

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** Jason E. Brown,  
County Administrator

**THROUGH:** Richard B. Szpyrka, P.E.  
Public Works Director

**FROM:** Kendra Cope, M.S.  
Coastal Resources Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** **Outline of Indian River Lagoon Management Plan  
Recommendation for Moving Forward**

**DATE:** March 29, 2019

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**BACKGROUND**

On April 17, 2018, the Board approved a contract with Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech) for professional Water Resources/Stormwater design services for a three-year term. Tetra Tech is the selected County Consultant for professional services relative to the development of a County Indian River lagoon Plan.

On June 19, 2018, under Commissioners Matters 14.C.1, the Board discussed and approved pursuing an Indian River Lagoon Management Plan (IRL Plan). At the time it was unclear how comprehensive the IRL Plan needed to be. It needed to marry all of the work the County was already doing through the Utilities, Public Works and Parks departments to coordinate a cohesive effort in maximizing funds for an efficient return on investment, when doing projects to improve the health of the Lagoon. As such, staff entered into a work order with Tetra Tech on July 17, 2018 to create an outline of a plan for how the County will focus on potential water quality projects, habitat restoration projects and education efforts. The outline will also list fiscally responsible management actions the County can implement in order to continue its efforts in revitalizing the Indian River Lagoon throughout the lifetime of the plan.

**DESCRIPTIONS AND CONDITIONS**

The outline of the IRL Plan prepared by Tetra Tech after multiple staff coordination meetings represents a framework to help guide the County's various efforts to improve the health of the Lagoon. This document will also serve as the basis for a comprehensive plan that can be developed. Staff intends to include funding for the comprehensive plan in the proposed budget for next fiscal year. The IRL plan will be designed similarly to the County's Beach Preservation

Plan and will be updated regularly every 3-5 years. The Plan works with all existing Indian River County Departments that have diverse skill sets and the knowledge, ability, and mission to affect change in the lagoon. The plan also identifies local projects either currently undergoing or planned over the next 3-5 years and indicates how those projects meet the goals and objectives of the Plan while also meeting water quality targets set by the State and improve the health, productivity, aesthetic appeal, and economic value of the lagoon. There are two key concepts within the goals and objective this plan:

**1. The five (5) R's: Research, Reduce, Revitalize, Rally and Respond**

These R's represent management strategies that are integrated throughout the plan and correlate to other management strategies undertaken by other stakeholders bordering the IRL. Each management strategy outlines areas of focus with objectives identified through two phases and specific goals for each of those objectives

**2. The 2-phased approach for each Objective**

-The first phase includes general goals created to better understand what factors are impacting the health of the Indian River County portion of the Lagoon. This phase will consist of 3-5 years of information gathering and implementation of current and prospective projects.

-The second phase will occur after phase one is complete and information collected can guide specific measurable goals to directly rehabilitate the Indian River County portion of the Lagoon.

**FUNDING**

Funding is not necessary for the approval of the IRL Plan outline, however funds to create this document are provided in General Fund/IR Lagoon Projects/Other Professional Services Account No. 00128337-033190.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board approve the IRL Plan outline with any additional recommendations regarding the IRL Plan and directs staff to move forward with developing a comprehensive Indian River Lagoon Management Plan.

**ATTACHMENT**

IRL Plan Outline

**APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR: APRIL 9, 2019**