IRL COUNCIL
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes from the meeting of

August 22, 2024

1:00 PM

Historic Sebastian Elementary School, 1235 Main Street Sebastian, FL 32958
Remote Access: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87328503787?pwd=Flv38LNsbOe2jpzs493cXNsEJsKXCu.1

In-Person Attendance: Christine Bamberger, Julie Braga, Frank Catino, Doug Patterson, Tess Sailor-Tynes

Online Attendance: Greg Braun, Frank Brownell, Graham Cox, Cheryl McPhillips, Nickie Munroe, Linda Roberts, Suzanne Scheiber, Barb Ford, Keith Winsten

In-Person Guests: Thomas Heller, Donna Halleran, Steve Schlitt

Online Guests: None

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

   Frank Catino called the meeting to order at 1:08 P.M. and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

   Frank Catino led the group's introductions.

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

   Mr. Greg Braun requested to revise the agenda by discussing the Modifications to Jonathan Dickinson State Park as new business 8f.

   MOTION WAS MADE BY JULIE BRAGGA TO REVISE THE AGENDA BY DISCUSSING THE MODIFICATIONS TO JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK AS NEW BUSINESS 8F. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHRISTINE BAMBERGER. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **Approval of Minutes** (Frank Catino, Chair)

   Minutes from the Citizens Advisory Committee on May 2, 2024.

   Requested Action: Approve Minutes from the CAC Meeting on May 2, 2024.

   MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRISTINE BAMBERGER TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 2, 2024. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY TESS SAILOR-TYNES. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **Public Comments** (Frank Catino, Chair)

   No public comments were made.

6. Presentation

Kayaks and Cameras for Audubon Advocate and RiverKidz Students

Ms. Donna Halleran, Executive Director of the Pelican Island Audubon Society, presented an overview of an IRL Council Small Grant-funded project. The Society has a history of hosting youth-oriented programs. This particular project focused on encouraging youth and families to spend time outdoors. The students gained knowledge by learning how to use digital cameras and sharing in lagoon-related activities. Students and parents filled out surveys to report their outdoor activities. These surveys facilitated discussions to identify barriers that limit outdoor time.

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

a. NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration Grant Award (Daniel Kolodny)

Dr. Duane De Freese announced that the formal award letter is in hand. The ten project partners will comprise a community of restoration practice across fifteen sites. The monitoring and data-sharing plans are being developed. Mr. Dan Kolodny reported that meetings with NOAA are underway; the Orientation meeting will take place next week. The grant includes funding IDEAS to produce videos of each restoration site. The Balmoral Group will complete an economic study with separate reports for each county.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendation to authorize staff to enter into a contract agreement with NOAA and administer all aspects of the 3-year NOAA project (FY 2024-2027), including issuing 10 sub-award contracts.

MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG PATTERSON TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH NOAA AND ADMINISTER ALL ASPECTS OF THE 3-YEAR NOAA PROJECT (FY 2024-2027), INCLUDING ISSUING 10 SUB-AWARD CONTRACTS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHRISTINE BAMBERGER. MOTION PASSED. KEITH WINSTEN ABSTAINED.

b. Fiscal Year 2024 Final Budget Amendment (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reviewed the changes in the FY 2024 Amended Budget. Total expenditures increased due to reconciling the fund balance from the FY23 Audited financial statements. This reconciliation brings prior FY projects and activities in progress into the current year budget.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendation to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Final Budget Amendment by Resolution 2024-04, pursuant to Florida Statutes.

MOTION WAS MADE BY GREG BRAUN TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 FINAL BUDGET AMENDMENT BY RESOLUTION 2024-04, PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY GRAHAM COX. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Fiscal Year 2025 Final Budget Amendment (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reviewed the changes in the FY 2025 Final Amended Budget, which reflect the increase in expenditures from the NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration Grant.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendation to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Final Budget Amendment by Resolution 2024-05, pursuant to Florida Statutes.

