

Brevard County
Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan
Citizen Oversight Committee

July 18, 2025 – 8:30 to 11:30 am
Brevard County Government Center
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, 3rd Floor, Florida Room
Viera, Florida 32940

- I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of the Agenda
- IV. Approval of Minutes
- V. Progress and Fiscal Reports
 - a. Monthly Progress Report – Virginia Barker, Director
 - b. Monthly Revenue Graph & Financial Statements – Lori Pierce, Fiscal Analyst
- VI. Other Reports and Special Presentations
 - a. Geology, Karst and Groundwater Vulnerability – Guy “Harley” Means, Director and State Geologist, Florida Geological Survey, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
 - b. Septic to Sewer Project Prioritization & Groundwater Performance Data – Anthony Gubler, Environmental Specialist III, Brevard County Natural Resources
 - c. Learning from Community Focused Pilot Hard Clam Restoration in the Indian River Lagoon: Techniques and Takeaways - Tyler Provoncha, Conservation Manager, Restore Our Shores, Brevard Zoo
 - d. Clam Farming in the Indian River Lagoon – Ed Mangano & Mike Abdul, Local Clam Farmers
 - e. Video – My Lagoon Story: Mark Schrope
- VII. Old Business
- VIII. New Business
 - a. Clam Aquaculture funding
 - b. 2026 Plan Update Schedule
 - c. Cost Share Rates for 2026 Plan Update
- IX. General Public Comments
- X. Final Comments by Chair and Committee Members
- XI. Adjournment

**Save Our Indian River Lagoon
Citizen Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes**

May 16, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Bldg. C,
3rd Floor, Florida Room
Viera, FL 32940

Members Present:

Expertise	Member	Present	Alternate	Present
Science	Don Deis – Chair	Yes	Mark Schrope	Yes
Technology	Richard Nipper	No	Bruce Larson	Yes
Educ/Advocacy	Kimberly Newton	No	Deborah Harmon	Yes
Finance	Curt Smith	Yes	Fred Goldstein	Yes
Tourism	Laurilee Thompson	Yes	Nicholas Sanzone	No
Real Estate	Barbara Wall-Scanlon	Yes	Eric Mannes	Yes
Lagoon Commerce	Richard Bankhead – Vice Chair	Yes	Aaron Adams	No
Emeritus – BC	John Windsor	Yes		
Emeritus – LOC	Charles Venuto	Yes		

Staff Present:

Virginia Barker, Director
Heather Balser, Assistant County Attorney
Jeanne Allen, Engineer III
Cole Stubbe, Engineer I
Aleah Ataman, Environmental Specialist I
Abbey Gering, Environmental Specialist I
Melanie Howarter, Associate Environmental Specialist
Joshua Hibbard, Contract Administrator
Lori Pierce, Fiscal Analyst
Jaculin Watkins, Executive Secretary

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. Roll Call

A quorum was established.

III. Approval of the Agenda

Laurilee Thompson moved to approve the Agenda; seconded by Barbara Wall-Scanlon.

There was no public comment for the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Debra Harmon moved to approve the Minutes; seconded by Richard Bankhead.

There was no public comment for the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

V. Progress and Fiscal Reports

a. Monthly Progress Report – Virginia Barker, Director

Virginia Barker presented a review of the Monthly Progress Report for May. Discussion ensued. Ms. Barker responded to the Committee's questions.

b. Monthly Revenue Graph and Financial Statements – Lori Pierce, Fiscal Analyst

The Monthly Revenue Graph and Financial Statement were reviewed by Lori Pierce.

c. Quarterly Financial and Grant Statements – Lori Pierce, Fiscal Analyst

The Quarterly Finance and Grant Statements were reviewed by Lori Pierce. Discussion ensued. Ms. Pierce responded to the Committee's questions.

d. Quarterly Projects and Outreach Update – Aleah Ataman, Environmental Specialist I

Aleah Ataman presented the Quarterly Projects and Outreach Updates. Discussion ensued. Ms. Ataman and Ms. Barker responded to the Committee's questions.

