The IRLNEP estimates approximately $1,229,400 of BIL funding in FY 2024 – FY 2026 will inure benefits to Priority Communities.

Each recipient of IRLNEP funding is contractually obligated to comply with all project deliverables and timelines. The IRLNEP expects that all BIL funds will be expended before the close of FY 2027 to account for any lags or unanticipated delays.

**IRLNEP EQUITY STRATEGY**

The following Equity Strategy follows the specific format guidelines provided by EPA in the guidance, “Equity Strategies for the EPA National Estuary Programs and Geographic Programs”.

1. **Governance Overview**

National Estuary Programs are unique collaborative and network governance operating programs. The heart of an NEP is the Management Conference which is responsible for developing and tracking a 10-year CCMP that is uniquely tailored to local environmental conditions, local input, and local priorities. The NEP Management Conference business model is proven to be an effective, efficient, financially responsible and successful pathway to estuary restoration and stewardship. Each of the 28 NEPs are science-based, non-regulatory, community driven, consensus building, and results oriented.

Since 2015, the IRL Council has worked with the IRLNEP Management Conference, composed of a Management Board, Finance Subcommittee to the Management Board, Science Technology Engineering and Modeling (STEM) Advisory Committee, and Citizens Advisory Committee. Together, these advisory groups are represented by approximately 100 volunteers consisting of scientists, resource managers, citizens and community leaders from throughout the IRL watershed. Increasing the diversity of the IRLNEP Management Conference membership has been and continues to be a long-standing goal of the IRL Council and IRLNEP.

The Management Conference Advisory Committees develop and review program decisions. The committees make recommendations to the IRL Council which serves as the IRLNEP policy board. Every action and activity of the IRLNEP aligns with the program’s Vision, Mission, and Goals. These serve as the foundation for the CCMP adopted in 2019. The CCMP was revised with full understanding that human communities, economies, histories, and cultures are interdependent and essential considerations for successful and sustained large ecosystem restoration and stewardship. The IRLNEP recognized during the development of the CCMP (2019) that much work was needed to fully represent all the counties, incorporated cities, unincorporated towns, and neighborhoods throughout the IRL watershed. Expansion of those efforts has been limited by IRLNEP staff size and available funding. BIL funding provides a historic opportunity for the IRLNEP to identify
and address some of these needs.

Since 2015, the highest program priority of the IRLNEP has been to invest available funds in projects that improve water quality or restore high priority, degraded natural habitats. These funded projects have provided both direct and indirect benefits to all citizens and communities throughout the watershed.

2. Definition of Disadvantaged Communities and Alternative Terms

EPA’s National Estuary Program Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding Implementation Memorandum for Fiscal Years 2022-2026 aligns its terminology with Presidential Executive Order 14008. These documents use the term “disadvantaged communities” to describe a wide range of communities with special issues and needs. Numerous alternative terms continue to be used by local, state, and federal agencies to define and describe “disadvantaged” communities (i.e., disadvantaged, overburdened, capacity-limited, underserved, underrepresented, environmental justice, etc.). Over time, it is not unreasonable to anticipate that new terminology will arise, and some existing terminology may fall out of favor. It is also not unreasonable that there may be some geographic diversity of thought regarding appropriate terminology among the watersheds of the 28 NEPs.

Alternative Definition:
The IRLNEP, in consultation with its Management Conference, Board of Directors, stakeholders and partners, has decided to use the term, “Priority Communities” as a more appropriate and inclusive descriptor for the communities being identified under this equity strategy and in the work that will be subsequently performed utilizing BIL funding. The primary reason for this decision is that few, if any, local IRL communities self-identify as being “disadvantaged.” Second, the IRLNEP, as a matter of policy, has decided on a focus of “asset framing” rather than “deficit framing” our priority communities. While deficit framing defines people and communities by their problems rather than by their assets and contributions, asset framing emphasizes the strengths and aspirations of people and communities. The IRLNEP will strive to utilize asset framing language whenever possible to avoid implying connections between the problems at hand and the traits of the communities experiencing these problems.

