IRL COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT BOARD

This meeting is open to the public

November 10, 2026

10:15 AM – 1:00 PM

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

Remote Access: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89229048739

The order of items appearing on the agenda is subject to change during the meeting and is at the presiding officer's discretion. Anyone wishing to speak on any item is requested to complete a speaker's card.

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** (Terri Breeden, Chair)
2. **Introductions** (Terri Breeden, Chair)
3. **Agenda Revisions** (Terri Breeden, Chair)
   Note any known changes and inquire if any members have suggested revisions.
4. **Minutes Approval** (Terri Breeden, Chair) **Minutes**

   Requested Action: Approval of Minutes from Management Board meeting on August 18, 2026.
5. **Finance Subcommittee Report** (Stu Glass, Chair, Finance Subcommittee)
6. **Public Comment**
7. **Water Quality Reports**
   a. Northern IRL (Lauren Hall, SJRWMD)
   b. Southern IRL (Dr. Melanie Parker, SFWMD)
8. a. *Atmospheric Deposition Monitoring Activities in the Lagoon*
   (Christopher Rogers, Vice President of Environmental Science, WSP)
   b. *Exploring the Causes of Harmful Algal Blooms*
   (Chuck Jacoby, Associate Director, The Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation)
9. **Old Business**

   None
10. **New Business**
    a. 2027 IRL Council Meeting Calendar (Kathy Hill) **Calendar**

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendation to adopt the 2027 IRL Council Meeting Calendar.

b. Request for Proposals (RFP) for administrative and technical support to revise the CCMP (Daniel Kolodny)

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors authorize staff to develop and issue an RFP to obtain professional services for technical and administrative support to update the CCMP.

c. Transferring administrative oversight of the Indian River Lagoon Specialty license plate (Duane De Freese)

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors authorize staff to work with SFWMD and elected officials to pursue legislative action to transfer administrative oversight of license plate revenues collected in Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties to the IRL Council.

d. Status Assessment, Opportunities, and Forward Strategy (Duane De Freese)

Request Action: No action required. For information only.

e. Fiscal Year 2026 Final Budget Amendment (Daniel Kolodny) **Budget**

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 2026-05 pursuant to Florida Statutes.

11. IRLNEP Staff Reports

a. Community Engagement Update (Kathy Hill)
b. Information Technology and Data Science Update (Kathy Hill)
c. IRL Project Update (Daniel Kolodny)
d. Executive Director Report (Duane De Freese) **Ex Director**

12. Final Comments (Committee, Staff, Public)

13. Next Meeting

Tentative: February 9, 2027, at 10:15 a.m.
Historic Sebastian Elementary School, 1235 Main Street, Sebastian, FL 32958

14. Adjourn

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.

IRL COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes from the meeting of

August 18, 2026

10:15 AM – 1:00 PM

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

Remote Access: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89229048739

Member In-person Attendance: Terri Breeden, Tony Catanese, Melisa Diolosa, Amy Eason, Pete Eggert, Joseph Falzone, David Fuss, Carter Henne, Chuck Jacoby, Mike Johannsen, George Jones, Chandler Keenan, Bill Kerr, John Leslie, Sherry McCorkle, Melissa Meisenburg, Josh Mills, Jim Moir, Judy Orcutt, Keith Ramos, Laurilee Thompson, Charles Vogt III, Laura Wilson

Member Online Attendance: Brian Benton, Jeffrey Collins, James Gray, Mike McCabe, Robert Musser, Marina Owens, Kevin Shropshire, Jennifer Spain, James Sullivan, Jennifer Thera, Chad Truxall, Janet Zimmerman

Guests In-person Attendance: Lauren Hall, Kelly Breeden, Jim Cannon, Melanie Parker. Thomas Heller, Loraé Simpson

Guests Online Attendance: Caitlin Butler, Anthony Gubeler, Mariana Payne, Mike McMunigal, Nick Linehan, Rachel Brewton, Amy Griffith, Eric Charest, Edward Garland

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** (Terri Breeden, Chair)

   Ms. Breeden called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Introductions** (Terri Breeden, Chair)

   Ms. Breeden led the group in introductions.

