



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

Resolution/Award/Presentation

C.3.

1/12/2026

Subject:

Presentation - National Estuary Program, Dr. Duane De Freese

Fiscal Impact:

Dept/Office:

Requested Action:

Summary Explanation and Background:

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

Indian River Lagoon
National Estuary Program



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IRL Restoration and Recovery

Making progress together

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IRL Council and IRLNEP Executive Director
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Responding to an estuary in crisis

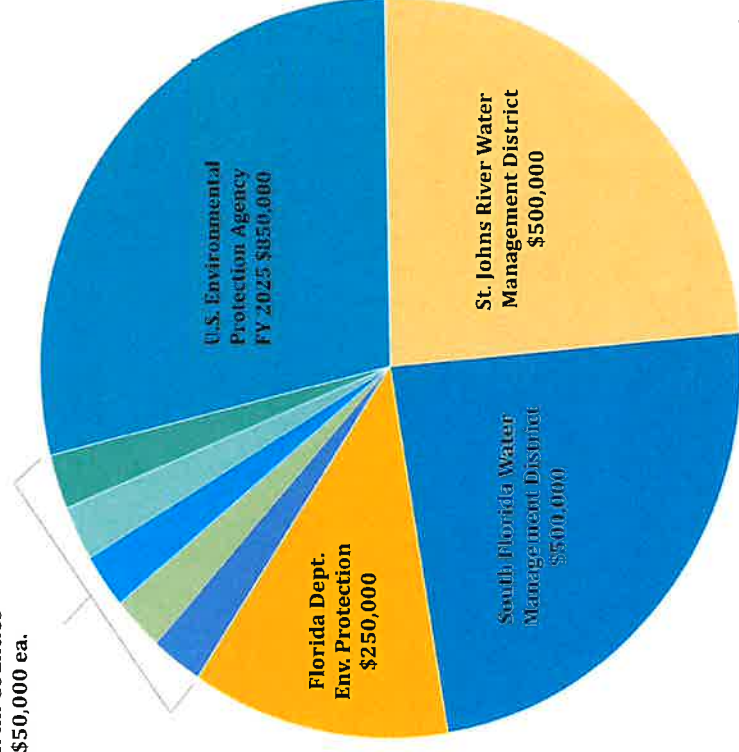
2015 Creation of the IRL Council by interlocal agreement

Convene a Management Conference of scientists, resource managers, community leaders, industry representatives, and citizens

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Annual IRLNEP Funding From IRL Council Partners

Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin Counties
\$50,000 ea.



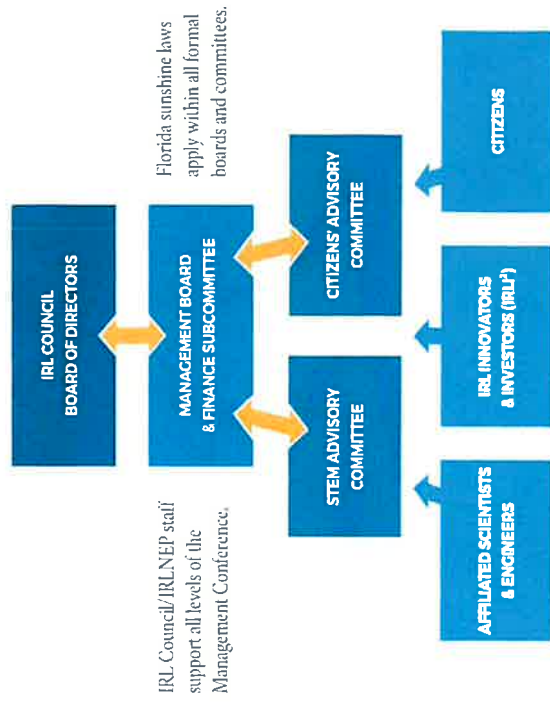


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IRLNEP Management Conference

IRLNEP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

A Collaborative Approach To Network Governance



8 IRL Council Board of Directors

FDEP, SJRWMD, SFWMD, Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin Counties

U.S. EPA serves in advisory, non-voting role

IRLNEP Management Conference

32 Science Technology Engineering and Modeling Advisory Committee Organizations (1 member each)

53 Management Board and Finance Subcommittee Members

20 Citizen Advisory Committee Members (5 counties)

FY 2026 8 full-time staff; 1 contracted grants manager

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No single entity possesses all the required knowledge, skills, and resources to restore a large, complex ecosystem.



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INDIAN RIVER LAGOON
NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

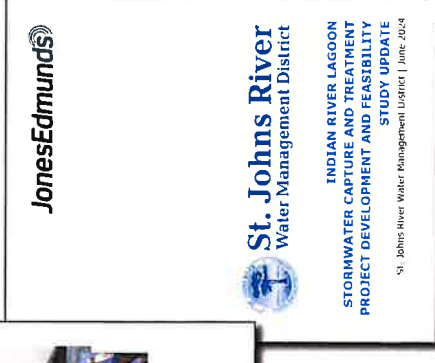
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Importance of science-based strategic planning

- Understand root causes and pollution sources.
- Identify and prioritize projects
- Convene partners.
- Allocate resources.
- Set clear and measurable project outcomes.
- Consider return-on-investment.
- Adapt to changing conditions.
- Respond to emerging opportunities.