Currently, the IRL CCMP recognizes broad categories of special communities within the CCMP vital sign “Distinctive Lagoon Communities.” The IRLNEP recognizes that this vital sign descriptor will be reconsidered and updated to reflect inclusion of Priority Communities as part of Distinctive Lagoon Communities in the upcoming 5-year update of the CCMP in 2025.

Tools:
To be as inclusive as possible, the IRLNEP used several means of identifying Priority Communities in its watershed. The IRLNEP utilized EPA’s supplemental index as a baseline for determining Priority Communities within Indian River Lagoon watershed. The supplemental indexes offer a different perspective on community-level vulnerability because the supplemental demographic index averages the five parameters below:
• % Low Income
• % Unemployed
• % Limited English Speaking
• % Less than High School Education
• Low Life Expectancy

The supplemental demographic index is then combined with environmental indicators to display areas with the highest intersection between these socioeconomic factors and the environmental indicators. Twelve environmental indicators are included in the EPA's supplemental index:

- Air particulate matter 2.5
- Ozone
- Diesel particulate matter
- Air toxic cancer risk
- Traffic proximity and volume
- Lead Paint
- Superfund proximity
- Risk management plan (RMP) facility proximity
- Hazardous waste proximity
- Underground storage tanks (UST) and leaking UST (LUST)
- Wastewater discharge

The supplemental index takes the average of the five socioeconomic indicators and is then multiplied by the average of twelve environmental indicators to create the percentage in the supplemental index. Supplemental index greater than 80% by census block group are identified with color on the following map (see Fig. 2 below).

Using the EPA's Environmental Justice (EJ) Tool 2.0, 125 identified census blocks were identified within the IRLNEP boundary.

The IRLNEP also utilized the following additional tools to augment EPA's EJ Tool 2.0:

- Section 288.0656, Florida Statutes, establishes the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) to better serve Florida’s economically distressed rural communities by providing a more focused and coordinated effort among state and regional agencies that provide programs and services for rural areas.
- The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) created by the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). CEJST is used to identify communities that are overburdened by pollution, marginalized, and/or underserved. The criteria used to determine whether a community is disadvantaged is divided into eight categories: climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable and sustainable housing, reduction and remediation of legacy pollution, critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure, health burdens, and training and workforce development. Communities that meet or are above
specified thresholds in at least one of the eight categories are determined to be disadvantaged.

- The US Department of Education’s Title 1 schools. Title I, Part A (Title I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the “Every Student Succeeds Act” (ESEA) provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

The three datasets identified above were overlaid with the EPA’s EJ Tool 2.0. With the three additional datasets included there was a total of 321 census blocks within our watershed that are identified as Priority Communities. See Figure 3 for entire IRL watershed boundary and Appendix A for county views of each of the datasets mentioned above.

Within the mapped area, the IRLNEP identified some communities that have not traditionally participated within the Management Conference or had little to no interaction with the program. To address that issue, the IRLNEP hired a consultant to assist staff and the Management Conference to:

- Ensure the IRLNEP represents the entire IRL watershed and operates as inclusively as possible.
- Assist the program to establish and maintain meaningful long-term relationships in communities where the IRLNEP has not traditionally operated.
- Facilitate discussions with Priority Communities that would be eligible under the Justice40 guidelines and to provide guidance and assistance as needed.

The IRLNEP also tasked the consultant with establishing a IRLNEP Management Conference Task Force to help identify and address IRL issues of importance to Priority Communities as they pertain to water quality, habitat restoration, trash-free waters, human health, and other challenges or opportunities. The IRLNEP anticipates increased outreach activities to Priority Communities to gain a better understanding of needs and issues that could be addressed through the development of projects and programs aligned with the IRLNEP CCMP. It is the overarching goal of the IRLNEP to address the needs of all communities in the watershed. BIL funding implementation provides historic opportunities to implement projects and programs that are intentional, authentic, and meaningful.
Fig. 3. This map identifies 321 census blocks within the seven-county watershed of the IRLNEP. The IRLNEP incorporated the 125 identified census blocks from the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Tool 2.0 and overlaid the following datasets: 1. The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool 1.0 (CEJST) developed by the U.S. White House Council on Environmental Quality; 2. The U.S. Department of Education's Title 1 Schools; and 3. The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) communities identified by Florida Statue Section 288.0656.
3. Baseline Analysis

The EPA conducted its own baseline of past benefits (since 2017) that the NEP conferred to Priority Communities. The EPA-calculated baseline appears below (Table 1). It is unclear as to which particular IRLNEP projects were chosen for inclusion, and which were not. Also unclear is which seven communities were conferred benefits under EPA's baseline.