3. **Agenda Revisions** (Terri Breeden, Chair)

   No agenda revisions were brought forward.

4. **Minutes Approval** (Terri Breeden, Chair)

   Requested Action: Approval of Minutes from Management Board meeting on May 5, 2026.

   MOTION BY LAURA WILSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING ON MAY 5, 2026. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JIM MOIR. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **Finance Subcommittee Report:** (Stu Glass, Chair, Finance Subcommittee)

   Mr. Thomas Heller reviewed the Finance Subcommittee's actions, noting that although the committee lacked a quorum and did not formally vote, it reached consensus on the quarterly financial statements and recommended adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026 IIJA Work Plan

Amendment, Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment, and Fiscal Year 2027 Final Budget Amendment.

6. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

7. Water Quality Reports

a. Northern IRL (Lauren Hall, SJRWMD)

Ms. Lauren Hall presented rainfall data from May through July, noting that district-wide phase-three extreme water shortages persist. The watershed is receiving rain. The locations of the monitoring sondes were reviewed, and the data were reported to be collected hourly and made available on the St. Johns River Water Management District website. Water depth from May to July is normal. Salinity has been ideal, and water temperature is high. Dissolved oxygen remains above the hypoxia level; blooms have been present but not prolonged. Mosquito Lagoon had the greatest turbidity fluctuations, attributed to rainfall events, while the remaining areas were good. Fluorescent Dissolved Organic Matter (FDOM) remained below 80 ppb and tended to be higher in areas of freshwater tributaries. Chlorophyll-a indicated spurts of bloom activity, with mixed species reported. Water clarity data are collected monthly and showed a decline for the northern IRL.

The 2025 seagrass extent data have been released and are available on the website. 2025 shows an increase over 2023 in five of the six sub-lagoons; the central area did not increase. Seagrass transect cover and length have also increased in all areas except the central area.

Caulerpa ashmeadii has expanded in the north. The sea slug *Elysia subornata* was present, and egg masses were laid on the microalgae. Data are not available showing that the slug is feeding. Effects on the seagrass are being monitored.

Jessy Wayles facilitated a Mentimeter survey to collect feedback on the current water quality report. The survey results provided useful input from stakeholders for the District.

b. Southern IRL (Dr. Melanie Parker, SFWMD)

Dr. Melanie Parker of SFWMD presented data through August 9th, with weekly averages covering August 3 to August 9. Conditions in the St. Lucie Estuary (SLE) appear generally favorable. Freshwater inflows have been moderate, with the most recent inflow from the tidal basin. No releases from Lake Okeechobee to the estuary have occurred since March 29, 2025. Although rainfall increased in late June, conditions have been relatively dry over the past few weeks.

Salinity levels have remained stable and higher than in April, creating conditions well suited for key indicator species. The middle estuary and the North and South Forks are within the optimal salinity range for oysters. Salinity near the Rio oyster monitoring station has stayed within the optimal range for adult oysters since May. Oyster populations continue to perform well, with recruitment beginning in April and recent rates averaging about 7 to 8 spat per shell. Oyster densities at the Rio station are about 500 oysters per square meter, comparable to recent years and indicative of a healthy population.

Regional surveys conducted in June found overall seagrass cover across the study area to be 5%, the highest level recorded since 2018. Although seagrass cover within the SLE declined from the 2025 record high, multiple species were still present, including *Halodule wrightii, Halophila ovalis*, and *Halophila decipiens*, which was observed again for the first time since 2023.