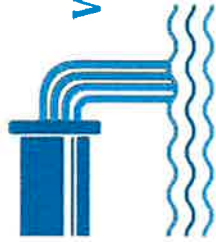




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IRL Council/IRLNEP investment outcomes

IRLNEP Projects Fiscal Year 2016-2025 248 Projects, \$24,899,815



**NUTRIENT REDUCTION &
WATER QUALITY RESTORATION**

39 Projects
\$5,756,948



**COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION
AND ENGAGEMENT**

84 Projects
\$5,083,625



HABITAT RESTORATION

74 Projects
\$10,538,162



**SCIENCE, MONITORING
AND INNOVATION**

51 Projects
\$3,521,080



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IRL Council/IRLNEP investment outcomes by county

Investments by County

Volusia	24 projects	\$2,794,541
Brevard	37 projects	\$5,092,379
Indian River	21 projects	\$2,656,835
St. Lucie	28 projects	\$3,577,421
Martin	28 projects	\$3,445,871
Lagoonwide	110 projects	\$7,332,769

Historic levels of federal and state investments in the IRL

Federal

- IRLNEP annual EPA funding
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Bill
- Competitive grants (NOAA)



State of Florida

- Clean Waterways Act (2020)
- Resilient Florida Program (2021)
- IRL Protection Program (2023)



<https://protectingfloridatogether.gov/state-action/grants-submissions>



A healthy IRL is a good investment

<https://onelagoon.org/>

\$28.3 BILLION
in spending
generates



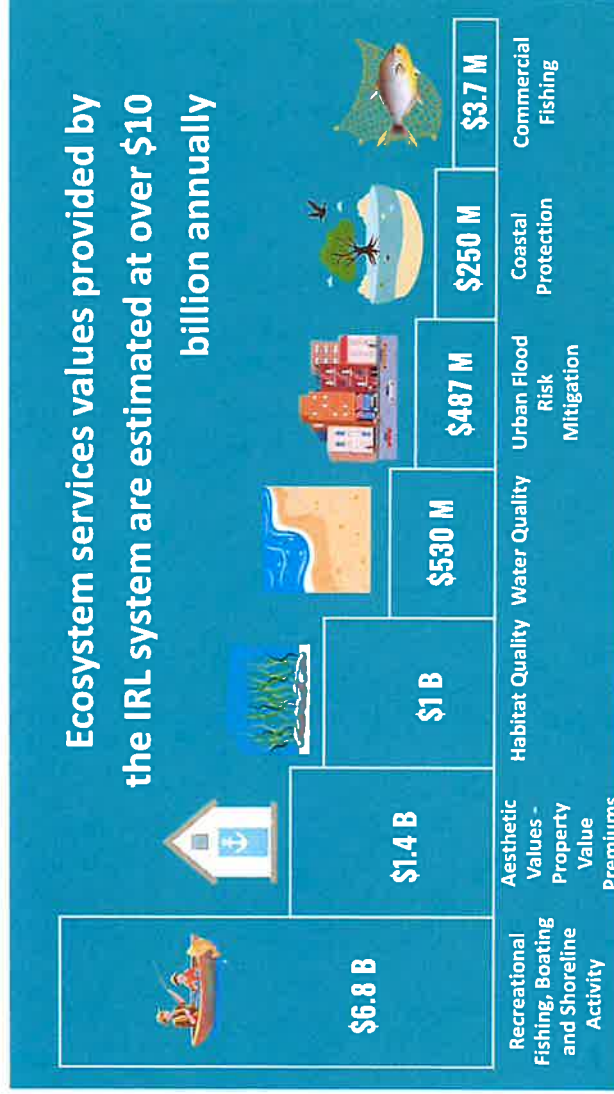
\$14 BILLION
in value added
to local GDP



\$8.3 BILLION
in wages



128,400
jobs



Reports available online at www.onelagoon.org

*To estimate overall economic impacts TBG used IMPLAN (IMpact analysis for PLANning, an input-output modeling system).

NOAA Habitat Restoration & Coastal Resilience Grant

Benefit Cost Ratios



24X
RETURN ON
INVESTMENT



Workforce

- 5 Federal Agencies
- 2 State Agencies
- 4 Academic Institutions
- 5 Non-profit Organizations
- 16 Industry Consultants
- 15 Student Internships
- Over 2,400 Citizen Volunteers.





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Brevard County is leading the way
HEALTHY LAGOON – HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

*Every project is progress
There are no “silver bullets”
Ecosystem restoration takes time, resolve, and investments*



CONTACT

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