Table 1. EPA baseline analysis for the IRLNEP FY 2017-2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># Habitat Projects in Disadvantaged Communities</th>
<th>Total Habitat Projects</th>
<th>% of Habitat Projects in Disadvantaged Communities</th>
<th>Section 320 Funds Invested in Disadvantaged Communities through Habitat Projects ($)</th>
<th>Total Section 320 Funds Invested in Disadvantaged Communities through Habitat Projects ($)</th>
<th>% of Section 320 Funds Invested in Disadvantaged Communities through Habitat Projects ($)</th>
<th>Habitat Project Costs Invested in Disadvantaged Communities ($)</th>
<th>Total Habitat Project Costs ($)</th>
<th>% of Habitat Project Costs Invested in Disadvantaged Communities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$163,067</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$6,121,409</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>40.00%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>$53,961</td>
<td>$270,104</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>$23,812,600</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>3.88%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$140,000</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>$137,000</td>
<td>$9,523,425</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>1.49%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$19,365</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$4,196,575</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>3.66%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$33,402</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>$390,961</td>
<td>$43,924,113</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To optimize effective and efficient use of available annual federal, state and local revenues, the IRLNEP allocates available EPA Section 320 workplan funds differently than local and state matching funds pursuant to the IRL Council Interlocal Agreement. EPA Section 320 funds are allocated to high value activities aligned with Congressional authorization in the Clean Water Act (CWA). Annual state and local matching funds are allocated primarily to projects that improve water quality and decrease vulnerability to HABs (i.e., wastewater, septic to sewer conversions, stormwater) and restoration of IRL habitats identified in the CCMP as being critical or serious ecosystem health concerns (i.e., seagrasses, mangroves, salt marshes, filter feeders, connected waters and land acquisition). All projects are identified through annual competitive RFPs or RFQs. This strategic allocation of revenues results in a situation where a number of IRLNEP projects each year (including projects that conferred direct and indirect benefits to Priority Communities) are not included in the EPA National Estuary Program Online Reporting Tool (NEPORT) data base. This underreporting is reflected in the EPA Baseline Analysis in Table 1.

The following list of IRLNEP projects FY 2017-2021 provided direct and indirect benefits to Priority Communities. These data are also provided in the most recent EPA 5-Year Program Evaluation Report. The Report and EPA Letter of Proficiency are available on-line at https://onelagoon.org/2022-epa-performance-evaluation/.

IRLNEP past benefits to Priority Communities include:

- Partnering with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and Florida A&M University. The CIVIC (Community Voices, Informed Choices) Program is an extension program serving to build capacity in communities to work toward their improved well-being. The IRLNEP pledged funding support to a CIVIC internship. While
the internship was delayed due to COVID, staff assisted in developing several workshops that were held virtually.

- Partnering with Pelican Island Audubon Society to cultivate a new, more diverse generation of IRL advocates through the Audubon Advocates K-12 education and after-school program.
- Funding of septic to sewer conversion projects in West Wabasso (Indian River County) and Oak Hill (Volusia County).
- Funding of a stormwater improvement project at Reed Canal in South Daytona in partnership with Bethune Cookman University.
- Making available professional grant writing support to IRLNEP partners at no cost.
- Providing IRLNEP staff technical support and small grant assistance to programs and events (i.e., Envirothon, a K-12 environmental education competition program; Anglers for Conservation, which introduces kids to fishing; Stella Maris summer education program, which provides scholarships for underprivileged students; and sponsorship of IRL STEAM Fest).
- Participating with the Bethune-Cookman University on its Protect Our Lagoon Academy Master Class to provide in-class presentations about the IRL, its ecology and biodiversity and the role of low-impact development in visioning and regional leadership.

