IRL COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes from the meeting of

February 11, 2025

10:15 AM

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

Remote Access: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89060418395

Member In-person Attendance: Brian Benton, Terri Breeden, Tom Campenni, Tony Catanese, Donald Dankert, Melisa Diolosa, Amy Eason, Joseph Falzone, Stu Glass, Chuck Jacoby, George Jones, Bill Kerr, John Leslie, Sherry McCorkle, Melissa Meisenburg, Matthew Mitts, Jim Moir, Judy Orcutt, Brion Pauley, Beth Powell, Charles Vogt, III

Member Online Attendance: Jake Fojtik, Mike McCabe, Robert Musser, Kevin Shropshire, Jennifer Spain, James Sullivan, Laurilee Thompson, Laura Wilson, Janet Zimmerman

Guests In-person Attendance: Matt Rea, James Byrne, Valerie Strassburg, Jennifer Carpenter, Adam Dyer, Lauren Hall, Peter Eggert, Virginia Barker, Mike McMunigal, Thomas Heller,

Guests Online Attendance: Ethan Brooks, Taylor Lang, Carolyn Vanzo, Jennifer Thea, Tiffany Simpson, Chandler Kennan

1. **Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance** (Beth Powell, Chair)

   Ms. Powell called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Introductions** (Beth Powell, Chair)

   Ms. Powell led the group in introductions.

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

   Ms. Hill presented the slate of candidates, Beth Powell, Chair, and Terri Breeden, Vice Chair. The floor was open for other nominees.

   Requested Action: Motion to elect nominated Chair and Vice Chair for Calendar Year 2025.

   MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM CAMPENNI TO ACCEPT THE SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY STU GLASS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **Agenda Revisions** (Beth Powell, Chair)

   No agenda revisions were brought forward.

5. **Minutes Approval** (Beth Powell, Chair)

Requested Action: Approval of Minutes from the Management Board meeting on November 12, 2024.

MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM CAMPENNI TO APPROVE THE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 12, 2024. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY STU GLASS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. **Finance Sub-Committee Report** (Stu Glass, Chair)

Mr. Stu Glass reviewed the actions of the Finance Sub-Committee and reviewed and adopted the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

Requested Action: Accept Committee Report

MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM CAMPENNI TO ACCEPT THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION SECONDED BY BILL KERR. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. **Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

8. **Water Quality Reports**

a. Northern and Central IRL (Lauren Hall, SJRWMD)

Ms. Lauren Hall presented the rainfall data from November through January, noting relatively dry conditions throughout the lagoon. The location of the monitoring sondes was reviewed, and the data was reported to be collected hourly and available on the St. Johns River Water Management District website. The water depth declined as expected for the season; the lower rainfall increased the salinity. The decline in temperature is typical for this season and remains as mild. The dissolved oxygen level has remained above 2 mg/L, and low chlorophyll-a concentrations were reported. A few short-lived spikes occurred with no widespread, long-lasting blooms. Short turbidity spikes were associated with wind events in shallower areas of the lagoon at the end of January and declined quickly. Dissolved Organic Matter (FDOM) changes were recorded at the Vero site, an area of freshwater intake. A decline in Secchi depth was recorded in Melbourne and the northern region of the lagoon. This data was collected during the first week of every month and represents a snapshot of water clarity. The February data shows a return to normal.

Although no new seagrass data was available, a video recorded in the Titusville area shows increased grass since the summer data collection.

b. Southern IRL (Sherry McCorkle, SFWMD)

Sherry McCorkle reported the data was through February 2, while the weekly averages covered January 27 through February 2, 2025. Lake Okeechobee Recovery Operations began on December 7, with releases of up to 1,400 cfs to the St. Lucie Estuary (SLE). In this reporting period, the total inflow in the SLE averaged 1,389 cfs, most of which came from the lake. Salinity at HR1 in the North Fork increased to six on the surface, stressful range for oysters, and 10 on the bottom, optimal. At the US1 Bridge, salinity was optimal at 10.5 on the surface and 12 on the bottom. At the A1A Bridge, salinity was optimal at 18 on the surface and 23 on the bottom. The good news is that the releases for Lake Okeechobee did not drop salinities below the optimal range of 10 to 25 for oysters. Salinities were stable in January. Salinities decreased into the lower stressful range (5-9) for two brief

periods in December but otherwise have remained within the optimal range for oysters since.

In 2024, spawning and larval settlement started in late March and early April (1.3 spat/shell) and continued at moderate rates through June. Settlement rates decreased sharply in September when salinities fell below the optimal (≤10) for oysters and remained low for the rest of the year. The spawning season ends when water temperatures cool; new larval recruitment is not expected until April or May.

9. Presentation

Runoff to Resilience – Smart Watersheds

The Nature Conservancy's Brightstorm project members, including Matt Rea, Director of Technical Partnerships, and Jennifer Carpenter, Deputy Executive Director of Conservation and Government Relations, shared details about a pilot project. The Smart Watershed Network Management pilot study aims to integrate new technologies into water management strategies through broad partnerships, making them open-source and replicable. Following a multi-year modeling and design phase, the project will proceed to pilot implementation and real-world testing. The Indian River Lagoon was selected due to its numerous stormwater ponds and the openness of regulators, policymakers, and the public to adopt technological solutions. Funding for modeling development is provided by private philanthropy.

