



IRL COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2016
SEBASTIAN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Board of Directors Attendance:

Doug Bournique, Ed Fielding, Richard Winger, Doug Daniels, Curt Smith, Chris Dzadoovsky, Kevin Powers, Drew Bartlett.

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 for any proposed changes to the agenda. Staff requested removal of Item 8d. This will come before the Management Board and Board of Directors at December meetings. Mr. Smith motioned to accept agenda, Mr. Powers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CURT SMITH, SECONDED BY KEVIN POWERS, 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 September 9, 2016 as distributed to the Board, none were offered.

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

Agenda Item 4. For Information: Resolutions, Recognition, Letters and Awards

Duane De Freese informed the Board regarding a letter of support endorsing the IRL Council Position Statement from the Volusia County League of Women voters.

Agenda Item 5. For Information: Public Comment

Public comments were offered from Bob Ulevich, and Andrea Coy.

Bob Ulevich spoke to encourage support of the policy document and boundary extension.

Andrea Coy from City of Sebastian affirmed her support for the IRL Council hosting meetings in Sebastian. She also recognized citizen concerns regarding canal spraying and welcomed suggestions from the Board or IRLNEP staff regarding a better way to perform canal maintenance than chemical spraying. Ed Fielding suggested perhaps a presentation on this topic may be appropriate.

Agenda Item 6. For Information: Guest presentations

- a. Chuck Jacoby and Deb Drum presented briefly on current IRL water quality conditions.

Chuck Jacoby: Northern water has cooled. Salinity is down into the 20s from the 30s. Chlorophyll a is lower in southern lagoon. Further north, patchy bloom conditions are found from Cocoa north but not as cohesive as they were earlier in the year. In Mosquito Lagoon and Banana River Chlorophyll a is high so bloom conditions are persisting. Water clarity is poor for the northern region. Seagrass losses have been observed in monthly transects.

Deb Drum: STLR is in good shape after 280 days of Lake Okeechobee releases. When releases stopped, water clarity improved. Secchi depths in most areas at 1 m or above. Temp 22-23.5C; salinity is now in the preferred range for oysters but recovery of oysters and other organisms is currently in doubt after the long period of releases of freshwater. No reports of blue-green algae. Unknown at this time whether the algae have encysted and remain in the system waiting for good growth conditions to resume. Lake Okeechobee is receding. Levels dropped from 15.9 to 15.07 ft. For comparison, last year at this time, the level was approximately 14.5. Corps of Engineers preferred level is approximately 12.5 ft.

Chris Dzadovsky commented on high flow of water from Taylor Creek and protecting Ft. Pierce Inlet area, which will be the recovery zone for the future restoration of entire IRL. He requested a discharge report from C-23, C-24, and C-25. Local fisherman report discharge is greater than it's ever been.

Kevin Powers agreed to provide information for those regions. He also reported 10-Mile creek is undergoing construction and will be online by next rainy season. Chris Dzadovsky asked for info on St. Lucie County Reservoir and the schedule for when that will be enhanced as the county has set aside 1M for this project. Mr. Powers stated 85% of land needed for that project has been purchased. He will find and forward any other available information.

Doug Bournique noted that SJRWMD will be reaching out to SFWMD to discuss reconnection of north and south flows so water moves north and south rather than east or west to the estuaries. He stated 200K acres is available for water storage. He also reported a letter to Congress is being circulated to request that Congress fully fund CERP.

Chris Dzadovsky stated this discussion is why the NEP is important – it keeps people informed of all the moving parts when each agency shares its knowledge and the Board can go back to its constituents with new information.

Drew Bartlett stated that the water farming project is poised to go for next wet season but is waiting for Corps permits.

Kevin Powers will bring back information back to board regarding CERP and overall Everglades restoration. He sees IRL Council as critical for communicating information to public. Drew Bartlett mentioned that C-44 is under construction and that FDEP has requested \$20M to complete the project.

Bob Ulevich applauded public projects to do water farming.

- b. Mike Busha from Treasure Coast Regional Planning council presented on the 2016 Economic Valuation of the IRL.

Mike Busha, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, presented on the two regional planning councils projects focused on the IRL and the economic valuation study they conducted.

Doug Bournique stressed importance of boaters to the local economy. Chris Dzadoovsky mentioned he is also on the Tourism Development Council in St. Lucie County and asked what gaps in visitor data could help in future studies. He reported there is a St. Lucie County study on tourism that he will share when data is available.

Chris Dzadoovsky also mentioned there was a recent week-long boating events where 250 boaters participated. St. Lucie County invested \$50K in the event, but he anticipated there was much more in economic benefits that the county received.

