

Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program

Governing Board Meeting

August 14, 2014

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Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program History

- What is the NEP
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency oversees and funds 28 National Estuary Programs
- Non-regulatory
- For 23 years, St. Johns River Water Management District sole sponsor



Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program - Looking Ahead

- Expand National Estuary Program partnership to increase sponsor base
- Opportunity to:
 1. Reignite community engagement
 2. Target IRL for increased funding at local, state and federal level for projects
 3. Highlight importance of IRL in outreach and education



The Indian River Lagoon

- One of the most biologically diverse estuaries
- 156 miles
- 3 water bodies
- 2 WMDs
- Annual economic benefit of more than \$3.7 billion
- 15,000 jobs



Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program - Looking Ahead

- Design Team meeting – August 18
 - 3 County Commissioners
 - 2 WMDs
- Stakeholders drafting Interlocal Agreement to be signed by:
 - Florida Department of Environmental Protection
 - South Florida Water Management District
 - St. Johns River Water Management District
 - Five Indian River Lagoon counties
 - Opportunity for municipalities



Next Month

- Evaluate recommendations on NEP structure and budget
- Secure funding participation agreements from partners
- Propose funding for Governing Board consideration

