



# IRL Council and IRL NEP FY 2015-2016: Progress & Major Milestone Report to Investors and Stakeholders

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*October 1, 2015 – June 11, 2016*

IRL Council & IRL NEP: Focused on Project Implementation and Strategic Outcomes for IRL Restoration, Citizen Engagement, Applied Scientific Research and Monitoring/Mapping/Modeling (3M) Initiatives

- FY 2015-2016 Percent of Annual Budget Dedicated to Projects = 70%.
- FY 2016-2017 Percent of Annual Budget Dedicated to Projects = 74%.

## FY 2015 - 2016 IRL Council/IRL NEP Funded Projects in Progress

- Channel Denitrification Treatment to Reduce Nutrient Loading to the IRL (Restoration; Brevard).
- Intertidal Oyster Reefs in IRL (Brevard Zoo; Restoration, Community Engagement and Monitoring; Volusia, Brevard).
- Wilbur By The Sea Drainage Improvement Project (Restoration; Volusia).
- Sebastian Oyster Mats (Restoration; City of Sebastian, Indian River).
- Shoreline Management Plan & Restoration Project (FDEP; Planning and Restoration; Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin).
- Preparing Titusville for the Future: Lagoon Shoreline Restoration Project (University of Central Florida: Brevard).
- Novel Optical Techniques Using Drones to Characterize Water Quality (Indian River State College; Technology Development; All 5 counties).
- Be Floridian in the IRL; Landscape Fertilizer Awareness (Marine Resources Council; All 5 counties).
- Habitat Through Outreach H2O (Marine Discovery Center; Citizen Outreach and Engagement; Volusia).
- IRL Education Program Coordinator (Marine Resources Council Education & Outreach; All 5 counties).
- Today's Leaves and Grass Clippings – Tomorrow's IRL Muck (Citizen Engagement; Brevard).

- IRL NEP: IRL Science Symposiums (Science Education; All 5 counties).
- Indian River Lagoon Regional Envirothon (Science Education; Brevard through Martin counties).
- Lagoon Life Education Program (Citizen Engagement; St. Lucie).
- Capacity Building Through Grants & Proposals (Cape Canaveral Scientific; CCMP project funding; All 5 counties).
- Paradise Park Stormwater Project Phase 4 (Restoration; St. Lucie).
- St. Lucie Basin Septic to Central Wastewater Collection (Restoration; Martin).
- Florida Oceanographic Society Oyster/Seagrass/Shoreline Restoration Program (Restoration; Martin).

### FY 2016–2017 IRL Council/IRL NEP Projects (Contingent on Secured Funding)

- IRL NEP Request for Proposals (RFP) developed; Announcement released to public; Project proposals reviewed by Management Board, IRL NEP staff and IRL Council Board; Strategic funding decisions made by IRL Council.
- FY 2016-2017 IRL Council/IRL NEP Projects
  - Restore Our Shores (Brevard Zoo; Citizen Engagement/Restoration; Brevard).
  - FY2016-17 Grant Writing Support for Local Governments (Cape Canaveral Scientific; Available to IRL cities, counties and stakeholders; All 5 counties).
  - Manatee Creek Stormwater Treatment Technology Assessment Project (Restoration Research; Martin).
  - Indian River Lagoon Comprehensive Canal Study (ORCA; Applied Water Quality Research; All 5 counties).
  - Bivalves at Work: Oyster reef restoration & water quality in the Southern IRL (Smithsonian Marine Field Station; Applied Restoration Research; All 5 counties).
  - Modeling ecosystem dynamics in the IRL (FAU/HBOI; Climate Change Modeling and Impact Assessment; All 5 counties).
  - Educating Titusville: Developing a Living Shorelines Outreach Program (Citizen Engagement; Brevard).
  - Livin' for the Lagoon Homeowner's Assn. Education Program Expansion (Environmental Learning Center; Homeowner Association Engagement & Restoration; Indian River).
  - Creating a new, more diverse generation of IRL advocates for (Pelican Island Audubon Society, Indian River County; Engaging Under-Represented and Underserved Communities; Indian River).

