



IRL COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FRIDAY JULY 8, 2016
SEBASTIAN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Board of Directors Attendance:

Tom Frick, Doug Bournique, Ed Fielding, Richard Gillmor, Doug Daniels, Chris Dzadovsky, Richard Gillmor, Kevin Powers, Curt Smith. Joel Tyson sat for Mr. Gillmor during the early portion of the meeting.

Agenda Item 1. For Information: Call to order.

Ed Fielding, Board Chair, called the IRL Council Board of Directors meeting to order, welcomed all in attendance, and led the attendees in a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 2. Consideration: Agenda revisions.

Mr. Fielding asked that agenda items 8a and 8c be struck. No objections were offered.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY THOMAS FRICK, SECONDED BY CURT SMITH, TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS PROPOSED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item 3. Consideration: Approval of minutes.

Mr. Fielding asked for any revisions to the minutes of the IRL Council Board of Directors meeting of May 10, 2016 as distributed to the Board, none were offered.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG DANIELS, SECONDED BY DOUG BOURNIQUE TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item 4. For Information: General public comment.

No public comment was offered.

Agenda Item 5. For Information: Water quality reports

Deborah Drum, Martin County, gave a brief presentation on water quality in the St. Lucie Estuary and Southern IRL. Dr. Chuck Jacoby gave a water quality presentation on conditions in the northern and central IRL.

Agenda Item 6. For Information: IRL Water Quality – Emergency Declaration

Commissioners Fielding and Dzadovsky led a discussion of the emergency declarations in place requested support of the Board for the resolutions passed by Martin and St. Lucie Counties. Mr. Fielding outlined Martin County's efforts and resolution; Mr. Dzadovsky outlined St. Lucie County's resolution and request. Mr. Dzadovsky requested the IRL Board of Directors consider drafting, from a scientific and policy standpoint, a resolution to be shared with the federal government requesting funding in support of the science of efforts (short, mid- and long-term) underway or proposed to store additional water and remove contaminants from the Lake Okeechobee system. Mr. Powers suggested inclusion of specific projects that need to be accomplished in any resolution.

Mr. Powers suggested that the Board work with staff to develop a specific list of projects, costs, benefits, ROI, and other factors that can be presented to the federal government with a funding request. Mr. Bournique supported the idea of working with staff to craft a specific list of projects. Mr. Smith requested that the Board work to create a specific request of the federal government with as much detail as possible. Mr. Fielding suggested that precision will be rewarded.

Mr. Fielding recognized that discussion was evolving along two lines: one in support of a resolution of concern, and one involving an integrated listing of projects that need to be accomplished in order to repair the IRL. Dr. DeFreese suggested that staff draft a resolution of concern that is fact-based and science-based that expresses the position of the IRLNEP and IRL Council. Also, a preliminary action plan can be presented to the management conference (Stem, Management board and IRL Council Board of Directors) as a resolution and brought back to the Board at the August meeting for action.

Cmr. Dzadovsky suggested that not requesting funding for fast-tracked planning projects is negligent and the WRDA bill reauthorization would provide that funding. The IRL Council's support of a resolution with language similar to the St. Lucie County resolution that outlines specific projects where funding is required would be helpful in educating the federal government about current conditions. A general letter supporting St. Lucie County's resolution that is sent to the President would have power.

Dr. De Freese suggested that if the Board agrees to specific points and instructs the Chair to sign a letter addressing the points agreed to, the letter could be completed and sent quickly. If staff is directed to draft letter, proper procedure dictates that the letter would have to come back at a subsequent meeting.

Carolyn Ansay outlined the potential sunshine issues arising from drafting a resolution.

Kevin Powers and Doug Bournique recommended slowing down and crafting a letter that reflects all issues from north to south of the IRL. Mr. Bournique suggested the St. Lucie County letter was a good starting place, but saw areas where additional items can be added.

Mr. Daniels suggested a special meeting to approve a draft letter and get it out. He suggested time is critical.

Mr. Smith suggested directing staff to gather information for presentation to Florida's Governor, Florida Legislature, Congressional delegation and the President to outline the issues, a path forward and request assistance from each level. He made a motion to this effect. Mr. Frick added that a special meeting should be scheduled before the next regular meeting to review and approve a draft letter that includes actionable plans/projects that can be addressed.

Ms. Ansay reminded the Board about notice requirements and suggested that a declaration of emergency can be made, or the present meeting can be recessed and reconvened at a new day/time. If a recess is called, the date and time to reconvene would need to be chosen during the present meeting. The emergency meeting can be called, with notice gotten out through regular contact channels.