4. Numeric Targets
The IRLNEP is committed to meeting or exceeding the forty percent baseline established by the Justice40 Executive Order for funding projects that inure benefits to Priority Communities within the watershed.

5. Key Activities
The FY 2022 and FY 2023 BIL Workplans were submitted and accepted by EPA. BIL projects are in various stages of implementation with many already completed. Projects that provide benefits to Priority Communities are specifically identified in the workplans. Full workplan details are available on our website at www.onelagoon.org. Beginning with the FY 2024 funding cycle, a targeted RFP will solicit projects from Priority Communities as identified in the IRLNEP map of Justice40 Priority Communities (see Fig. 3 above). The following information provides an outline of the long-term strategy to ensure 40% of benefits from the BIL funding reach Priority Communities.

6. Tracking Benefits
FY 2022:

- This workplan identified infrastructure projects ready for implementation within the five counties and provided an equitable benefit to each county from the first year of BIL funds ($100,000 per county). All provided water quality or habitat restoration benefits to the IRL. 6 projects were identified that represented $500,000 of the
$909,800. None of these projects had a direct benefit to Priority Communities as defined herein.

- Another goal of the long-term plan for BIL funding was to provide seed funding for a lagoonwide seagrass nursery network. A competitive RFQ was issued, and 5 organizations responded that were all deemed qualified. One of the organizations, Sea and Shoreline, LLC., is building a processing facility directly within a priority community that will provide opportunities for job training and employment.

- Total benefit to Priority Communities $81,960.

FY 2023:

- This workplan continued the commitment to build infrastructure capacity within the IRLNEP seagrass nursery and restoration network with $500,000.

- Six additional projects were identified for this workplan. All deliver benefits to Priority Communities.

- Total benefit to Priority Communities $509,800.

FY 2024 - FY 2026:

Beginning with the FY 2024 funding cycle, projects that provide benefits to communities in the IRL watershed that are identified as Priority Communities will be selected through a targeted RFP announcement. Since BIL funds are limited, proposals submitted under this RFP will be capped at $200,000 each with no local match required. This strategy will enable more projects to be funded with available BIL funds. The funding cap per project falls below the $250,000 statutory requirements of the Build America, Buy America (BABA) Law (see 8 below).

- These workplans will continue the commitment to the seagrass nursery network with a total of $1.5 million over the remaining three years.

- Projects benefitting Priority Communities will be determined through a competitive RFP available to the communities determined through the mapping tools.

- Selections for funding will prioritize projects with multiple or far-reaching benefits and those that adopt nature-based solutions and green infrastructure approaches.

- Total expected benefit to Priority Communities $1,229,400.

By the close of FY 2027, the IRLNEP expects the total benefit to Priority Communities will be at least $1,821,160 (40% of the total funding allocation).

The IRLNEP will provide a separate accounting for all projects funded through BIL appropriations. Within this accounting, identifiers will show which BIL projects qualify as Justice40 projects with benefits to Priority Communities. Metrics that may be tracked include the following:
• Number of grant awards and financial investment.
• Number of Priority Communities that receive direct grant awards.
• Financial estimate of indirect benefits to Priority Communities.
• Deliverables for each BIL project.
• Short-term outcome for each BIL project.
• Long-term outcome for each BIL project (benefits that last beyond the 5-year funding window of BIL.
• Expanded adaptive capacity of Priority Communities to be resilient to climate change.
• Improved wildlife habitat.
• Addressed water quality challenges or prevented or reduced nonpoint source pollution affecting Priority Communities.
• Increased access to recreational opportunities.

Projects progress will be tracked and shared as an integral part of Program commitment to fiscal responsibility, accountability, and transparency. BIL workplan activities will be evaluated and tracked annually. Tracking documents will include the EPA annual BIL workplan, IRLNEP Annual Business Plan, and IRLNEP Annual Report. All will be posted on www.onelagoon.org.

