

common goal to improve communication, coordination, leadership, and investment among the federal, state, and local government agencies and private-sector organizations throughout the IRL watershed.

This vision for change began at the local level on September 13, 2013 when representatives from the six counties along the IRL (Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, and Palm Beach) met for the first time as the IRL Counties Collaborative to begin an organized local effort to respond more effectively to declining IRL water quality, recurring harmful algal blooms, and negative impacts to local economies. These discussions led to the creation of the IRL Council in February 2015. The Interlocal Agreement was last amended in 2017.

The IRL Council began its first fiscal and operational year on October 1, 2015 and worked quickly and strategically to hire staff, relocate the IRLNEP headquarters to Sebastian, Florida, and establish a new IRL Management Conference of citizens, scientists, and community leaders to advise the IRL Council Board of Directors.

IRL Council creation and IRLNEP reorganization provided an immediate benefit of increased and diversified financial support for IRL restoration from \$600,000 of annual federal funding to \$2,100,000 annually of mixed federal, state, and local funding. These new revenues allowed for continued and expanded funding for IRL restoration projects consistent with the 2008 IRL Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP).

In fiscal year 2016-2017, the IRL Council and IRLNEP successfully completed and passed a mandatory five-year program evaluation with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that is an obligation for continued federal funding and which re-aligned the IRLNEP brand to “One Lagoon - One Community - One Voice” to reflect the commitment to a program that is community-based and consensus-driven.

The IRL Council and IRLNEP recognize that the IRL CCMP is a science-based pathway to restore ecosystem and economic health to the IRL that is long-term, non-regulatory, consensus-driven, and community-based. Martin County has been an active partner in the CCMP update and in the activities and management of the IRLNEP.

ISSUES:

None.

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY REVIEW:

This item has been reviewed for legal sufficiency to determine whether it is consistent with applicable law.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECOMMENDATION

Move that the Board approve the resolution.

ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Pull this item from the Consent Agenda and provide staff direction.

FISCAL IMPACT:

RECOMMENDATION

None

Funding Source	County Funds	Non-County Funds
Subtotal		
Project Total		

ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

None

DOCUMENT(S) REQUIRING ACTION:

- Budget Transfer / Amendment Chair Letter Contract / Agreement
 Grant / Application Notice Ordinance Resolution
 Other:

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