Mr. Fielding suggested the emergency meeting is somewhat more flexible in terms of scheduling. Dr. De Freese suggested staff would individually poll the Board to determine a date and time.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG BOURNIQUE, SECONDED BY CHRIS DZADOVSKY TO DIRECT STAFF TO PREPARE A LETTER AND SUPPORTING MATERIALS THAT WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item 7. For Information: Presentation: IRL Data Sharing Workshop

Dr. Dennis Hanisak, FAU/Harbor Branch gave a presentation on the outcomes from the IRL Data Sharing Workshop and Harbor Branch's LOBO monitoring program. He made the data workshop report and survey outcome available to all.

Agenda Item 8. Budget and Financial Report:

- b). Budget modification request: Commissioner Dzadovsky requested the 2015-2016 budget be amended to bring 2 projects (Wesley's Island Native Planting Project [\$15,000] and BMPs for Spoil Island Shoreline Restoration [\$25,000]) into the current fiscal year using \$40,000 of monies forecast to be available from Salaries and Benefits.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DZADOVSKY, SECONDED BY MR. FRICK TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2016-05 AND MOVE THE TWO PROJECTS INTO THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR'S BUDGET.

Agenda Item 9. Management Conference Update

- a) Citizens' Advisory Committee Confirmation

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. SMITH TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTEES TO THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. BOURNIQUE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b) Confirmation of additional Management Board appointees.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DZADOVSKY TO CONFIRM THE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD. SECONDED BY MR. FRICK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item 10. RFP for Communications Services

Dr. De Freese briefed the Board on progress on the draft Request for Proposals for contract support for development of the IRLNEP Website and alignment of communications messaging.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. POWERS, SECONDED BY MR. BOURNIQUE, TO APPROVE STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO ISSUE THE RFP, VET RESPONDENTS VIA ASSISTANCE FROM THE MANAGMENT BOARD, AND RETURN TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITH A RECOMMENDATION TO MOVE THE TOP RANKED VENDOR TO A CONTRACT. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item 11. For Consideration: Strategic relationships

- a) Dr. De Freese briefed the board on a partnership with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council and requested the Board enter into a Memorandum of Understanding.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DZADOVSKY, SECONDED BY MR. BOURNIQUE TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b) Dr. De Freese updated the board on the ongoing development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the other 3 NEPs in Florida and their decision to table further development of the MOU for the time being.

Agenda Item 12. Staff Reports and General Board Comments:

- a) Dr. De Freese outlined that he will not be attending Congressman Murphy's Lagoon Summit in Washington D.C.
- b) Dr. De Freese will be meeting with Sen. Joe Negron in August at the senator's request.
- c) The STEM Advisory Committee meets on July 26, 2016 and will be ranking the action items in the CCMP, addressing the IRL boundary extension and other matters.

- d) Dr. De Freese informed the Board of Directors that \$8.5 Million is available from National Marine Fisheries and NOAA for ecosystem restoration. He proposed the IRLNEP construct a proposal to seek \$1 million in funding under this grant opportunity in partnership with community partners. The proposal will set up a match program where 4 restoration centers will build their capacities to address effective IRL restoration.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DZADOVSKY, SECONDED BY MR. FRICK TO DIRECT STAFF TO MOVE FORWARD WITH EXPLORING THE NOAA GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Dzadovsky thanked Dr. De Freese for attending the St. Lucie County Commission Meeting and assisting to educate that community about the things being done to address lagoon health.

Mr. Frick thanked Drs. Hanisak and Jacoby and Ms. Drum for their ongoing updates and interest in water quality in the lagoon, and outlined the various efforts that DEP is undertaking to address the toxic algae blooms in the southern IRL and remove existing algal mats from areas of accumulation.

Mr. Powers noted that SFWMD is holding as much water as possible in all areas; however, the current system is at capacity. The continue to work with land owners to attempt to bring additional storage areas online.

Mr. Fielding noted that water quality all over the state is in jeopardy. He outlined a long-term strategy to look at lagoon issues in the same way as road and highway construction is done – in ways designed to meeting the needs of an expanding public through long term funding and planning cycles.

Mr. Bournique reiterated the need to update the infrastructure of water management in the state.

Agenda Item 11. Adjourn.

Mr. Fielding, Board of Directors Chair, adjourned the meeting.

IRL Board of Directors meeting adjourned.