IRL COUNCIL
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes from the meeting of

February 8, 2024

1:30 p.m.

Historic Sebastian Elementary School
1235 Main Street Sebastian, FL 32958

Attendance: Christine Bamberger, Greg Braun, Grahm Cox, Thom Jones, Cheryl McPhillips, Doug Patterson, Suzanne Scheiber, Tess Sailor-Tynes, Barbara Schlitt Ford, Keith Winsten, Jerome Gaylord
Guests: Melissa Meisenburg, Charlie Venuto

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

   Mr. Catino called the meeting to order at 1:34 P.M. and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Introductions** (Frank Catino, Chair)

   Mr. Catino led the group introductions.

3. **Elections of Officers** (Kathy Hill)

   Ms. Hill reviewed the election process. Frank Catino and Tess Sailor-Tynes have agreed to remain as Chair and Vice Chair; nominations were opened with no opposition.

4. **Agenda Revisions** (Frank Catino, Chair)

   No agenda revisions were brought forward.

5. **Minutes Approval** (Frank Catino, Chair)

   Requested Action: Approval of Minutes from the CAC meeting on November 16, 2023.

   A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG PATTERSON TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 16, 2023. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY TESS SAILOR-TYNES. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. **Public comment**

   Tess Sailor-Tynes announced the SHore Symposium will take place in April.

7. **Old Business**

   Approve revised MOA with Brevard Zoo "Dollar for Conservation" (Duane De Freese)

   Dr. De Freese explained the minor revision clarifies the language pertaining to the timeline of the IRLNEP receiving the revenue.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors approve the revised MOA with Brevard Zoo.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TESS SAILOR-TYNES TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE REVISED MOA WITH BREVARD ZOO. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DOUG PATTERSON. MOTION PASSED. KEITH WINSTEN RECUSED.

8. New Business

a. Fiscal Year 2025 Water Quality RFP (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny announced the top two proposals statistically tied. Both projects will be funded. The surplus funding for the Water Quality category will be offered to the third-ranked project; this will not match the requested amount for that project.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Citizens Advisory Committee recommendations and approve the final ranked list of FY 2025 Water Quality 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 KEITH WINSTEN TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF FY 2025 WATER QUALITY 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 SECONDED BY CHERYL MCPHILLIPS. MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Fiscal Year 2025 Habitat Restoration RFP (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny announced the top two proposals statistically tied. Both projects were recommended for funding.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Citizens Advisory Committee recommendations and approve the final ranked list of FY 2025 Habitat Restoration 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.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRISTINE BAMBERGER TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF FY 2025 HABITAT RESTORATION PROPOSALS; ADDING ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO COMPLETELY FUND THE TOP STATISTICALLY TIED PROPOSALS CONTINGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH AVAILABLE FUNDS AND BUDGETARY AUTHORITY; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THOSE APPLICANTS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY GREG BRAUN. MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Fiscal Year 2025 Community-Based Restoration RFP (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny announced that funding will cover the top two proposals, with the third-ranked proposal having partial funding. Staff recommends applying $11,974 of the Fund Balance to fund the third project fully. The second, third, and fourth projects scoring in the Community-Based Habitat Restoration category scored within one point of each other.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Citizens Advisory Committee recommendations and approve the final ranked list of FY 2025 Community-Based Restoration 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.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRISTINA BAMBERGER TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF FY 2025 COMMUNITY-BASED PROPOSALS; ADDING ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO COMPLETELY FUND THE THIRD-RANKED PROPOSAL CONTINGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH AVAILABLE FUNDS AND BUDGETARY AUTHORITY; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THOSE APPLICANTS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY GRAHM COX. MOTION PASSED. KEITH WINSTEN RECUSED.

d. Fiscal Year 2025 Science and Innovation RFP (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny announced the top three ranked proposals could be fully funded, with the fourth proposal receiving partial funding. The staff recommends applying $2,212 of the Fund Balance to fund project 4 fully.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Citizens Advisory Committee recommendations and approve the final ranked list of FY 2025 Science and Innovation 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.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRISTINE BAMBERGER TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF FY 2025 SCIENCE AND INNOVATION PROPOSALS; ADDING ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO COMPLETELY FUND THE FIRST THROUGH FOURTH-RANKED PROPOSALS CONTINGENT AND CONSISTENT WITH AVAILABLE FUNDS AND BUDGETARY AUTHORITY; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THOSE APPLICANTS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DOUG PATTERSON. MOTION PASSED. KEITH WINSTEN RECUSED.