8. **Presentation**

   a. *Living Shoreline Collaboration: A Homeowner's Lagoon-Friendly Approach*
   (Josh Mills, Senior Environmental Associate at Native Shorelines, a division of Davey Resource Group)

   Josh Mills, Native Shorelines, presented a private homeowner's shoreline restoration project on the lagoon. The project used Quick Reef® Shoreline Habitat Units deployed manually. The project highlighted collaboration with the homeowner, Sea Grant Florida, and 4-H children to install the reef and plantings. The result was sediment accretion and oyster recruitment.

   b. *Connected by Water: The Indian River Lagoon*
   (Melisa Diolosa, Strategic Basin Coordinator-Indian River Lagoon/Upper St. Johns River Basin, SJRWMD)

   Melisa Diolosa, SFWMD, introduced the video, "Connected by Water: The Indian River Lagoon." The video highlights the importance of the IRL and explores how science, restoration, and partnerships are working together to support its recovery. Ms. Diolosa thanked those in attendance who contributed to the video.

9. **Old Business**

   None

10. **New Business**

   a. Science and Innovation RFP Development (Duane De Freese)

   Dr. De Freese reviewed the previous RFP's broad priorities and general criteria and introduced the survey questions related to the CCMP Critical Concerns. Four polling questions to determine focus were presented via Mentimeter. The results were shared with the Board of Directors.

   Requested Action: Engage in discussion and provide guidance to refine the focus and structure of the Science and Innovation RFP. No action or motion required.

   b. Fiscal Year 2028 Request for Proposals (RFPs) (Daniel Kolodny)

   Mr. Kolodny reviewed the decisions from the May meeting: retain all four categories and Small Grants; accept habitat restoration proposals on private property with the following protections: the applicant must be a public agency, NGO, or academic institution; benefits to the IRL must be quantified; and the level of proposed long-term protections will influence ranking. Revise the Science and Innovation RPF to be focused and to deliver knowledge essential to driving management decisions for resource managers and the restoration community of practice. Funding levels for each category will remain at 2027 levels.

   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 2028, review and rank proposals and return to the Management Conference for funding approval.

   MOTION WAS MADE BY TONY CATANESE 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 2028, REVIEW AND RANK

PROPOSALS AND RETURN TO THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE FOR FUNDING APPROVAL. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BILL KERR. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Fiscal Year 2026 IIJA Work Plan Amendment (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny presented. During contract negotiations for the awarded City of Port St. Lucie County Septic to Sewer project to be funded with IIJA funds, the city declined the funding because it could not comply with the Davis-Bacon Act and the Buy American, Build American (BABA) Act. This has left $300,000 available for issuance. Option A is to reissue a competitive procurement specific to $300,000. This is time-consuming and could cause issues with the grant timeline. Option B would be to allocate the funds to the already competitively procured and partially funded Indian River County Septic to Sewer project, which received $196,140 in non-federal funding. Under 2 CFR 200.308 (F)(6), a recipient may change subrecipients because both projects are Septic to Sewer and the originally requested amount is the same. IRC has confirmed its ability to comply with the Davis-Bacon Act and BABA. This option meets EPA requirements; it is the same type of project and the same funding amount.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the Management Conference recommendation to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 IIJA Work Plan Amendment.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM MOIR TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 IIJA WORK PLAN AMENDMENT OPTION B. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LAURILEE THOMPSON. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Mr. Kolodny presented changes to the 2026 Budget, including an increase in Other Expenditures. The increase represents an additional $4,468 for small grants approved at the May meeting. The budget changes included prior FY NOAA Workplan Year 1 costs of $3,640,399; EPA Workplan Projects at $224,315; the prior FY IRLNEP Federal IIJA workplan project at $1,390,347; and prior FY IRL Council Strategic Program Projects at $387,297. Administrative Costs increased by 47,185. This increase reflects realized increases in insurance and anticipated increases in office supplies, dues, licenses, and subscriptions, along with decreases in printing and staff training and professional development.

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 2026-03 pursuant to Florida Statutes.