VI. Other Reports and Special Presentations

a. The Indian River Lagoon Story: Linking SOIRL and Wastewater Policy - Todd Swingle, Chief Executive Officer, Toho Water Authority

Todd Swingle gave a PowerPoint presentation on linking SOIRL and Wastewater Policy for the Indian River Lagoon. Discussion ensued. Mr. Swingle and Ms. Barker responded to the Committee's questions.

b. Sewer Lateral Repair Program – Josh Hibbard, Contracts Administrator

Josh Hibbard gave a PowerPoint presentation and showed a video on the Sewer Lateral Repair Program.

c. Performance Monitoring of Wastewater Upgrades – Virginia Barker, Director

Virginia Barker gave a PowerPoint presentation on performance monitoring of wastewater upgrades and also provided a brief update on status of potential state grant funding for the Indian River Lagoon. Discussion ensued. Ms. Barker responded to the Committee's questions.

d. Indian River Lagoon Regulatory Timeline – Don Deis, Chair, Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Don Deis gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Indian River Lagoon Regulatory Timeline. Discussion ensued. Mr. Deis and Ms. Barker responded to the Committee's questions.

VII. Video

a. My Lagoon Story: Debra Harmon

The My Lagoon Story video from Debra Harmon was presented.

VIII. Old Business

No old business was heard.

IX. New Business

No new business was heard.

X. General Public Comments

Public comments were heard.

XI. Final Comments by Chair and Committee Members

Final Comments were heard.

XII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.



Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan July 2025 Progress Report

106 Community Projects Completed to Date; 2104 Homeowner Projects Completed to Date

WORK COMPLETED THIS MONTH:

- A Legislative appropriation of \$2,900,000 was approved for Quick Connects to existing sewer lines
- Quick Connects – 1 more reimbursement processed of 498 to date; 544 agreements executed
- Septic Upgrades – 47 more reimbursements processed of 484 to date; 782 total agreements executed
- Leaky Lateral Repairs – 1 more code cases resolved, now 725 out of 772, plus 21 voluntary repairs
- Unincorporated Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting 2 - completed
- Oyster monitoring by University of Central Florida – at 2 years, the McNabb project in Cocoa Beach had an average density of 17.9 and 17.0 live oysters per square meter in the gabions seeded with gardened oysters and with spat-on-shell, respectively, with no evidence of new recruitment; at 6 months, the Banana River Pilot project had an average density of 358 live oysters per square meter
- Contracts executed – Task Order 25-10626-005-SOIRL SparkTide, Task Order 25-10626-006-SOIRL SparkTide, UCF Master Agreement 2, and seven additional contract amendments
- Lagoon Loyal website transition is live, coupons phased out June 30th
- Videos – My Lagoon Story – Mark Schrope

WORK UNDERWAY THIS MONTH:

- Sykes Creek T Septic to Sewer project - Piping and Pump Station construction underway
- South Central C Septic-to-Sewer – 149 of 152 homeowner connections completed
- South Beaches A Septic to Sewer – 2 of 37 connections completed; 23 of 37 agreements executed
- Micco Septic-to-Sewer – 1 of 29 parcels connected; final as-builts under review for project closeout.
- South Beaches O & P Septic-to-Sewer – advertised; bid opening July 22nd
- Brevard County Septic-to-Sewer – South Banana B and Merritt Island C & F are in the bid que; 100% design underway for Cocoa C, North Merritt Island E, & Sharpes B; 90% design underway for South Central A; 75% design underway for Sykes Creek R, Sharpes A, and South Central D; 30% design underway for Micco B & Merritt Island G
- Brevard County Stormwater Basin 1124 Elliott Canal – Ordered additional survey & geotechnical work
- Brevard County Stormwater Basin 998 Richland Canal – Preliminary design report completed
- Grand Canal Muck Dredging – About 479,920 cubic yards dredged by 6/23; dredging to finish by 11/30
- Eau Gallie Muck Dredging – Disposal site pending approval by the St Johns Governing Board on 8/22
- Titusville Causeway Resiliency Project – Adding reef arches at the west end of the shoreline to prevent erosion west of the area protected by the Wave Attenuation Devices
- Contracting Underway – 25-269 Coleman Pond Circulator, 25-270 Tennessee St Baffle Box, 25-271 Osprey Pond Circulator, 25-265 Titusville Clam Project, 25-267 Grant Clam Project
- Received \$513,113.15 grant reimbursement from the state for LPA0145 Quick Connects and \$535.31 from IRL NEP for the SOIRL Pond Pilot Program
- Videos – Groundwater Monitoring filmed, awaiting editing

