IRL COUNCIL
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes from the meeting of

May 2, 2024

1:30 PM

Historic Sebastian Elementary School, 1235 Main Street Sebastian, FL 32958

Attendance: Christine Bamberger, Greg Braun, Frank Brownell, Cheryl McPhillips, Linda Roberts, Suzanne Scheiber, Tess Sailor-Tynes, Barbara Schlitt Ford, Ashley Weber, Keith Winsten,
Guests: Steven Schlitt

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** (Tess Sailor-Tynes, Vice Chair)

   Ms. Sailor-Tynes called the meeting to order at 1:31 P.M. and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Introduction** (Tess Sailor-Tynes, Vice Chair)

   Ms. Sailor-Tynes led the group's introductions.

3. **Agenda Revisions** (Tess Sailor-Tynes, Vice Chair)

   No agenda revisions were brought forward.

4. **Approval of Minutes** (Tess Sailor-Tynes, Vice Chair)

   Minutes from the Citizens Advisory Committee on February 8, 2024.

   Requested Action: Approve Minutes from the CAC Meeting on February 8, 2024.

   MOTION WAS MADE BY GREG BRAUN TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 8, 2024. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHERYL MCPHILLIPS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **Public Comments** (Tess Sailor-Tynes, Vice Chair)

   No public comments were made.

6. **Old Business**

   Moving the CAC meeting time to 1:00 p.m. (Erin Bergman)

   Ms. Bergman suggested moving the meeting's start time from 1:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. because the meeting location had changed.

   Requested Action: Motion to move the start time of the meeting from 1:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

   MOTION WAS MADE BY LINDA ROBERTS TO MOVE THE START TIME OF THE MEETING FROM 1:30 P.M. TO 1:00 P.M. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHRISTINE BAMBERGER. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. New Business

a. 2024 Small Grant (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny presented the twenty-four Small Grant proposal scores and rankings. Seven of the proposals were ranked within the funding allocation. An additional four projects ranked above the funding threshold of 70% but fell outside the budget allocation. Discussed using reserve funds to fully fund the additional four projects without jeopardizing the fund balance.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the 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 MADE BY LINDA ROBERTS TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS, APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF PROPOSALS, ADDING ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO COMPLETELY FUND THE FIRST THROUGH ELEVENTH 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 CHERYL MCPHILLIPS. MOTION PASSED. TESS SAILOR-TYNES AND KEITH WINSTEN ABSTAINED.

b. Fiscal Year 2025 Final Budget (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny outlined the changes from the tentative budget to the final budget. Changes included expanding the strategic program based on the decisions made at the February meeting by approving additional projects in the RFPs.

Requested Action: Review and adopt the Final Budget for FY 2025 by Resolution 2024-03, pursuant to Florida Statutes.

MOTION WAS MADE BY KEITH WINSTEN TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEW AND ADOPT THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FY 2025 BY RESOLUTION 2024-03, PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY FRANK BROWNELL. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Science 2030 (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny explained that the Science 2030 document will be a living document with two parts: the first part targets scientific investigations to support the IRL protection plan, and the second part is a compendium of scientific questions raised by the STEM committee. The goal is to document the issues raised by the scientists.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendation to accept the Science 2030 document.

MOTION WAS MADE BY FRANK BROWNELL TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT THE SCIENCE 2030 DOCUMENT. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHERYL MCPHILLIPS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

d. Fiscal Year 2025 EPA BIL Workplan (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny explained that the EPA is reviewing the 2024 EPA BIL Workplan. A concern was noted in the contractual portions of the procurement guidelines for a for-profit company. To maintain compliance, the 2025 EPA BIL Workplan submitted in the STEM packet was edited.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendation to authorize staff to develop and submit the FY 2025 EPA BIL Workplan and authorize staff to submit the plan to EPA.

MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRISTINE BAMBERGER TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO DEVELOP AND SUBMIT THE FY 2025 EPA BIL WORKPLAN AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SUBMIT THE PLAN TO EPA. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY GREG BRAUN. MOTION PASSED.

8. IRLNEP Staff Reports

a. Community Engagement Update (Kathy Hill)

Ms. Heather Stapleton, reporting for Kathy Hill, noted that the social media metrics for this quarter show a distinction between organic interactions and those generated by ads. The ads focused on the IRL license plate and were created by IDEAS. It was observed that the ads performed better on Facebook than on Instagram. Facebook continues to experience more interactions and has an older demographic than Instagram. The interactions of the Community Engagement Coordinators in various activities increased this quarter compared to the previous one.

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

Ms. Heather Stapleton, reporting for KJ Ayers-Guerra, announced that Ms. Ayers-Guerra participated in the ESRI Southeast User Conference and presented the IRL Council Master Project Map 1.0. Feedback was obtained. Interviews have been ongoing for the IRL Fishing Tales Project, and suggestions for future interviews were requested. The Boater's Guide is proceeding as an app and a paper version.

c. IRL Project Update (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Daniel Kolodny announced that 41 CCMP projects/activities are in progress. Four projects were completed in the second quarter, and a brief overview was given: *Indian River Drive and Dixon Blvd.*, the City of Cocoa, *Tucker Cove Seagrass Restoration*, Sea and Shoreline*, Using Genetic Tools to Boost Seagrass Restoration Success in the IRL,* Mote Marine Lab and *One Health Fish Monitoring -PFAS,* ORCA.

d. Executive Director Report (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Daniel Kolodny, reporting for Duane De Freese, thanked Florida state Senators Wright and Mayfield, Representative Altman and their staff for assisting in the passage of CS/CS/SB 224. The IRLNEP staff will arrange the communications media technology needed for public meetings. Mr. Kolodny announced that the Association of National Estuary Programs is working on legislative and appropriation issues. Reviewed the list of presentations and activities of this past quarter.

9. Final Comments (Committee, Staff, Public)

Daniel Kolodny announced he recently attended the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting, presented on the IRL and the issues affecting its habitat health, and presented at a SORIL event.

Heather Stapleton announced that the Emerson Center is hosting an art display created from litter by children from the St. Lucie Boys and Girls Club. The evening reception is May 9, 2024, and the sculptures will be displayed throughout the month.

10. Next Meeting

Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.
Historic Sebastian Elementary School, 1235 Main Street, Sebastian, FL 32958

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 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.