MOTION WAS MADE BY BILL KERR 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 2026-03 PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY TONY CATANESE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

e. Fiscal Year 2027 Final Budget Amendment (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny outlined budget changes, including allocating $9,400 in unencumbered revenue, using $ 1,000 to increase rents and leases, and $6000 to Administrative Costs covering office supplies, dues, licenses, subscriptions, and insurance rates. Printing, staff

training, and professional development were decreased. Administrative Services increased by $2,400, reflecting higher projected auditing costs.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors accept the IRLNEP Management Conference recommendation to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Final Budget Amendment by Resolution 2026-04, pursuant to Florida Statutes.

MOTION WAS MADE BY TONYCATANESE. TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 FINAL BUDGET AMENDMENT BY RESOLUTION 2026-04, PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BILL KERR. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

f. EPA Office of Inspector General Audit (OIG) (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reviewed the audit timeline and scope. The focus was on $1.9M in expenditure under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The findings and the corrective actions were explained.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors review and accept the audit findings.

MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVE FUSS TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEW AND ACCEPT THE AUDIT FINDINGS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOSH MILLS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

g. Fiscal Year 2027 Legislative Priorities (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese highlighted legislative priorities at both the federal and state levels. This will be presented to the Board of Directors for guidance on the Board's collective priorities. He also requested that members notify him if a legislative project is underway, in case a request for a response is received.

Requested Action: Motion to recommend that the IRL Council Board of Directors review and adopt IRL Council Legislative Priorities for 2027. Authorize the Executive Director to represent the IRL Council in discussions of legislative policy and appropriations.

MOTION WAS MADE BY TONY CATANESE TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IRL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEW AND ADOPT IRL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2027. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO REPRESENT THE IRL COUNCIL IN DISCUSSIONS OF LEGISLATIVE POLICY AND APPROPRIATIONS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOSH MILLS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. IRLNEP Staff Reports

a. Community Engagement Update (Kathy Hill)

Ms. Hill reviewed the social media metrics; the top Facebook post reached 88.4K views. The new Instagram strategy, launched on May 14th, showed increases, with the top post at 7,000 views and 458 interactions. A review of highlights from the three Community Engagement Coordinators was conducted; activities included restoration fieldwork, summer camps and participation in steering committees. Upcoming activities will include presenting at the Restore America's Estuaries Summit and recording podcasts. Social engagement was actively tested and measured, and all three lagoon regions sustained heavy on-the-ground outreach.

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

Ms. Ayres-Guerra reported that on the science side, the Decadal Shoreline Change Tool was successful and its Turkey Creek Case Study was shared with FWC. Monthly collaboration with SJRWMD continued on *Caulerpa* habitat mapping. The Master Project Map was enhanced for tracking and communication. The Flood Hub Dashboard was transferred to USF for ongoing management; KJ attended the ESRI User Conference to explore GIS tools. On outreach, three webinars were hosted, a podcast on restoration was participated in, and the IRL Envirothon website was revamped to improve accessibility and support.

c. IRL Project Update (Daniel Kolodny)

Mr. Kolodny reported that 35 CCMP projects and activities were in progress, with t en completed during the quarter. These included EPA Travel FY 2025, Grant Writing FY 2025, WSP*: Atmospheric Deposition Monitoring* for the 2 new stations, FY 2024 funding, Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County: *Septic to Sewer Conversions in IRC*, and Smithsonian Marine Station*: IRL Biodiversity and Species Inventory Update Year 6.*

Small Grant projects included Marine Resource Council: *Expanding Nutrient Testing for Citizen Scientists;* Marine Discovery Center: *Project Plankton;* Environmental Learning Center: *5th Grade Deep Dive into the Lagoon*; Brevard Zoo*: Lagoon Quest;* and Smithsonian Marine Station*: Saving the Indian River Lagoon One Child at a Time Through Ecosystems Education.*

Chair Terri Breeden asked for a motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JOSH MILLS TO EXTEND THE MEETING BY 15 MINUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LAURA WILSON. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

d. Executive Director Report (Duane De Freese)

Dr. De Freese noted that a comprehensive activities report is included in the agenda package and emphasized legislative updates at the federal, state, and local levels, especially amid active policy tracking and a busy season of regional and national estuary engagement.