7. Stakeholder Engagement Plan
The IRLNEP will develop an appropriate Stakeholder Engagement Plan that aligns with and complements the IRLNEP Communication Plan. The Program expects to utilize the consultant to assist with community relationship-building and outreach, as well as the talents of the three Community Engagement Coordinators hired in December 2022 to assist with implementation and follow-up opportunities as projects move forward. The engagement plan will identify audiences and tactics that will be used for meaningful engagement. We expect the following aspects to be a routine part of our stakeholder engagement with all BIL projects, including those involving priority communities (Table 2).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Potential Partner(s)</th>
<th>Type of Engagement Anticipated</th>
<th>Rationale for Engagement</th>
<th>Regularity of engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Engagement with grant recipients</td>
<td>Recipients of BIL funds in Priority Communities, cities and/or county government, local non-profits, volunteers.</td>
<td>Technical support, assisting with improving public awareness, outreach in support of project goals, promoting milestones achieved via social media, attending events, providing talks and support for public meetings, etc.</td>
<td>Partner support will multiply benefits throughout the Priority Communities and help raise project awareness, its benefits, and community-based solutions to environmental issues.</td>
<td>Regular meetings with grant recipients to assess needs and outreach requirements to promote project and its goals in particular communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of task force focused on Priority Communities to advise staff, the IRL Management Conference and the IRL Council Board of Directors</td>
<td>IRLNEP consultant, members of local communities, local non-profits, churches, community groups, city and county governments.</td>
<td>Consultant and Community Engagement Coordinators will provide outreach to Priority Communities, identify key community stakeholders and bring them together to uncover issues that need to be addressed where IRLNEP involvement may be beneficial.</td>
<td>The task force is envisioned as a body of local knowledge that will be engaged to highlight issues of concern in priority communities and discuss avenues where IRLNEP involvement may be helpful. This group will provide proposal review of directed RFPs for Priority Communities and verify that proposers are putting forward projects that will assist in community concerns.</td>
<td>Once established, monthly meetings are initially envisioned. Later, this may move to quarterly and as-needed meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration of community inclusion considerations in all aspects of IRLNEP decision making</td>
<td>IRLNEP consultant, IRLNEP staff, Management Conference, IRLNEP Priority Communities task force members</td>
<td>Information sharing, meetings, presentations</td>
<td>Engagement of the task force will assist in keeping IRLNEP focus and engagement on Priority Communities and assist in program development, identification of</td>
<td>Meetings will be held at least quarterly, potentially more often as issues and opportunities arise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRLNEP Executive Director is accountable for building inclusion and diversity in the Management Conference as part of annual performance review.</td>
<td>IRLNEP Executive Director, IRL Council Board of Directors</td>
<td>Information sharing, discussion with task force, staff, Management Conference to integrate suggestions and issues into operations and CCMP as needed.</td>
<td>Maintain focus on Priority Communities; increase responsiveness to all communities.</td>
<td>Ongoing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Other

The IRL Council and IRLNEP acknowledge and understand that the goods and services under the BIL grant award are being funded by federal dollars and fall under the statutory requirements commonly known as “Build America, Buy America” (BABA). BABA requires that the iron and steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in projects are produced in the United States. The IRL Council and IRLNEP understand these requirements and will comply with the law. The IRL Council and IRLNEP recognize that Build America, Buy America, due to waivers, does not apply to awards made before March 2, 2023, awards less than or equal to $250,000, or less than 5% of the total project cost was expended on iron and steel, manufactured products, and construction materials as defined under the law. The IRLNEP have proposed a 5-year strategy herein for use of BIL funds that complies with the EPA Small Project General Applicability Waiver of Section 70914(a) of P.L. 117-58 (pursuant to EPA decision Memorandum dated September 26, 2022).
Appendix 2
County Maps Created Using the US EPA EJ Screening Tool 2.0 and Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)
Appendix 3
County Maps Created Using the
US EPA EJ Screening Tool 2.0 and
Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)
and Title 1 Schools in the IRL Watershed
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE IRL COUNCIL ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR THE 2024 FISCAL YEAR

WHEREAS, the IRL Council was created via Interlocal Agreement to carry out the goals of the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program; and

WHEREAS, the IRL Council held a public hearing on February 10, 2023 and adopted a Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2024;

WHEREAS, the IRL Council held a public meeting on May 12, 2023 to consider the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE IRL COUNCIL, THAT:

Section 1. The Fiscal Year 2024 Final Budget is attached as Exhibit “A”.