MOTION WAS MADE BY NICKIE MUNROE TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 FINAL BUDGET AMENDMENT BY RESOLUTION 2024-05, PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JULIE BRAGA. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

d. Fiscal Year 2026 Request for Proposals (RFPs) (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny outlined the changes in Water Quality, Habitat Restoration, Community-Based Restoration, Science and Innovation categories and Small Grants. Mr. Kolodny thanked the Priority Community Taskforce for the work done on developing the Priority Communities RFP and summarized the RFP structure, which included a 2-step process of submitting a letter of intent before being invited for a full proposal.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendation to authorize staff to develop and release RFPs for FY 2026, review and rank proposals and return to the Management Conference for funding approval.

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 RELEASE RFPS FOR FY 2026, REVIEW AND RANK PROPOSALS AND RETURN TO THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE FOR FUNDING APPROVAL. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY NICKI MUNROE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

e. Fiscal Year 2025 Legislative Priorities (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese outlined the legislative goals at the federal and state levels. Dr. De Freese requested that local governments and other organizations having legislative budget requests concerning funding for IRL-related projects should touch base with him to ensure he can provide proper information and support.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendation to review and adopt IRL Council Legislative Priorities for 2025 and to authorize the Executive Director to represent the IRL Council in legislative policy discussions and appropriations.

MOTION WAS MADE BY NICKI MUNROE TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION TO REVIEW AND ADOPT IRL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2025 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO REPRESENT THE IRL COUNCIL IN LEGISLATIVE POLICY DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATIONS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DOUG PATTERSON. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

f. Jonathan Dickinson State Park

The "Great Outdoors Initiative" proposed by FDEP includes building golf facilities, relocating the park entrance, relocating management office complex, relocating staff residences, and relocating other ancillary facilities within the park. Pubic opposition to the plan is growing, and many opportunities to voice concerns over destroying an ecosystem adjacent to the IRL are available.

Requested Action: No action necessary, for discussion only.

9. IRLNEP Staff Reports

a. Community Engagement Update (Kathy Hill)

Ms. Kathy Hill reviewed the metrics for Facebook and Instagram social platforms, noting the top-performing posts. A partnership with Saville Visuals, a local Florida photographer, created an educational reel on seagrass and one on monitoring efforts. Both videos were shared across accounts and garnered positive attention. The Community Engagement Coordinators continue interacting with stakeholders across the watershed in numerous ways, even through the summer heat.

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

Ms. KJ Ayres-Guerra reported on the recent projects. These included a NOAA Monitoring Plan and Data Sharing Plan, updating the functionality of the Master Project Map 2.0, mapping Linear Park in St. Lucie County, and creating a Disadvantage Community Map for the Statewide Shoreline Restoration Plan Steering Committee. Ms. Ayres-Guerra announced the completion of the ADA Accessible Documents course.

c. IRL Project Update (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Daniel Kolodny announced that 47 projects were in progress for the third quarter, seven of which were completed. This included the City of Stuart: *Illinois Avenue Living Shoreline Project,* Bethune Cookman University: *IRL Seagrass Restoration using a Mosquito Control Impoundment,* the City of Sebastian Small Grant: *Tulip Pond Habitat Restoration,* the Brevard Zoo Small Grant *Lagoon Quest,* the Indian River County Small Grant: *Jone's Pier 2023 Student Field Guide Development,* the Marine Discovery Center Small Grant: *Project Plankton,* and the University of Central Florida Small Grant: *Virtual Reality Program for engaging Coastal Restoration Volunteers.*

d. Executive Director Report (Duane De Freese)

Dr. Duane De Freese discussed the 2025 expectations for the IRLNEP, which will be the 10th Anniversary of the reorganized IRL Council. The packet included a summary of Executive Director activities. Dr. De Freese outlined the shift in the workload of the IRLNEP staff with respect to the NOAA grant. The staff will participate in National Estuaries Week this month, the RAE Coastal & Estuarine Summit in October and the Annual NEP Tech Transfer in November.

10. Final Comments (Committee, Staff, Public)

Barb Ford announced that the ELC is hosting an event tonight to celebrate its 36th anniversary. In October, a fishing tournament, CPR for the IRL and the Lionfish Derby will take place. See DiscoverELC.org for more information.

Greg Braun provided links for information on the modifications of Jonathan Dickinson State Park being proposed.

11. Next Meeting

Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.
Historic Sebastian Elementary School, 1235 Main Street, Sebastian, FL 32958

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 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.