12. Final Comments (Committee, Staff, Public)

Josh Mills reported that the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals will meet on August 26, 2026, at 5:30 at Captain Hiram's and encouraged members to attend, noting that the Indian River Lagoon is underrepresented.

Chandler Keenan announced that the FDEP grant for IRLPD will close in September. Chandler also introduced Kelly Breeden, the new IRL BMAP coordinator.

Laura Wilson announced that the MRC's Indian River Lagoon Youth Action Assembly will be held on September 12, 2026, at the Environmental Learning Center.

Terri Breeden announced that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) project funding application portal is open and that projects must be submitted by September 25, 2026.

Kathy Hill announced that the deadline for the photo contest is Friday, August 21st.

Hannah Herrero shared a link in the comments to a recently published article. *Hurricanes devastated Florida's East Coast – then seagrass made an unexpected comeback.*

https://theconversation.com/hurricanes-devastated-floridas-east-coast-then-seagrass-made-an-unexpected-comeback-279177

Duane De Freese asked Dr. Aaron Adams how the IRLNEP can help promote the Angler app. The response was that the app is currently in *beta* testing and that the link will be available in the future.

Dr. De Freese also announced that the Frontiers in Marine Science paper titled Responding to ecological and policy changes by restructuring a National Estuary Program is under peer review.

13. Next Meeting

Management Board meeting: November 10, 2026, at 10:15 a.m.
Historic Sebastian Elementary School, 1235 Main Street, Sebastian, FL 32958

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 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).

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Agenda Return

2027 Meeting Calendar

January

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Board of Directors
Meetings are held on Fridays at
Sebastian City Hall from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Friday, February 12, 2027
Friday, May 14, 2027
Friday, August 20, 2027
Friday, November 19, 2027

Citizens' Advisory Committee
Meetings are held on Thursdays at
Historic Sebastian Elementary School at 1:00 pm

Thursday, February 11, 2027
Thursday, May 6, 2027
Thursday, August 19, 2027
Thursday, November 18, 2027

STEM, Management Board and Financial Subcomittee
Meetings are held on Tuesdays at
Historic Sebastian Elementary School

Tuesday, February 9, 2027
Tuesday, May 11, 2027
Tuesday, August 17, 2027
Tuesday, November 16, 2027

Financial Subcommittee 9:00 am
Management Board 10:15 am
STEM Advisory Committee 1:30 pm

Agenda Return

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE IRL COUNCIL AMENDING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR THE 2026 FISCAL YEAR

WHEREAS, the IRL Council was created via Interlocal Agreement to carry out the goals of the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program; and

WHEREAS, the IRL Council previously amended the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 on August 22, 2025 and August 21, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the IRL Council finds it necessary and essential to amend the Budget for the 2026 Fiscal Year as set forth in this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the 2026 Fiscal Year budget amendments set forth in this Resolution serves a valid public purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE IRL COUNCIL, THAT:

Section 1. The above recitals are ratified and incorporated into this resolution.

Section 2. The funds and available resources and revenues that are set out in Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by reference, are appropriated to provide the monies to be used to pay the necessary operating and other expenses of the IRL Council.

Section 3. Except as amended in Exhibit "A" the remainder of the Budget for the 2026 Fiscal Year remains in full force and effect.

Section 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage.

DONE at_____, Florida, this_____day of_____,2026.