- Project H2O Phase Two: Integrating Technology & the Project H2O Academy (Marine Discovery Center; Citizen Engagement; Volusia).
- IRL NEP Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan Revision (IRL NEP; Entire IRL; Revision of 2008 CCMP; All 5 counties).
- Paul’s Island Living Shoreline Restoration Project (FDEP; Project in Restoration of oyster reef breakwater and living shoreline; Indian River).
- Wesley’s Island Native Planting Project (Restoration; St. Lucie).
- Boston Road Stormwater Improvements (Restoration; Edgewater, Volusia).
- Establish BMP’s for Spoil Island Shoreline Restoration (Friends of the Spoil Islands; Restoration BMP Planning; All 5 counties).
- Shoreline Habitat Restoration and Management Plan Phase-I (Survey/Mapping/Modeling; Brevard).
- Sebastian Septic to Sewer Grant Incentive Program (Restoration; Sebastian, Indian River).
- Savannas Regional Restoration Project – Phase I (Restoration Planning and Restoration; Martin).
- San Lucie Plaza Subdivision Drainage Improvements Phase 2 (Stormwater Improvement – Restoration; St. Lucie).
- Indian Hills Habitat Restoration (Restoration; St. Lucie).
- Vero Isles Permeable Pavement Inlet Retrofit and CIPP (City of Vero Beach; Stormwater Improvement; Indian River).
- Shoreline Restoration (FDEP; Restoration; Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin).
- Oyster Restoration: Shuck & Share (Marine Discovery Center; Restoration; Volusia).
- Indian River Lagoon Regional Envirothon (Science Education; Brevard through Martin counties).
- Public outreach and education funded by \$100,000 donation from Port Canaveral (IRL NEP Implementation. All 5 counties).
- IRL Health Assessment and Report Card (University of Maryland in conjunction with Marine Resources Council; All 5 counties).

## IRL Science & Technical Support to Investors & Stakeholders

- FAU/HBOI “Connecting Users to IRL Data Initiative” Conference Steering Committee (12/7-8/2015).
- Northeast Florida Estuary Restoration Team (NERT) Steering Committee.
- East Central Florida Estuary Restoration Team (ECERT) Steering Committee.

- Member of Martin County Agriculture & Natural Resources Advisory Committee. (appointment by Martin County Board of County Commissioners).
- St. Lucie River Issues Team Steering Committee.
- Marine Resource Council Ecosystem Health Assessment and Report Card Steering Committee.
- SJRWMD RFQ 28450IRL Stormwater Capture and Treatment Project Development and Feasibility Study - Stakeholder review committee.
- Brevard County TMDL Target Refinement Process – Stakeholder review and support.
- Volusia County Reasonable Assurance Plan (RAP) - Stakeholder review and support.
- Volusia County IRL NEP northern planning boundary amendment – IRL NEP (STEM AC evaluation and recommendations).
- Subject matter expert support for the Indian River Lagoon Economic Valuation Update prepared by East Central Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils and funded by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant P0169.
- Participated in National Estuary Program Tech Transfer Conference (San Juan PR; December 2015) sponsored by the Association of National Estuary Programs.
- Participated in the U.S. EPA National Estuary Programs Workshop and Directors Meeting (Washington DC; February 2016).

## IRL NEP Program Reorganization

- IRL Council/IRL NEP staff hired. Executive Director (10/01/2015); Chief Operating Officer (12/01/2015); Administrative Assistant and Communications Director (04/25/2016).
- IRL Council designated as host of IRL NEP by U.S. EPA (01/08/2016).
- Management Board Members, first appointments (03/18/2016).
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Modeling Advisory Committee (STEM), first appointments (05/13/2016).
- EPA Section 320 Work Plan for FY 2016-2017 submitted 05/31/2016.