Section 2. The Fiscal Year 2024 Final Budget is hereby adopted.

Section 3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage.

DONE at____________________, Florida, this____day of____________________, 2023.

By: _______________________
Chris Dzadovsky, Chair

ATTEST:

________________________
Joe Earman, Secretary

Approved as to legal form and sufficiency:

________________________
Glen J. Torcivia
IRL Council, Legal Counsel
# IRL Council
## FY 2024 Final Budget
### Exhibit A

### REVENUES
<table>
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<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRL License Plate</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Contributions</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,334,800</strong></td>
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### EXPENDITURES
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<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>IRLNEP 2024 Infrastructure Work Plan, Unplanned Contingency Reserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,334,800</strong></td>
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### FY 2024 Tentative Budget  
**Approved 2/10/2023**

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### FY 2024 Final Budget  
**Pending**

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<tr>
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Higher \( (\text{Notes}) \) Lower \( (\text{Notes}) \)

\( \text{Higher} $7,500 \) \( (1) \)

\( \text{Lower} $7,500 \) \( (2) \)
FY 2024 Final Budget Expenditure Detail (Narrative)

- OTHER EXPENDITURES ($2,473,509)
  1. IRL Council Strategic Program ($700,000) includes the following:
     a. Water Quality Restoration Project(s) - $450,000
     b. Habitat Restoration Project(s) - $100,000
     c. Science and Innovation Project(s) - $100,000
     d. Small grants program - $25,000
     e. IRLNEP Technical Support of Conferences and Workshops - $25,000
  2. IRLNEP FY2024 EPA Workplan ($800,000) includes the following:
     a. Herbicide Impact Study (TOX 3 with SJRWMD) - $100,000
     b. State of the Lagoon Technical Report Y5 - $76,125
     c. Communication Support: Service contracts for web/graphics/design support, scientific and other publications, other contract support as needed, and expanded social media and support for communication intern. Includes service contracts with IDEAS, Brandt Ronat, Firefly, and O’Hara - $117,000
     d. Biodiversity Inventory Contract Y5 - $25,000
     e. Atmospheric Deposition Monitoring Central Station Y5 - $30,000
     f. North and South Atmospheric Deposition Monitoring Stations Operation and Maintenance - $60,000
     g. 3 Community Engagement coordinators (Salary Only) - $196,875
     h. Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring Contracts - $150,000
     i. EPA Travel (mandatory) - $10,000
     j. CCMP project inventory and prioritization service contract(s) - $15,000
     k. Grant Writing Support - $20,000
  3. IRLNEP FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS LAW Workplan ($909,800)
     a. Priority Communities Restoration Project(s) - $360,800
     b. Seagrass Nursery Network - $500,000
     c. Support Service Contract with Diversity of Thought - $49,000
  4. Unplanned Contingency Reserve - $63,709 (reduction of $7,500)

- SALARIES AND BENEFITS ($642,386)
  1. Salaries and 35% fringe rate for the Executive Director, Deputy Director, Chief Operating Officer, Administrative Coordinator, and GIS/IT Coordinator.
  2. 35% fringe rate only for the 3 Community engagement coordinators

- FACILITIES EXPENSES ($29,500)
  1. Utilities - $2,500
  2. Rent and Leases - $9,000
  3. Equipment Maintenance - $3,000
  4. Equipment and Communications - $15,000
- **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ($66,000)**
  1. Travel General - $25,000
  2. Postage and Mailing - $1,000
  3. Office Supplies - $5,000
  4. Dues, Licenses, and Subscriptions - $10,000
  5. Printing - $5,000
  6. Insurance - $12,000
  7. Staff Training and Professional Development - $8,000