- c. Hugh Harling, PJ Smith and Jordan Matteo from East Central Florida Regional Planning Council presented on mapping for nitrates and best practices for nutrient removal. Hugh Harling introduced PJ Smith and Jordan Matteo to speak on tool development. PJ Smith spoke about the portion of the study that utilized GIS to document outfalls within the 5-county area and did a sea level rise analysis for entire IRL that shows where most vulnerable locations are.

Jordan Matteo focused on handling of stormwater and suggested alternative best practices for keeping stormwater out of the lagoon. This part of the study focused on baffle box installation vs. regular street sweeping. The study suggested baffle box use is expensive, inefficient and promotes fecal coliform growth. He recommended street sweeping as a more viable alternative to keeping pollutants out of the lagoon.

Doug Daniels asked whether curbed streets were required. Jordan replied curbs are not necessarily needed, not having curbs does not prevent street sweeping.

Richard Winger wanted copy of the study and Jordan's contact info. He stated Vero Beach hired a consultant to work on baffle box issues and are also looking at program to sweep weekly. Found it to be effective.

Chris Dzadoovsky referred to fertilizer ordinances and the need for city and county employees to be educated about this issue. He regularly observes employees blowing grass clippings onto roadways where they enter ditches and canals when it rains. Preventing this behavior is a simple educational component so nutrients can be reabsorbed rather than having them enter the system.

Virginia Barker stated Jordan's findings were consistent with Brevard County findings. She stated maintenance costs for baffle boxes are very high, but that sometimes, it's all you can do to remediate the problem. She recommended an all of the above approach rather than choosing a single method. She mentioned an FDEP street sweeping study in areas with and without reuse water is being conducted. Results will help prioritize areas for sweeping.

Doug Daniels asked if sweeping is done, how often does it need to be performed to be effective? Virginia Barker replied that Brevard's regime began as monthly, but they are now fine-tuning the process, looking at the amounts collected each time sweeping is done, and are determining which streets require more frequent sweeping.

Hugh Harling stated that monitoring and maintenance are forever things. He suggested establishing a routine is fine, but to really be effective, monitoring must be conducted. This process also helps in communicating the value of what is being done.

- d. Thomas Ruppert from Florida Sea Grant presented on coastal resiliency planning and potential liabilities for local governments.

There were no questions no comments.

Agenda Item 7. For Consideration: Consent Agenda

Consent criteria:

Duane De Freese described criteria to be used for pacing items on the consent agenda. Ed Fielding requested that staff consider Martin County's criteria as well. He will forward that information to staff.

- a. Work Plan Contract Authorization to Executive Director:
Requested Action: Motion from Board of Directors to authorize Executive Director to execute IRL Council Board-approved work plan contracts and make change orders, as necessary, with the exception of increases to contract pricing which shall be brought back to the board for discussion.
- b. Draft Management Conference Policy Document:
Requested Action: No motion required. Information only. Staff requests Board review of draft document. Board comments and suggested edits are due on or before December 1, 2016. Staff will place draft document on the IRL Council website to receive comment from Management Conference and the public. Final draft document will be brought at the February, 2016 Board of Directors meeting for final approval and signature.
- c. IRL Council Management Conference Appointments
Requested Actions: Motion from Board of Directors to approve changes to Management Conference membership as outlined below:
 - i. Management Board
 - a. Appointing William Tredik, SJRWMD
 - b. Appointing Dianne Hughes, Martin County
 - c. Removing Jay Brawley, SJRWMD
 - d. Removing Ed Fielding, Martin County
 - ii. STEM Advisory Committee
 - a. Appointing Lisa Krinsky, Florida Sea Grant
 - b. Removing Leroy Creswell, UF-IFAS
 - iii. Citizens' Advisory Committee
 - a. Appointing Billy Rotne, Volusia County

d. IRL Northern Planning Boundary Extension

Requested Actions:

1. Board of Directors final approval of the IRL NEP planning boundary extension of 25 miles north from Ponce Inlet to Highbridge Road near Ormond Beach, Volusia County. Preliminary Board approval was made contingent upon Management Board, STEM AC and Citizen AC approvals which have been completed.
2. Direct staff to submit notice of IRL NEP planning boundary extension to EPA.

e. Monthly financial statements

Requested Action: No motion required. Information only.

Presented are a summary page, detail report, monthly balance sheet, and monthly budget vs. actual reports.

