

AGENDA	
Section	New Business
Item No.	VI F 2

Meeting Date
May 5, 2016



AGENDA REPORT
BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT:	Resolution Re: Indian River Lagoon (IRL)
DEPT/OFFICE:	Tourism Development Office (TDO)

Requested Action:

The Tourist Development Council (TDC) requests that the Board of County Commissioners support the Indian River Lagoon Resolution

Summary Explanation & Background:

The Brevard County Tourist Development Council (TDC) at their April 27, 2016 meeting unanimously approved recommending the Board of County Commissioners support the Indian River Lagoon Resolution.

Brevard County tourism is directly and indirectly linked to our natural resources assets that provide recreational activities for visitors and economic opportunities for our diverse business community with an estimated economic impact of \$3.7 billion annually. The TDC shares a common belief with our residents and visitors that our exceptional quality of life is connected to the Indian River Lagoon's rich cultural heritage, dynamic innovation economy and coastal and ocean resources of global significance.

The Indian River Lagoon has become one of the most vulnerable estuaries in Florida. It is threatened throughout its geographic range and watershed by water quality decline, habitat alteration and loss, fisheries decline, loss of filter feeders and biological diversity, invasive exotic species, altered hydrologic flow, pathogens, toxic chemicals and sea level rise.

The TDC shall work in close collaboration with the IRL Council and the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRL NEP) to develop and implement a visionary and comprehensive restoration plan for the Indian River Lagoon based on the best available science and a process that nurtures open communication and engagement among scientists, resource managers, citizens and stakeholders with representatives from the public, private and independent sectors at all levels. The TDC will be cooperative and active participants in that process via the TDC Beach Improvement Committee.

Contact: Eric Garvey, Executive Director at 433.4470
 Eric.garvey@visitspacecoast.com

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

Exhibits Attached: Resolution

Contract / Agreement (If attached):		Reviewed by	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	PR	<input type="checkbox"/>
County Attorney		Assistant County Manager, Frank Abbate	Assistant County Manager, Venetta Valdengo	Department Director / Extension Eric Garvey, Executive Director at 433-4470 Eric.Garvey@visitspacecoast.com				
County Manager								
Stockton Whitten								



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May 6, 2016

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Eric Garvey, Tourism Development Office Director

RE: Item VI.F.2., Request by Tourist Development Council (TDC) to Support the Indian River Lagoon Resolution

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on May 5, 2016, approved the request made by TDC to support its Indian River Lagoon resolution.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK**

Tammy Rowe

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

/ds

cc: Each Commissioner
County Manager
County Attorney

Brevard County Tourist Development Council
INDIAN RIVER LAGOON (IRL) RESOLUTION
“One Lagoon – One Community – One Voice”

WHEREAS, the Brevard County Tourist Development Council was established to promote growth, development and quality of tourism on the Space Coast; and

WHEREAS, Brevard County tourism is directly and indirectly linked to our natural resources assets that provide recreational activities for visitors and economic opportunities for our diverse business community with an estimated economic impact of \$3.7 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, the Brevard County Tourist Development Council shares a common belief with our residents and visitors that our exceptional quality of life is connected to the Indian River Lagoon’s rich cultural heritage, dynamic innovation economy, and coastal and ocean resources of global significance; and

WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon has become one of the most vulnerable estuaries in Florida. It is threatened throughout its geographic range and watershed by water quality decline, habitat alteration and loss, fisheries decline, loss of filter feeders and biological diversity, invasive exotic species, altered hydrologic flow, pathogens, toxic chemicals and sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the creation of the IRL Council, a special district of the State of Florida, provided a historic opportunity for expanded local leadership, participation and responsibility from cities and counties along the Indian River Lagoon with dedicated annual funding through inter-local agreement from federal, state and local IRL Council partners; and

WHEREAS, the acceptance by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of the IRL Council as the new host of the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program on January 8, 2016 provides an opportunity to implement a non-regulatory, collaborative and consensus-building approach to IRL restoration, conservation and stewardship decision-making.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BREVARD COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

SECTION 1. CONNECTED LEADERSHIP: That the Brevard County Tourist Development Council shall work in close collaboration with the IRL Council and the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRL NEP) to develop and implement a visionary and comprehensive restoration plan for the Indian River Lagoon based on the best available science and a process that nurtures open communication and engagement among scientists, resource managers, citizens and stakeholders with representatives from the public, private and independent sectors at all levels. The Brevard County Tourist Development Council will be cooperative and active participants in that process via the Brevard County Tourist Development Council’s Beach Improvements Committee.

SECTION 2. POLICY:

LOCAL/STATE. That the Brevard County Tourist Development Council shall work individually among our members and collectively to support initiatives to amend existing policies and make recommendations for new policies at local and state levels that restore and protect the Indian River Lagoon.

FEDERAL. That the Brevard County Tourist Development Council shall work in close collaboration with tourism organizations throughout the State of Florida to support legislative policy statements that clarify and define the Federal role and responsibilities for the restoration and stewardship of the IRL, an estuary designated as an "Estuary of National Significance" in 1990, as well as other nationally designated estuaries throughout Florida.

SECTION 3: RESTORATION INVESTMENT: That the Brevard County Tourist Development Council supports use of Florida Water and Land Legacy funds approved by Constitutional Amendment in 2013 (Amendment 1) for annual, recurring Indian River Lagoon restoration and stewardship funding. Furthermore, the Brevard County Tourist Development Council supports expanded Federal funding from the Congress of the United States for the U.S. EPA National Estuary Program.

SECTION 4. INFORMED AND ENGAGED CITIES AND CITIZENS: That the Brevard County Tourist Development Council shall work cooperatively with the IRL Council and IRL NEP and other local, state and Federal partners to develop, fund and implement effective, efficient and science-based citizen information and engagement programs throughout the Indian River Lagoon.