IRL COUNCIL
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes from the meeting of

August 21, 2025

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

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

Remote Access: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87054557595

Member In-person Attendance: Julie Braga, Frank Catino, Doug Patterson, Steven Schlitt

Member Online Attendance: Greg Braun, Thomas Heller, Linda Roberts, Suzanne Scheiber, Tess Sailor-Tynes, Keith Winsten

Guest In-person Attendance: Olivia Redding, Caitlin Butler, Jennife DiMaio

Guest Online Attendance: Jenny Tomes, Cass Pounds, Julie Strickland

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

   Frank Catino called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

   Captain Catino led the group in introductions.

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

   An agenda revision was made to move the presentation to the conclusion of the meeting.

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

   Requested Action: Approval of Minutes from CAC meeting on May 1, 2025.

   MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG PATTERSON TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 1, 2025. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JULIE BRAGA. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **Public Comment**

   No public comment was made.

6. **Presentation**

   Ballard Park, Native Plants Buffer Garden
   Bill DeLuccia, Ocean Friendly Garden Chair, Surfrider Foundation Space Coast Chapter

   The presenter was unable to attend the meeting by its conclusion.

7. Old Business

Small Grant Criteria (Kathy Hill)

Ms. Kathy Hill led the discussion by asking the committee whether any aspects of the Small Grants application need to be amended. She presented a staff recommendation to implement a 75% scoring threshold for proposals to qualify for funding, which would align the Small Grants RFP with all other IRLNEP funding categories. Members requested early access to the review and scoring process dates.

Requested Action: No action needed. Discussion on grant criteria.

8. New Business

a. Request for Qualifications (RFQ) NOAA Professional Engineering Services (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny explained that NOAA personnel emphasized the need for construction drawings for each of the 15 habitat sites and allocated the necessary funding. It was determined that a Request for Qualifications was required under the Competitive Consultants Negotiation Act. The scope of services was posted, resulting in four responses. Tetra Tech and Dredging and Marine Consultants ranked above the funding threshold. Additionally, it was noted that Management Conference members can piggyback if the scope of services matches their needs.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept Management Conference recommendation to identify the most qualified Engineering Services contractor(s); authorize staff to enter into negotiations and contract with firm(s) selected.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JULIE BRAGA TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION TO IDENTIFY THE MOST QUALIFIED ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACTOR(S); AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS AND CONTRACT WITH FIRM(S) SELECTED. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DOUG PATTERSON. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Mr. Kolodny reported that the change involves the funds in reserve for Fiscal Year 2026.

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 2025-03, pursuant to Florida Statutes.

MOTION WAS MADE BY STEVEN SCHLITT 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 2025-03. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUZANNE SCHEIBER. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Fiscal Year 2026 Final Budget Amendment (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny discussed the budget changes, noting that any unencumbered funds were carried forward to the fund balance and that a 1% correction was applied to one staff member's compensation. The updates also include a lease for a vessel storage facility and an increase in insurance costs.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendation to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Final Budget Amendment by Resolution 2025-04, pursuant to Florida Statutes.

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MOTION WAS MADE BY JULIE BRAGA TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 FINAL BUDGET AMENDMENT BY RESOLUTION 2025-04. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY STEVEN SCHLITT. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

d. Fiscal Year 2027 Request for Proposals (RFPs) (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny presented the RFP categories and the funding reductions for each. Discussion ensued.

Required 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 2027, arrange Management Conference review and ranking of proposals, with return to the Management Conference and Board of Directors for funding approval.

MOTION WAS MADE BY STEVEN SCHLITT 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 2027, ARRANGE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE REVIEW AND RANKING OF PROPOSALS, WITH RETURN TO THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FUNDING APPROVAL. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DOUG PATTERSON. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

e. Habitat Restoration Plan (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese clarified that the Habitat Restoration plan is an EPA concurrence document. The 36-page draft will stay on the website because scientific information is constantly evolving.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors approve the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendation to approve the Habitat Restoration Plan and authorize staff to submit the plan to EPA.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JULIE BRAGA TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE HABITAT RESTORATION PLAN AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SUBMIT THE PLAN TO EPA. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY THOMAS HELLER. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

f. Fiscal Year 2026 Legislative Priorities (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese highlighted legislative priorities at both the federal and state levels and asked the Board for guidance on their collective priorities. He also requested members to notify him if a legislative project is in progress in case a response request is received.

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 2026 and authorize the Executive Director to represent the IRL Council in legislative policy discussions and appropriations.

MOTION WAS MADE BY STEVE SCHLITT TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION TO REVIEW AND ADOPT IRL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2026 AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO REPRESENT THE IRL COUNCIL IN LEGISLATIVE POLICY DISCUSSIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY GREG BRAUN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. **IRLNEP Staff Reports**

a. Community Engagement Update (Kathy Hill)

Ms. Hill highlighted the top social media posts and their reach. The accomplishments of the three Community Engagement Coordinators were reviewed, and the third-quarter engagement statistics were shared. The new One Lagoon website was also presented.

b. Information Technology and Data Science Update (Kathy Hill)

Ms. Hill reported on behalf of K.J. Ayres-Guerra. Congratulations on the birth of Dylan Guerra; both mother and son are doing well. A review of completed tasks was conducted, and K.J. was also recognized as Volunteer of the Year by the Master Gardener AgriLife Extension.

c. IRL Project Update (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reported that 47 CCMP projects and activities are currently underway. Eight projects were completed in the third quarter: Brevard Zoo: *Lagoon Quest,* Marine Discovery Center: *Project Plankton,* SWIRL - *Analysis of Contaminating Organic Compounds in IRL Stormwater,* UCF: *Atmospheric Deposition in the IRL*, IRLNEP: *Restoration Support Vessel*, FAU: *Building Seagrass Capacity through Infrastructure Investments Year 1*, FAU: *Building Seagrass Capacity through Infrastructure Investments Year 2,* and City of Port St. Lucie*: Septic to Sewer Conversions to Reduce Nitrogen Pollution in Known Hotspots in the City of PSL*.
It was also announced that he would participate in the Sea Trout Symposium in Daytona.

d. Executive Director Report (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese announced that the OIG audit is complete and awaiting public release. Non-IRLNEP Funding opportunities links can be found in the Board of Directors' packet on the OneLagoon.org website. Thanks were given to Dan Kolodny for the amount of work he completed for the OIG audit.

10. **Final Comments (Committee, Staff, Public)**

No comments were made.

11. **Next Meeting**

Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting: November 6, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.
Historic Sebastian Elementary School, 1235 Main Street, Sebastian, FL 32958

12. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 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.

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