DREW BARTLETT MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA. DOUG BOURNIQUE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item 8. For Consideration: Old Business

a. Employee Health Insurance (Frank Sakuma)

Requested Actions: Motion from Board of Directors to request IRL Council admittance to Brevard County's self-insurance plan. If accepted by Brevard County Commission, authorize IRL Council Board of Directors Chair to execute interlocal agreement with Brevard County.

Frank Sakuma explained the process to find cost saving and look across other plans of IRL Council members. Brevard County has a self-insured plan that includes other special districts and constitutional officers. In discussions with the county, staff feels joining Brevard's plan would be advantageous to staff and cost effective for the Board of Directors.

DOUG BOURNIQUE MOTIONED TO ALLOW STAFF THE ABILITY TO DETERMINE WHETHER JOINING BREVARD COUNTY'S SELF-INSURED PLAN IS BENEFICIAL AND ALLOW THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE NEEDED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT SHOULD BREVARD COUNTY COMMISSION APPROVE.

Carolyn Ansay stated she has reviewed the interlocal and there are no issues of concern.

CHRIS DZADOVSKY SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Port Canaveral Statement of Work and Contract (Duane De Freese)

Requested Actions: Motion for Board of Directors to approve the IRLNEP Statement of Work for Canaveral Port Authority education project, and direct the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into a sole-source contract in the amount of \$50,000 with the University of Florida to accomplish Task 1 as outlined in the Statement of Work.

CHRIS DZADOVSKY MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF WORK WITH PORT CANAVERAL AND DIRECT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A SOLE-SOURCE CONTRACT WITH UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA TO ACCOMPLISH TASK 1. RICHARD WINGER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. Proposed Meeting Calendar for 2017 (Kathy Hill)
Requested Actions: Motion(s) from Board of Directors to approve a bi-monthly meeting schedule (with additional meetings noticed in case they are needed) and direct staff to notice the IRL Council Board of Directors meetings for 2017.

Kathy Hill briefed the board regarding moving to a bimonthly meeting schedule, noting that monthly dates will be noticed in case they are needed. The board will have the option at each meeting to determine whether or not to meet again the following month.

CHRIS DZADOVSKY MOVED APPROVAL. DREW BARTLETT SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- d. Florida Estuaries Alliance:
Requested Actions: Motion from Board of Directors to approve Memorandum of Understanding with the 3 Florida National Estuary Programs (Charlotte Harbor, Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay) and authorize Executive Director to sign the MOU.

ITEM WAS PULLED BY STAFF UNTIL THE DECEMBER MEETING TO ALLOW CONSIDERATION BY THE MANAGEMENT BOARD.

Agenda Item 9. For Consideration: New Business

- e. Selection of Auditing Services (Frank Sakuma, Carolyn Ansay)
Requested Actions:
1. Board of Directors will review, rank and select independent financial auditor pursuant to IRL Council RFP 2016-002.
 2. Board of Directors directs the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into a contract with selected firm.

Frank Sakuma briefed the board on the results from review of the auditing RFP. Highest score was awarded to James Moore and Co. Their proposal was for 5 years of service for a total contracted price of \$53K. Staff recommended acceptance.

DOUG DANIELS MOVED APPROVAL TO ACCEPT JAMES MOORE, AND MOVED TO USE TOTAL SCORES OF TOP 3 FIRMS AS RANKED. HE STATED HE IS FAMILIAR WITH THE WORK OF JAMES MOORE AND CO. AND THEY DO QUALITY WORK. DOUG BOURNIQUE SECONDED.

Ed Fielding requested flexibility should be built into the contract to allow an out if needed.

Bob Ulevich commented that this item and the previous one should have been brought before the management board to filter.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- f. Executive Director Annual Employee Evaluation (Carolyn Ansay)

Requested Action: No motion required. Information only.

Carolyn Ansay explained the process for the annual employee evaluation for the Executive Director. Parties need to agree on an evaluation format and if performance is deemed satisfactory, an increase in salary shall be considered. She noted the parties need to come to some agreement so that the evaluation can take place at next meeting.

Ms. Ansay noted her firm has forms available and will share these with the Executive Director for approval first, then share with board. She suggested the board review the Executive director using the approved form over the next month and discuss results at next meeting.

Duane De Freese explained that their meeting packages have the final milestones checklist to use as performance baseline and indication of productivity. He also stated he is personally paying for a 360-review. He noted that the 360-review is not intended to be a performance evaluation but an indicator of a broad spectrum of performance. He will provide summary of the report for review.

- g. RFP CCMP Facilitation (Duane De Freese)

Requested Action: Motion to authorize staff to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan Facilitation pursuant to FY 2016-2017 EPA Work Plan funding.