By: _____
Sarah Heard, IRL Council Chair

ATTEST:

_____
James Clasby, IRL Council Secretary

Approved as to legal form and sufficiency:

_____
Glen J. Torcivia
IRL Council, Legal Counsel

IRL Council
FY 2026 Amended Budget
Exhibit A

REVENUES	
Federal Section 320	$ 850,000
Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Law Final Year	$ 909,800
IRL License Plate	$ 125,000
Member Contributions	$ 1,500,000
NOAA Transformational Habitat Year 2	$ 2,484,320
TOTAL REVENUES	$ 5,869,120
EXPENDITURES	
Other Expenditures	$ 10,514,398
IRL Council 2026 Strategic Program, IRLNEP 2026 EPA 320 Work Plan, IRLNEP 2026 IIJL Work Plan, 2026 NOAA Workplan, Prior FYs EPA 320 Workplans, Prior FY NOAA Workplan, Prior FYs Infrastructure Workplans, 2026 Revenue Unencumbered	
Salaries & Benefits	$ 673,752
Facilities Expenses	$ 43,500
Rent, Utilities, Equipment Maintenance, Communications	
Administrative Costs	$ 88,185
Postage, Office Supplies, Insurance, Printing, Travel, Licenses & Subscriptions, Dues, Professional Development	
Administrative Services	$ 113,210
Legal, Accounting, Auditing, IT Services, Legal Ads	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	$11,433,045
Agency Balance Beginning of Year	$ 5,255,062
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	$ 3,022,392
Fund Balance – End of Year	$ 2,713,529

FY 2026 Amended Budget	Approved 8/21/2026	**FY 2026 Amended Budget**	Pending	Higher / Lower	(Notes)
REVENUES		**REVENUES**			
Federal EPA 320	$ 850,000	Federal EPA 320	$ 850,000		
Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Law Final Year	$ 909,800	Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Law Final Year	$ 909,800		
IRL License Plate	$ 125,000	IRL License Plate	$ 125,000		
Member Contributions	$1,500,000	Member Contributions	$1,500,000		
NOAA Transformational Habitat Year 2	$2,484,320	NOAA Transformational Habitat Year 2	$2,484,320		
TOTAL REVENUES	$5,869,120	TOTAL REVENUES	$5,869,120		
EXPENDITURES		**EXPENDITURES**			
Other Expenditures IRL Council 2026 Strategic Program, IRLNEP 2026 EPA 320 Work Plan, IRLNEP 2026 IIJL Work Plan, 2026 NOAA Workplan, Prior FYs EPA 320 Workplans, Prior FY NOAA Workplan, Prior FYs Infrastructure Workplans, 2026 Revenue Unencumbered	$10,514,398	Other Expenditures IRL Council 2026 Strategic Program, IRLNEP 2026 EPA 320 Work Plan, IRLNEP 2026 IIJL Work Plan, 2026 NOAA Workplan, Prior FYs EPA 320 Workplans, Prior FY NOAA Workplan, Prior FYs Infrastructure Workplans, 2026 Revenue Unencumbered	$10,514,398		
Salaries & Benefits	$ 659,150	Salaries & Benefits	$ 673,752	$14,602	(1)
Facilities Expenses Rent, Utilities, Equipment Maintenance, Communications	$ 40,000	Facilities Expenses Rent, Utilities, Equipment Maintenance, Communications	$ 43,500	$3,500	(2)
Administrative Costs Postage, Office Supplies, Insurance, Printing, Travel, Licenses & Subscriptions, Dues, Professional Development	$ 88,185	Administrative Costs Postage, Office Supplies, Insurance, Printing, Travel, Licenses & Subscriptions, Dues, Professional Development	$ 88,185		
Administrative Services Legal, Accounting, Auditing, IT Services, Legal Ads	$ 113,210	Administrative Services Legal, Accounting, Auditing, IT Services, Legal Ads	$ 113,210		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	$11,414,943	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	$11,433,105	$18,102	(3)
Agency Balance Beginning of Year	$ 5,255,062	Agency Balance Beginning of Year	$ 5,255,062		
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	$ 3,022,392	Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	$ 3,022,392		
Fund Balance – End of Year	$ 2,731,631	Fund Balance – End of Year	$ 2,713,529	$18,102	(4)

FY 2026 Amended Budget Expenditure Detail (Narrative)

(1) Increase "Salaries and Benefits" by $14,602 from $659,150 to $673,752. This increase covers a difference in the expected allocation to local cost share as the full amount expected to be allocated to the NOAA grant did not occur during the Fiscal Year.