Complete 106

In Progress 97

Complete + In Progress 203

Total Projects in the Plan

412

PRESENTATIONS:

June 10 – Pond Pilot Program Meeting at Country Walk HOA – Melanie

June 19 – Kennedy Space Center Barracuda Dive Club – Brandon

June 24 – Pond Pilot Program Meeting at Suntree/Viera Public Library – Melanie & Cole

July 1 – Pond Pilot Program Meeting at Country Walk HOA – Melanie

July 1 – WFIT Coastal Connections – Brandon

July 8 – Cocoa Rotary Club – Brandon

July 11 – North Area Parks Summer Camp – Abbey, Aleah, Alex, Bethany, Brandon, Lori, & Melanie

UPCOMING LAGOON SCIENCE FORUMS AND PUBLIC EVENTS:

July 22 – Ocean Research and Conservation Association [Introduction to Citizen Science Projects](#)

August 27 – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission [Seatrout Symposium](#)

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES:

July 11 – Marine Resource Council [Mangrove Workshop](#)

July 12 – Waterway Warriors [Indian River Lagoon Cleanup](#)

July 26 – Keep Brevard Beautiful – [Summer Series Cleanup - Mims](#)

July 26 – Marine Resource Council [Mangrove Workshop](#)

July 26 – Waterway Warriors [Indian River Lagoon Cleanup](#)

July 30 – Ocean Research and Conservation Association [Nursery Maintenance Day](#)

August 1 – Marine Resources Council [First Friday Litter Patrol](#)

August 8 – Marine Resource Council [Mangrove Workshop](#)

August 9 – Waterway Warriors [Indian River Lagoon Cleanup](#)

Ongoing volunteer opportunities:

Brevard Zoo Restore Our Shores – [Email Restore Our Shores for more information](#)

Florida Horseshoe Crab Watch – [Email Holly Abeels for more information](#)

Ocean Research & Conservation Association pollution mapping equipment cleaning – [Email Lauren](#)

Ocean Research & Conservation Association *Pyrodinium* collection and analysis – [Email Kathy](#)

Rotary Park rain garden maintenance or storm drain marking – [Email Carlos Cuevas](#)

Space Coast Surfrider Foundation Blue Water Task Force Monitoring – [Email Chis Baker for more information](#)

WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA, NEWSLETTER, AND REPORT LINKS:

[Lagoon Loyal Outreach & Engagement Landing Page](#)

[Save Our Indian River Lagoon Website](#)

[Save Our Indian River Lagoon Facebook](#)

[Save Our Indian River Lagoon Instagram](#)

[Save Our Indian River Lagoon YouTube](#)

[Sign up for our Monthly Newsletter](#)

[Sign up for our Weekly Harmful Algal Bloom Reports](#)

[Visit Lagoon Loyal for home pollution reduction tips](#)

FUTURE TOPICS FOR SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

State Septic and Stormwater Rules for the Indian River Lagoon Watershed

Project Performance Measurements and Cost-Effectiveness Results

Inground Nitrogen Reducing Bioreactor Septic Drain Field Pilot Project Findings

Dredging influence on water quality

Oyster spat monitoring and gardening results

Lagoon Projects - Managed and Funded by Other Agencies, Entities, or Grant Programs