Duane De Freese briefed the board on staff's recommendation that an RFP be issued to provide facilitation and technical support for the revision of the CCMP. He noted that in speaking with other Florida NEPs, he's been told the \$45K reserved for this purpose is not enough to cover services, particularly for technical support of developing a good plan. It was staff's recommendation to let an RFP and see what comes back in terms of pricing, and the Board can move forward from there.

DOUG BOURNIQUE MOTIONED TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO RELEASE AN RFP FOR FACILITATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT. DREW BARTLETT SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- h. FY 2017-2018 Workplan Development (Duane De Freese)

Requested Action: No motion required. Information only. Presentation of preliminary staff recommendations.

Duane De Freese briefed the board on staff's ideas on how funding will be utilized in the next year. EPA, Section 320 funds would be used for CCMP strategic planning and will not go towards an RFP for competitive projects. Instead, it will be used to fill knowledge gaps as the CCMP revision moves forward. Project funding for lagoon restoration will come from monies contributed by the management conference.

License plate dollars would be used for small grants projects in Volusia through Indian River counties. St. Lucie and Martin County small grants would be funded from either EPA funds or the competitive pool of money.

Duane De Freese stated he was looking for first reaction from Board as to whether this is feasible so that staff can begin planning for this alignment of programmatic needs.

Drew Bartlett stated this plan was a good strategy. He said that the program is developing an understanding of what needs to be done, so it makes sense to be more thoughtful about how to use non-operating dollars to promote program efforts. He requested that staff develop a graphical breakdown for the December meeting so that the Board can flesh out the strategy more.

Ed Fielding said the strategy was enormously beneficial, opens doors for more groups to gain funding and opens the selection process to stimulate additional programs and projects.

Duane De Freese responded by stating that staff will tighten down their proposal and will present it graphically and more fully at the next meeting.

Chris Dzadovsky wondered about EPA being abolished by next president. He said this was unlikely, but asked if staff have begun to think about what would happen to our budget if EPA funds go away? Duane De Freese replied that it is likely that our budget would be sound for the next two years, and that after that, it would be incumbent on the board and staff to promote the non-regulatory nature of the NEP to keep this successful program at the federal level.

Agenda Item 10. For Information: IRLNEP Executive Director and Committee Reports

a. Executive Director

Requested Action: No motion required. Information only.

Duane De Freese briefed the Board on the new rules for Florida state appropriations and lobbying. He shared the printed publication with the Board.

Duane De Freese noted for the Board that Florida Audubon has placed the IRL as a priority on its conservation action agenda, both regionally and statewide.

Agenda Item 11. For Information: IRL Council Board of Directors Member Reports

Drew Bartlett mentioned that a solicitation will be made available in December for public education. 1M of Section 319 funds will be put toward educational efforts for urban fertilizer practices and septic education. He encourages counties and the NEP to apply.

Drew Bartlett noted that the FDEP budget request for the IRL being sent to the Governor and state Legislature is requesting 20M in recurring funds for IRL septic to sewer, large stormwater projects and muck removal projects. He encourages counties to think in 5 and 10 year increments for project fund requests. He will be in touch with utility directors on the lagoon to focus on what this funding program looks like going forward.

Chris Dzadovsky noted that Ft. Pierce's North Beach is all on septic, but the county is looking at converting it to sewer. He asked what the timeline was for matching funding. Drew Bartlett replied the program is being designed to reduce homeowner cost; and if the appropriation comes, it will be available beginning on July 1.

Ed Fielding said that Martin County already has in place a program for septic-to-sewer conversion that is ready to move forward this coming spring. He looks forward to applying to this new program.

Chris Dzadovsky requested an update on FDEP's new rules for contaminants in waterways. He stated he'd previously asked for the criteria for how the new rules were developed and wanted to share them with the STEM Committee for a review of potential downstream concerns. He wants to better understand the ramifications of this rule change.

Drew Bartlett replied that FDEP was delinquent in updating rules. They should be done every three years, but it hadn't been done in much longer. He stated DEP is not detecting 98% of chemicals regulated, and when they are detected, they are mostly well below harmful levels. He noted the process was both painful and controversial, but that it couldn't be put off any longer. The technical document is available online and uses age old science to calculate toxicity numbers.

Chris Dzadovsky sent congratulations to Brevard County for passing their sales tax to benefit the lagoon. He noted St. Lucie's amendment did not pass but he is proud of Brevard citizens for passing it in Brevard.

Agenda Item 17. Adjournment

**MOTION TO ADJOURN MADE BY KEVIN POWERS, SECONDED BY DOUG BOURNIQUE.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IRL Board of Directors meeting adjourned.