## Community & Stakeholder Outreach

- Invited speakers for over 40 scientific and community conferences, meetings and events.
- 2016 IRL NEP calendar and photo contest implemented. 100% distribution completed. (25,000 calendars).

- Numerous meetings with IRL Council members, investor representatives, citizens, students, stakeholders and media.

## Community & Stakeholder Support Development

- Volusia League of Cities – Volusia Governments Water Resources Compact (04/30/2016).
- Space Coast League of Cities – IRL Compact (04/11/2016).
- Treasure Coast League of Cities – IRL Compact (04/20/2016).
- Canaveral Port Authority – Resolution 2016-08-EXE-3 Supporting Space Coast and Treasure Coast League of Cities Compacts (04/27/2016).
- Canaveral Port Authority – Resolution 2016-07-EXE-E Authorizing \$100,000 of financial support for the IRL Council for education and outreach.
- Space Coast Tourist Development Council Indian River Lagoon Resolution (04/27/2016).
- Space Coast League of Cities IRL Summit at Florida Institute of Technology (06/11/2016)

## IRL Council Interlocal Funding Agreement

- All IRL Council members have delivered direct funds pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement or directed funds to projects authorized by the IRL Council.
- Invoices for FY 2016-2017 will be sent to IRL Council members on 06/15/2016 pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement. Annual contributions are due on or before September 15, 2016.

## IRL Council Expanded Funding

- IRL License Plate Revenue Transfer Agreement (Contract #28635) to transfer proportional revenues collected from the sale of the IRL license plate. After distributing a portion of the total revenue to the South Florida Water Management District for St' Lucie and Martin Counties, the District will transfer funds proportionally to the IRL NEP to be used for qualifying projects in Volusia, Brevard and Indian River Counties.
- \$100,000 of additional funding (above the SJRWMD annual contribution to the IRL Council) was allocated by SJRWMD for RFQ 28450: IRL Stormwater Capture and Treatment Project Development and Feasibility Study.
- Pending Congressional appropriation decisions, expanded IRL NEP annual funding is expected from the 2016 EPA NEP Federal Reauthorization Bill.
- Canaveral Port Authority authorized \$100,000 of financial support to the IRL Council for use in IRL education (Resolution RES-2016-07-EXE-E) on 05/25/2016.

- 12 memorial donations representing \$1,225 in donations have been received by the IRL Council in remembrance of the Late Mr. John Willamee. The IRL NEP is working with Brevard Zoo to apply those donations to supplement a funded living shoreline restoration project.
- Provided support to IRL stakeholders that resulted in over \$27 million in IRL project funding from 2017 State Legislative Appropriations.

## Milestones and Outcomes Projected for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

- IRL Council confirmation of the Citizens Advisory Committee and Finance Advisory Committee. Completion of the IRL NEP Management Conference restructuring.
- Convene the 1<sup>st</sup> STEM AC meeting with three (3) action items for consideration: 1. Volusia County northern planning boundary amendment; 2. Evaluation of DRAFT emerging technology questionnaire; and 3. Priority ranking of CCMP action plan list.
- Initiate CCMP revision strategic planning for FY 2016-2017.
- Begin development of a new IRL NEP website that is compliant with FL law for special districts and showcases new content and user interfaces driven by strategic communication and branding needs.
- Development of FY 2016-2017 Legislative Position Document.
- Development of an IRL NEP Annual Report to Investors and Stakeholders.
- Development of a comprehensive list of current and proposed restoration, community engagement and projects from IRL cities, counties and stakeholders.
- Initiate discussions about comprehensive design of an integrated IRL monitoring, mapping and modeling initiative.
- Project Goal for IRL NEP 1<sup>st</sup> Operational Year: 17 contracts from FY 2015-2016 in progress or completed; 27 projects for FY 2016-2017 (including education project with Port Canaveral) have Scope of Works developed, Contracts negotiated and executed, and project start date of October 1, 2016.