

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

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: April 30, 2019

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 Management 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 draft 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. Staff intends to include funding for the development of 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 IRL Plan will work 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 Draft IRL Plan Outline identifies local projects either currently ongoing or planned within the next 3-5 years, and the comprehensive IRL Plan will indicate how those projects meet plan goals and objectives 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 identified within the goals and objectives of this plan outline:

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

These R's represent management strategies, or actions, that are integrated throughout the plan. The R's correlate to management strategies undertaken by other stakeholders bordering the IRL. Each management strategy outlines an area of focus which includes multiple objectives that will be met through two-phased approach. There are goals for each of the 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 in the Central IRL. 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 will guide the development of specific measurable goals to directly revitalize the Indian River County portion of the Lagoon.

FUNDING

Funding is not necessary for the approval of the Draft IRL Plan outline, however funds to create this document in the amount of \$14,775.00 are provided in General Fund/IR Lagoon Projects/Other Professional Services Account No. 00128337-033190.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff is requesting feedback from the Board on the Draft IRL Plan Outline and is requesting approval of the Draft IRL Plan Outline. If approved, staff will work with Tetra Tech to generate a scope of work to develop a comprehensive IRL Plan using the outline as its foundation and framework. The scope of work will include staff working in conjunction with Tetra Tech to produce a draft comprehensive management plan.

ATTACHMENT

Draft IRL Plan Outline

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR: MAY 7, 2019