e. Fiscal Year 2025 Tentative Budget (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny explained the entries on the tentative budget. A correction was made to the text for 1c. Science and Innovation is an error; the correction is Community-Based.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors review and adopt the tentative budget for FY 2025 by Resolution 2024-01, pursuant to Florida Statutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRISTINE BAMBERGER TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEW AND ADOPT THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FY 2025 BY RESOLUTION 2024-01, WITH THE CORRECTION IN 1C. PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JEROME GAYMAN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

f. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Amendment (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny explained the changes in the FY 2024 budget, reduced facility expenses, and increased salary and benefits.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors review and amend the final budget for FY 2024 by Resolution 2024-02, pursuant to Florida Statutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG PATTERSON TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEW AND AMEND THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FY 2024 BY RESOLUTION 2024-02, PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JEROME GAYMAN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

g. Fiscal Year 2025 EPA Workplan (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reviewed the EPA Section 320 Workplan Projects and Activities List.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors authorize staff to finalize and submit the FY 2025 EPA Workplan by June 1, 2024.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JEROME GAYMAN TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZE STAFF TO FINALIZE AND SUBMIT THE FY 2025 EPA WORKPLAN BY JUNE 1, 2024. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHRISTINE BAMBERGER. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

h. New Request for Qualification (RFQ) solicitations for Accounting Services and Printing Services (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese discussed the difficulty of soliciting printing service bids and ensuring high-quality services. The accounting contract with Special District Services is nearing its end, but the SDS staff understands the intricate IRLNEP's restricted funds well. SDS played a crucial role in securing a higher interest rate, and the IRLNEP staff strongly believes renewing the contract would benefit.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors authorize staff to develop and release RFQs for identified services.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GREG BRAUN TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZE STAFF TO DEVELOP AND RELEASE RFQS FOR IDENTIFIED SERVICES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DOUG PATTERSON. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. IRLNEP Staff Reports

a. Community Engagement Update (Kathy Hill)

Ms. Hill reported the social media metrics and comparison between the engagement rates of the two quarters. During the holidays, the engagement rate decreased, and it was observed that reels perform better than static photos. The majority of the audience continues to trend to be women. The CEC metrics included attendance at eight local government meetings and twenty-six events. The team conducted eleven presentations, participated in twenty community meetings, and braved the cooler temperatures while participating in nine fieldwork and project opportunities. Forty-one outreach occasions were facilitated.

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

Ms. Ayres-Guerra reported the Master Project Map had been posted on the One Lagoon website; it includes all projects from Fiscal Year 2016 through Fiscal Year 2023. The map is interactive and contains project information, photos, and a final report from each project. Comments have been collected, and an improved iteration of MPM 2.0 is planned for 2024. A demonstration of the Master Project Map was included. Ms. Ayres-Guerra announced projects for 2024 include a digital web application of the Boaters Guide created by FWC and MRC, not to be used as a navigation tool, updating the website, developing a Lagoon History Story Map and publishing lagoon-wide datasets and requested available geospatial data to be submitted.

c. IRL Project Update (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny announced the first quarter was busy, with five completed projects and forty-five in progress. Mr. Kolodny was happy to report one of the oldest projects, the North Sebastian Phase 2 Septic to Sewer, has been completed. Mr. Kolodny gave an overview of three other completed projects; one completed small grant project was reviewed.

d. Executive Director Report (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese reported that the IRLNEP has partnered with the Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership (SCDRP) to develop a NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge grant proposal, to be submitted on Tuesday. One focus is on the priority community of Morris Creek in Ft. Pierce. Dr. De Freese discussed attending a field tour and meeting and thanked the Kennedy Space Center and NASA folks for the boat ride and tour of MINWR. Dr. De Freese attended the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) board meeting and participated in the SCDRP meeting, where he will hold the chair position. The legislative action exemption language for meeting attendance electronically is still alive. Dr. De Freese thanked the Florida legislature members and staff for their work and efforts on this item. Dr. De Freese joined the ANEP Congressional briefings in Washington, DC, which included nine visits to minority and majority appropriations committee members and stops at delegations' offices. In 2026, the NEPs are up for reauthorization; discussions were started with relevant offices and staff to support the NEPs, and bipartisan support in both the House and Senate was evident. Dr. De Freese alerted those in attendance that the Appropriation letters of request for 2025 may be due before the 2024 budget issue is resolved, be prepared for short notice.
Dr. De Freese announced that he is no longer in remission and will update us on the next steps.

10. Final Comments (Committee, Staff, Public)

Graham Cox shared information on three projects in Indian River County: The Stormwater Master Plan for the City of Vero Beach, Urban Services Boundary, and Quality of Life Indicators.

Susan Scheiber announced she would like to host a CEC to speak in Northern Volusia County. The topic suggested was "What does the IRLNEP do and Q & A."

Greg Braun announced *Martin County Forever* is proposing that a referendum for a half-cent sales tax be placed on the November ballot for citizens to decide whether land acquisition for environmentally sensitive land should happen.

Frank Catino reported that the City of Satellite Beach grant writer has acquired multiple stormwater improvement grants. This allows the plan to be moved forward by ten years.

Keith Winston gave an update on the progress of the aquarium project; fundraising, design, and planning are ongoing. It is scheduled to break ground in the fall. Zoo personnel have been conducting manatee assessments and found all healthy; four are pregnant. Seagrass assessments are seeing growth.

Kathy Hill announced the Small Grant proposals are open, and a webinar on small grants is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 2:00. Committee members were invited to take home IRL polo shirts as a thank-you gift.

11. Next Meeting

Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.
Historic Sebastian Elementary School, 1235 Main Street, Sebastian, FL 32958

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

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

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