Shoreline Armor and Living Shoreline Permitting Authorities, Rules, and Opportunities

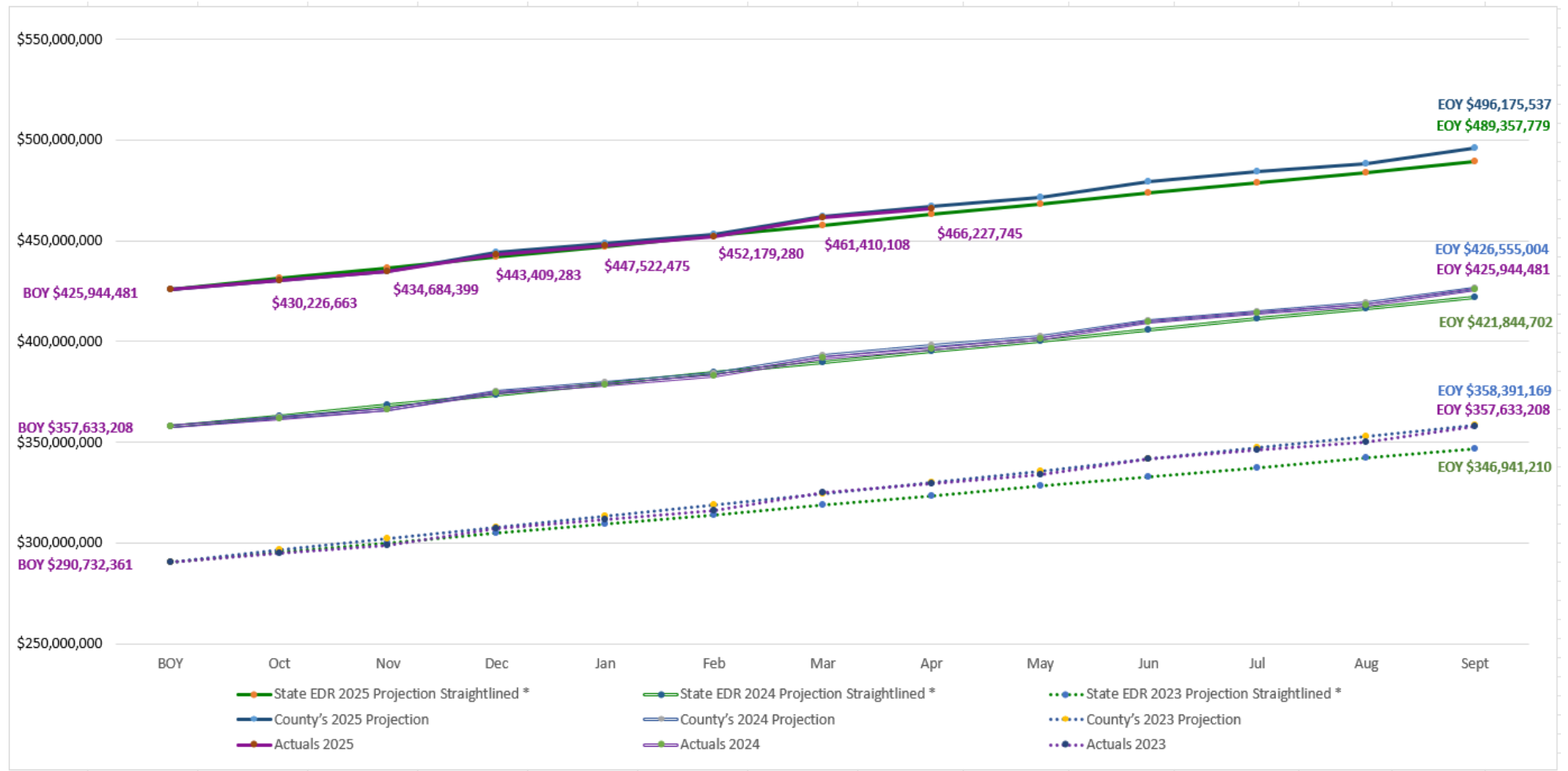
Vessel Mooring, Anchoring and Pump-out Enforcement