(2) Increase "Facilities Expenses" by $3,500 from $40,000 to $43,500. This increase covers an unexpected equipment maintenance cost on the IRLNEP Vehicle.

(3) Increase "TOTAL EXPENDITURES" by $18,102 from $11,414,953 to $11,433,045. This increase represents the changes to the budget made in items 1 and 2 above.

(4) Decrease "Fund Balance – End of Year" by $18,102 from $2,731,631 to $2713,259. This decrease in Fund Balance covers the expenditures in items 1 and 2 above.

Agenda Return

Duane De Freese, Ph.D.
Executive Director Activity Summary (August -October 2026)

Recurring Leadership Activities (National, Regional, FL)

- Association of National Estuary Programs Board and member of Govt Affairs Committee (monthly)
- Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association Advisory Board (quarterly meetings). Elected as Chair for 2026-2027
- Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Recovery Partnership Advisory Board and committees (monthly)
- Florida HAB Task Force quarterly meetings (quarterly)
- Florida Ocean Alliance Board (quarterly). IRLNEP provided sponsorship and significant planning support for FOA Ocean & Space Convergence Summit. November 18th at Nyami Nyami Lodge, Brevard Zoo

Conference and Event Participation

08/21	Space Coast Symposium and Expo, Radisson Resort Cape Canaveral. Keynote Speakers: NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman and Florida Secretary of Commerce J. Alex Kelly.
08/26	Central Florida Association of Environmental Professionals, Sebastian, FL (attendee).
08/29	IRL Clam Restoration Project community event, Handlers Fishing Supply, Cocoa, FL.
09/09	SFWMD C-23 Canal Estuary Discharge Diversion Project (attendee).
09/10-12	Space Coast Chamber Leadership Retreat, Jupiter, FL (speaker).
09/14	Brevard County SOIRL sales tax Referendum, Dixie Crossroads (speaker).
09/15	Brevard County SOIRL sales tax Referendum, Marine Resources Council (speaker).
09/15	Business Voice - Leadership in Action, Space Coast Association of Realtors (speaker).
09/16	KSC field trip impoundment restoration NOAA/SJRWMD restoration project field visit
09/16	Brevard County SOIRL sales tax Referendum, Brevard Zoo (speaker)
09/17	TAAD Talk (Technology, Aviation, Aerospace, Defense). Panelists: Dawn Halter, The Disti Corporation (cybersecurity), Colonel Brian Chatmen, Commander, Space Launch Delta 45 and Director, Eastern Range (national defense), and Duane De Freese (connection between ocean and space technology). Lockheed Martin, City of Cape Canaveral, FL
09/21-25	Restore America's Estuaries National Conference, San Francisco (presenter and panelist for NOAA living shorelines and empowering a community of practice)
10/01	Good Morning Space Coast at EGYC, "*Why the Lagoon Still Needs Us*". Panelists: Virginia Barker, Duane De Freese, and Keith Winsten
10/15	Lead Brevard Community Leaders. Community challenge question: *How to balance IRL health and a 21st-century spaceport*, Port Canaveral, FL
10/16	Brevard County SOIRL Citizen Oversight Committee, "*SOIRL Ten Years In, a National Perspective*" (speaker)
10/19-22	Association National Estuary Program tech transfer meeting, Corpus Christi, TX. Presentation "*Building Stronger Partnerships for Large-Scale Impact: Challenges, opportunities, innovation and new partnerships for the IRLNEP associated with space launch activity on the Indian River Lagoon, FL".* Panelist: "*Diversifying revenue to expand the NEP mission*"
10/24	Make a Green Noise Community Event (panelist)
11/06	Invited VIP guest to attend NASA Artemis Celebration Gala
Multiple	Meetings, briefings and technical discussions online and in person about IRLNEP activities and priorities for 2027.

Agenda Return