10. Old Business

None

11. New Business

a. Fiscal Year 2026 Water Quality Restoration RFP (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny presented the scoring and ranking of Water Quality Restoration proposals. Two of the three proposals were deemed eligible, with the total funding amount applied to the top proposal.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Management Board recommendations and approve the final ranked list of FY 2026 Water Quality 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.

MOTION WAS MADE BY TONY CATANESE TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF FY 2026 WATER QUALITY 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. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY TOM CAMPENNI. MOTION PASSED. AMY EASON AND TERRI BREEDEN ABSTAINED.

b. Fiscal Year 2026 Habitat Restoration RFP (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny presented the scoring and ranking of the two Habitat Restoration proposals. Both were deemed eligible, and both met the funding threshold.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Management Board recommendations and approve the final ranked list of FY 2026 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.

MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM CAMPENNI TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF FY 2026 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. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BILL KERR. MOTION PASSED. LAURILEE THOMPSON AND JIM MOIR ABSTAINED.

c. Fiscal Year 2026 Community-Based Restoration RFP (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny presented the scoring and ranking of the Community-Based Restoration proposals. One of the two proposals was deemed eligible and met the funding threshold.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Management Board recommendations and approve the final ranked list of FY 2026 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.

MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM CAMPENNI TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF FY 2026 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. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY TONY CATANESE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

d. Fiscal Year 2026 Science and Innovation RFP (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny presented the scoring and ranking of the four Science and Innovation proposals. Two proposals were deemed eligible and met the funding threshold; the remaining Section 320 funds cannot be transferred to the reserve fund.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Management Board recommendations and approve the final ranked list of FY 2026 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.

MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM CAMPENNI TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVE THE FINAL RANKED LIST OF FY 2026 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. MOTION WAS

SECONDED BY GEORGE JONES. MOTION PASSED. LAURILEE THOMPSON, AARON ADAMS AND TONY CATANESE ABSTAINED.

e. Fiscal Year 2026 Tentative Budget (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reviewed the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors review and adopt the tentative budget for FY 2026 by Resolution 2025-01, pursuant to Florida Statutes.

MOTION WAS MADE BY TONY CATANESE TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEW AND ADOPT THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FY 2026 BY RESOLUTION 2025-01, PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY GEORGE JONES. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

f. Fiscal Year 2026 EPA Workplan (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny explained the need to complete this item in a timely manner.

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, 2025.

MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM CAMPENNI TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZE STAFF TO FINALIZE AND SUBMIT THE FY 2025 EPA WORKPLAN BY JUNE 1, 2025. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BILL KERR. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

g. Fiscal Year 2026 EPA BIL Workplan (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny explained the need to complete this item.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors authorize staff to develop and submit the FY 2026 EPA BIL Workplan to EPA.

MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM CAMPENNI TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZE STAFF TO DEVELOP AND SUBMIT THE FY 2026 EPA BIL WORKPLAN TO EPA. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY TONY CATANESE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

h. Invitation to Bid 2024-01: One 2025 Tidewater 2210 Carolina Bay Boat with motor and trailer

Mr. Kolodny explained this item is a FY 2023 budgetary line item.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors authorize staff to enter into negotiations and contracting with the lowest bidder in accordance with established procurement procedures.

MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM CAMPENNI TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZE STAFF TO RAISE THE BUDGET AND ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS AND CONTRACTING WITH THE LOWEST BIDDER IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MATHEW MITTS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. IRLNEP Staff reports

a. Engagement Report (Kathy Hill)

Ms. Hill noted that the top social media post was "muck," which reached a broader audience than other posts. The highlights of the three Community Engagement Coordinators were reviewed, and the first-quarter engagement statistics were disclosed.

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

Ms. Ayres-Guerra outlined the tasks completed in the first quarter and emphasized several items to be addressed in FY 2025.

c. IRL Project Update (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reported that 57 CCMP projects and activities are currently in progress, while no projects or activities were completed during the first quarter.

d. Executive Director Report (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese provided an update on the current status of federal funding and submitted a summary of activities in the Agenda Package that outlined upcoming scheduled activities.

13. Final Comments (Committee, Staff, Public)

Judy Orcutt invited everyone to the Lagoon Champion Award hosted by the Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County. This event will celebrate Duane's contributions to lagoon science at the Jones Pier Conservation Area on Friday, February 28, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

Ed Garland announced the open position of Contracts Administrator for the Sebastian Inlet Tax District.

George Jones announced the ORCA Fundraiser, to be held on February 22, 2025, at Triton Submarines.

14. Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 10:15 a.m.
Historic Sebastian Elementary School, 1235 Main Street, Sebastian, FL 32958

15. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:28 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