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Revenues Cumulative Graph

Fiscal Years 22-23, 23-24 and 24-25

* Economic and Demographic Research Data is sourced from Florida's Office of Economic & Demographic Research using their Estimation of Realized and Unrealized Tax Revenues Table

- Projected and Actual Data is from Systems, Applications and Products program
- EDR (Economic and Demographic Research) Data, BOY (Beginning of Year), EOY (End of Year)
- For Screen Readers use the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Revenues Cumulative Chart Fiscal Year 22-23 to Current Fiscal Year Table
- Updated the State EDR Beginning of Year to match Actuals End of Year to the prior Fiscal Years



Save Our Indian River Lagoon Revenue Cumulative Chart

Fiscal Years 22-23, 23-24 and 24 -25

Economic and Demographic Research Data is sourced from Florida's Office of Economic & Demographic Research using their Estimation of Realized and Unrealized Tax Revenues Table

- Projected and Actual Data is from Systems, Applications and Products program
- EDR (Economic and Demographic Research) Data, BOY (Beginning of Year), EOY (End of Year)
- For Screen Readers use the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Revenues Cumulative Chart Fiscal Year 22-23 to Current Fiscal Year Table

Month	State EDR 2025 Projection Straightlined *	County's 2025 Projection	Actuals 2025	State EDR 2024 Projection Straightlined *	County's 2024 Projection	Actuals 2024	State EDR 2023 Projection Straightlined *	County's 2023 Projection	Actuals 2023
BOY	\$425,944,481	\$425,944,481	\$425,944,481	\$357,633,208	\$357,633,208	\$357,633,208	\$290,732,361	\$290,732,361	\$290,732,361
Oct	431,228,923	430,534,938	\$430,226,663	\$362,984,166	\$362,138,073	\$361,824,622	\$295,416,432	\$296,370,595	\$294,991,249
Nov	436,513,364	434,955,456	\$434,684,399	\$368,335,124	\$366,476,167	\$366,098,349	\$300,100,502	\$302,008,829	\$299,092,473
Dec	441,797,806	444,009,250	\$443,409,283	\$373,686,082	\$375,361,146	\$374,419,168	\$304,784,573	\$307,647,063	\$307,492,311
Jan	447,082,247	448,463,027	\$447,522,475	\$379,037,039	\$379,731,879	\$378,631,822	\$309,468,644	\$313,285,297	\$311,773,147
Feb	452,366,689	453,120,357	\$452,179,280	\$384,387,997	\$384,302,369	\$383,100,779	\$314,152,715	\$318,923,531	\$316,249,631
Mar	457,651,130	462,111,655	\$461,410,108	\$389,738,955	\$393,126,019	\$392,011,297	\$318,836,785	\$324,561,765	\$324,891,795
Apr	462,935,572	466,867,475	\$466,227,745	\$395,089,913	\$397,793,163	\$396,591,796	\$323,520,856	\$330,199,999	\$329,462,945
May	468,220,013	471,473,922		\$400,440,871	\$402,313,719	\$401,244,060	\$328,204,927	\$335,838,233	\$333,890,522
Jun	473,504,455	479,487,867		\$405,791,829	\$410,178,239	\$409,639,429	\$332,888,998	\$341,476,467	\$341,593,283
Jul	478,788,896	484,175,149		\$411,142,786	\$414,778,122	\$413,904,849	\$337,573,068	\$347,114,701	\$346,098,557
Aug	484,073,338	488,488,152		\$416,493,744	\$419,010,706	\$418,126,812	\$342,257,139	\$352,752,935	\$350,244,084
Sept	489,357,779	496,175,537		\$421,844,702	\$426,555,004	\$425,944,481	\$346,941,210	\$358,391,169	\$357,633,208