- **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ($123,405)**
  1. Legal - $65,000
  2. Accounting - $36,000 (Increase of $7,500)
  3. Auditing - $19,405
  4. IT Services and Compliance - $2,500
  5. Legal Ads - $500
Small Grant information will be available after the Citizens Advisory Committee on May 4, 2023.
IRL COUNCIL RESOLUTION #2023-03
A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL MILITARY INSTALLATION RESILIENCE REVIEW PROPOSAL AND COASTAL RESILIENCE INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) is one of 28 estuaries dedicated by the U.S. Congress as estuaries of national significance in Section 320 of the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, the IRL Council is an independent special district of Florida, created through Interlocal Agreement in 2015 to serve as the host agency and policy board for the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRLNEP); and

WHEREAS, the IRL Council Board of Directors brings together a diverse group of approximately 100 scientists, resource managers, community leaders and citizens in the IRLNEP Management Conference to serve as advisors and subject-matter experts to guide and support the mission of the IRLNEP; and

WHEREAS, the IRLNEP Management Conference developed and adopted a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan – Looking Ahead to 2030 (CCMP) that identified 32 “Vital Signs for a healthy Lagoon that included coastal resilience planning, vulnerability assessment, and recommendations for adaptation actions to address severe weather events, climate change, and sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, the IRL CCMP and Climate Ready Estuary documents adopted by the IRL Council recognized the urgent need for wastewater and stormwater infrastructure improvements to existing infrastructure and new approaches to infrastructure development that decrease risks to IRL water quality and ecosystem health while improving infrastructure resilience; and

WHEREAS, the IRLNEP recognizes the important federal assets of NASA, Cape Canaveral Space Force Station and commercial space launch facilities at the Kennedy Space Center Complex located within the boundaries of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and along the shoreline of the Mosquito Lagoon portion of the IRL ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the IRLNEP recognizes that historic opportunities currently exist to develop and sustain new public and private-sector partnerships that can align infrastructure improvements with efforts to restore the IRL; and

WHEREAS, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECRFCPC) is comprised of Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia counties and the 78 municipalities contained therein and home to over 4.4 million people; and the 2060 Strategic Regional Policy Plan identified the IRL as a “natural resource of regional significance”; and
WHEREAS, the IRL Council is a member of the East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative (R2C), through IRL Council Resolution 2020-05, established in October 2018 as a program of the ECFRPC whose mission is to empower communities in East Central Florida to advance resilience strategies that strengthen and protect the built infrastructure and natural environment, enhance health and equity, and ensure a thriving economy; and

WHEREAS, the importance of a comprehensive and integrated approach to mitigation and adaptation is necessary to better address the shocks and stressors of severe weather events, climate change, and sea level rise to improve infrastructure resilience and protect the region’s natural resources like the IRL; and

WHEREAS, the ECFRPC is preparing a proposal to the federal Military Installation Resilience Review Program (MIRR) funded by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation with goals to foster regional integration and develop strategies, plans and actions with surrounding municipalities to protect and enhance a natural and man-made hazard resilient future that considers the unique military mission and operations; and

WHEREAS, the ECFRPC MIRR proposal will include the evaluation of ground mobility, critical infrastructure, sensor, access and evacuation operations, and degradation of joint performance between NSA Orlando, Cape Canaveral Space Force Station and Patrick Space Force base including special areas at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center, Titusville and Port Canaveral with direct and indirect implications for the IRL system (Mosquito Lagoon, Banana River Lagoon and Northern IRL).

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved the IRL Council and IRLNEP will work collaboratively to support the leadership efforts of the ECFRPC to leverage funding and resources, through the federal Military Installation Resilience Review Program, and other ECFRPC initiatives in the future such as an updated economic valuation of the IRL, that advance the resilience of the natural and built environment, our regional economy and the sustained health of the IRL and its communities.

DULY ADOPTED by the IRL Council this _____day of __2023 at the City of Sebastian Chambers.

By: _________________________________
   Chris Dzadovsky
   Chair, IRL Council

ATTEST: Approved as to legal form and sufficiency:

____________________________
Joe Earman
Secretary, IRL Council

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Glen J. Torcivia, Esq.
Torcivia, Donlon, Goddeau & Rubin, P.A.
IRL Council, Legal Counsel