

June 19, 2018
ITEM 14.C.1

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 13, 2018

SUBJECT: Indian River Lagoon Master Plan

FROM: Susan Adams
Commissioner, District 1

As we approach the budget process, I would like to discuss budgeting \$25,000 to create an Indian River Lagoon Management Plan. Many years ago, the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners (the Board) created a Beach Management Plan that has been a very helpful tool in addressing and guiding our beach renourishment program. I believe a similar plan would be very helpful as we look at ways to address the issues facing the Indian River Lagoon ensuring that we are tackling lagoon projects in a logical manner that allows us to maximize the limited funding available, while positioning the county to take advantage of federal and state grant monies.

The Board has wisely set aside money to help fund lagoon projects. I believe it is in our best interest to ensure we are spending that money in a responsible and well thought out manner. The Board has been very forward thinking in prioritizing projects that have had a great impact on the sustainable health of the Indian River Lagoon. From small habitat restoration projects to large wastewater projects, Indian River County has been very proactive in their commitment to the health of the lagoon. My goal would be to build on this commitment.

While our borders may be rigid, those of the lagoon are not as it flows through neighboring counties and municipalities. By looking at the strategies utilized by our regional counterparts, we have an opportunity to create a stronger program in Indian River County. Brevard County, working with local agencies, organizations, scientists and advocates has set up a funding program and plan to address the lagoon in their area. While they are larger and have more resources available, they also have more issues facing the lagoon. Using the Brevard County process as an example could be very beneficial for us: we also have an involved community of advocates, organizations

scientists and agencies wanting to be part of a positive solution. While I would not propose as in depth of a plan as they
Indian River Lagoon Master Plan

have created, I do believe we need to look at the projects in our county that are proposed, look at project areas that may be missing, look at the science and data and bring everything together in a comprehensive manner. With so many factors impacting the health of the lagoon, a management plan would help guide our efforts to ensure that we are addressing all areas of influence.

The Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRLNEP) is currently in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) process. Part of this process includes compiling a list of projects from each jurisdiction. While this is a work in progress, the expectation is that the list will be updated on an annual basis once the CCMP is completed and adopted. Project collection from multiple sources is ongoing by the IRLNEP. The City of Vero Beach also has their Lagoon Legacy Program that we have actively participated in. I would propose that we use these lists and projects as a starting point in creating a Lagoon Management Plan for Indian River County.

Creating a Indian River County Lagoon Management Plan will ensure that we are undertaking projects in a logical manner building on Indian River County's established commitment to the health of the lagoon, allowing us to maximize the limited funding available, while positioning the County to take advantage of federal and state grant monies.

Attachments:

Brevard County Save Our Lagoon Plan 2018
IRLNEP IRC Preliminary Project List