FY 2025 Monthly Financial Statement

Save Our Indian River Lagoon

Date Range 01 October 2024 – 01 July 2025

*Total Assigned YTD-Year to Date, includes all stages of accounting for expenditures, with data derived from Systems, Applications and Products program

Revenues	Budget	Total Assigned YTD*	% Earned
Taxes	\$ 70,231,056	\$ 40,283,264	57.36%
Interest Earned	\$ 5,811,762	\$ 9,754,879	167.85%
Other Federal Grants	\$ 5,295,455	\$ 186,000	3.51%
Other State Grants	\$ 67,450,492	\$ 6,476,963	9.60%
Other Physical Environmental Grants	\$ 6,946,429	\$ -	0.00%
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	\$ 2,548,944	\$ -	0.00%
Statutory Reduction	\$ (7,786,754)	\$ -	0.00%
Balance Forward	\$ 366,457,053	\$ 375,133,101	102.37%
Total	\$ 516,954,437	\$ 431,834,207	83.53%

Expenditures (Roll-Up)	Budget	Total Assigned YTD*	Actuals
Compensation & Benefits	\$ 1,484,068	\$ 1,387,452	\$ 974,303
Operating Expenses	\$ 517,928	\$ 273,691	\$ 245,428
Capital Outlay	\$ 40,989	\$ 36,570	\$ 9,303
SOIRL Projects funded under Operating Expenses (Non-Capital County Project & Programs)	\$ 2,529,658	\$ 2,206,981	\$ 1,041,299
SOIRL Projects funded under Capital Improvement (County Projects over \$35K)	\$ 187,955,217	\$ 50,780,012	\$ 8,104,487
SOIRL Projects funded under Aid to Gov't Agencies (Cities & Water Management Districts)	\$ 122,661,253	\$ 35,518,566	\$ 889,932
SOIRL Projects funded under Aid to Private Organizations (Property Owners & Non-Government Organizations)	\$ 38,878,677	\$ 10,015,418	\$ 4,312,467
Contingency	\$ 27,723,539	\$ -	\$ -
Reserves (for approved projects scheduled beyond this fiscal year)	\$ 135,163,108	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 516,954,437	\$ 100,218,690	\$ 15,577,220



Save Our Indian River Lagoon
Citizen Oversight Committee
July 18, 2025

Agenda Item:

IX. a. New Business

Title:

Clam Aquaculture Funding

Requested Action:

Consider a motion to reallocate \$40,000 from the Central Indian River Lagoon Septic Upgrade Program to the Clam Aquaculture Program to allow clam farmers to apply for up to \$6,000 of reimbursement cost-share funding.

Summary Explanation and Background:

Clam Aquaculture Farming was added to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Plan in 2021 as a nutrient removal strategy to help mitigate excess nitrogen in the Indian River Lagoon. A total of \$60,000 was initially allocated to support up to 10 certified clam aquaculture farmers with funding from the Central Indian River Lagoon Oyster Reef and Living Shorelines project category.

In 2024, inflation adjustments were applied across all project types, increasing funding for Clam Aquaculture in the 2025 SOIRL Plan to \$68,117. This adjustment enabled the inclusion of an additional farmer, bringing the total to 11 participants. By early 2025, reimbursements had been completed for 10 of the 11 approved farmers. In June, the 11th farmer withdrew their application, leaving sufficient funds to support one more applicant.

There is strong interest among the current participants in continuing the Clam Aquaculture Program. To continue funding this program, the Committee could consider shifting up to \$40,000 from the Central Indian River Lagoon Septic System Upgrades category, which currently has \$16,287,585 allocated in the 2025 Plan.

