IRL COUNCIL
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes from the meeting of

November 14, 2024

1:00 PM

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

In-person Attendance: Christine Bamberger, Julie Braga, Greg Braun, Frank Catino, Jerome Gay, Cheryl McPhillips, Doug Patterson, Tess Sailor-Tynes

Online Attendance: Frank Brownell, Nickie Munroe, Linda Roberts, Suzanne Scheiber, Barbara Ford

In-person Guests: Carley Metcalf

Online Guests: None

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

   Captain Frank Catino called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

   Captain Catino led the group in introductions. Dr. De Freese introduced the NOAA Transformational Grant project manager, Kevin Walker.

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

   No agenda revisions were brought forward.

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

   Minutes from the Citizens Advisory Committee on August 22, 2024.

   Requested Action: Approve Minutes from the CAC Meeting on August 22, 2024.

   MOTION WAS MADE BY GREG BRAUN TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 22, 2024. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHRISTINE BAMBERGER. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

   No public comments were made.

6. Presentations

a. Marine Discovery's *Project Plankton,* a Small Grant Project

Ms. Carley Metcalf, Education Coordinator at Marine Discovery Center, presented a small grant-funded project called *Project Plankton.* The community science effort identifies plankton from samples from the IRL. Environmental factors influence plankton and can predict ecosystem changes. One goal of the project is to develop a public-accessible database. The program has introduced numerous students in Volusia and surrounding counties to why plankton is important to the food web and the health of the IRL.

b. *NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration Grant Award Update*

Dr. Duane De Freese, Executive Director of the IRLNEP, gave the *NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration Grant Award Update.* The timeline and cost value were reported. The responsibilities of the IRLNEP staff were outlined, and Kevin Walker, the Project Manager, was introduced. The details of the progress to date were covered, and the story map of restoration sites and the Socio-Economic Assessment of Data draft has been completed. A list of Project Deliverables was submitted.

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

a. Fiscal Year 2025 Final Budget Amendment (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese noted changes to the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Final Budget Amendment by Resolution 2024-07, pursuant to Florida Statutes.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JULIE BRAGA TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 FINAL BUDGET AMENDMENT BY RESOLUTION 2024-07, PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY GREG BRAUN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. 2025 IRL Council Meeting Calendar (Erin Bergman)

Ms. Bergman presented the tentative dates. Dates are chosen due to the availability of the Council Chamber space. It was noted that the November 11th meetings fell on Veteran's Day. Ms. Bergman subsequently contacted the City of Sebastian to determine new dates for November meetings and presented this information at the Board of Directors meeting.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend the IRL Council Board of Directors approve the 2025 IRL Council Meeting Calendar.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JEROME GAYMAN TO RECOMMEND THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE 2025 IRL COUNCIL MEETING CALENDAR. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY TESS SAILOR-TYNES. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Request or Qualification (RFQ) solicitations for Grant Writing services to replace vacancies and expand list of contractors (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese explained the need to expand the number of grant-writing service providers.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors authorize staff to develop and release RFQs for Grant Writing services to replace vacancies and expand list of contractors.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JULIE BRAGA TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZE STAFF TO DEVELOP AND RELEASE RFQS FOR GRANT WRITING SERVICES TO REPLACE VACANCIES AND EXPAND LIST OF CONTRACTORS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHERYL MCPHILLIPS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. IRLNEP Staff Reports

a. Community Engagement Update (Kathy Hill)

Ms. Hill reviewed the metrics for Facebook and Instagram social platforms. The top post had 4.3M views. Six new podcasts are available. The Community Engagement Coordinator's activities were highlighted, and 684 interactions took place in Fiscal Year 2024.

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

Ms. Ayres-Guerra announced two webinars were delivered this quarter, completed courses including the ADA Compliance and the Master Gardener. Ms. Ayres-Guerra sat on the IRC interview panel for the new Lands Asset and Data Manager and worked on the NOAA required monitoring plan.

c. IRL Project Update (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese presented on behalf of Mr. Kolodny that twenty-six projects were completed in Quarter four, with fifteen projects still in progress. Fiscal Year 2025 will see twenty-six new projects beginning.

d. Executive Director Report (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese gave an update on the Executive Director's activities and the impact of the articles in the Frontiers in Marine Science publication. Also highlighted was the work completed by the summer intern, Victoria Carpenter. A request was made for members to complete the survey of the vital signs. The IRL Council will celebrate a decade of progress as a host agency for the IRLNEP and 35 years as a National Estuary Program in 2025.

10. Final Comments (Committee, Staff, Public)

Frank Catino reported that individuals used social media to spread disinformation about reef deployment. Promoting factual information about projects to the public to increase education and awareness will be helpful.

Greg Braun reported that the ½ cent sales tax for Martin County passed, which will be used to purchase land for conservation. Mr. Braun also congratulated Caleta Scott as a guest on a podcast.

11. Next Meeting

Tentative, Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.
Historic Sebastian Elementary School, 1235 Main Street, Sebastian, FL 32958

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 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 at 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.