To date, 445 septic upgrade applications have been approved in this region, with 270 upgrades completed and \$3,928,436 of SOIRL funds expended. An additional \$4,252,077 in SOIRL funding has been committed to the remaining 175 applicants. This leaves over \$8,000,000 for future septic upgrades in the Central Indian River Lagoon, even after this transfer.

Staff seeks a recommendation from the Citizen Oversight Committee regarding reallocation of \$40,000 from the Central Indian River Lagoon Septic Upgrade Program to the Clam Aquaculture Program.



Save Our Indian River Lagoon
Citizen Oversight Committee
July 18, 2025

Agenda Item:

IX. b. New Business

Title:

2026 Update of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan Proposed Schedule

Requested Action:

Motion to recommend the schedule below for the 2026 Plan Update

Summary Explanation and Background:

Staff seek a recommendation from the Citizen Oversight Committee for the proposed schedule below for the 2026 update of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan

Update Cost Share Eligibility

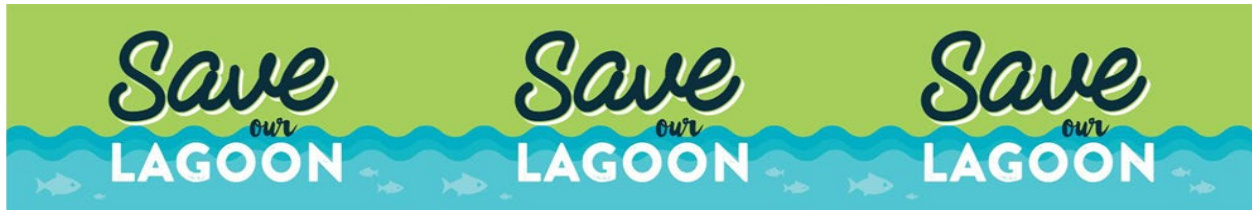
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|------|---|
| 7/11 | Include proposed cost share eligibility update in the Citizen Oversight Committee agenda packet |
| 7/18 | Citizen Oversight Committee votes on cost-share eligibility for the next grant cycle |
| 8/1 | Post cost share eligibility and link to online funding applications |

Project Submittal and Reviews

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 9/26 | Applications due (<i>About 2 months after application posted</i>) |
| October | Staff review, assistance to applicants and negotiated revisions, as needed |
| 11/14 | Packet of funding requests sent to Committee for review |
| 11/21 | Citizen Oversight Committee review/recommendation for submitted projects |
| 12/19 | <i>Potential to cancel December meeting</i> |

2026 Plan Update

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 12/19 | Draft 2026 Project Plan Update posted and sent to the Citizen Oversight Committee |
| 1/16 | Citizen Oversight Committee reviews/recommends 2026 Project Plan Update |
| 15 days | <i>The recommended plan update must be posted for public review at least 15 days prior to its consideration at a County Commission meeting</i> |
| 2/10 or 24 | County Commission reviews/approves 2026 Project Plan Update |



Save Our Indian River Lagoon
Citizen Oversight Committee
July 18, 2025

Agenda Item:

IX. c. New Business

Title:

Proposed cost share eligibility by project type for projects proposed for the 2026 Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan Update

Requested Action:

Motion to recommend maintaining the same cost shares that were offered in 2025 Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Project Plan for project proposals submitted for the 2026 Plan Update, except for increasing the rate for Stormwater Priority Basin Projects.

Summary Explanation and Background:

Cost-share rates for each project type funded in the SOIRL Project Plan reflect the average cost after considering match availability. For the 2026 SOIRL Plan Update, cost share increases are proposed for stormwater projects.

Staff conducted a cost analysis of all named stormwater projects in the 2025 Project Plan. Projects exceeding \$1600 per pound of total nitrogen (TN) reduction were identified as statistical outliers and excluded from the analysis. The resulting average SOIRL cost-share across eligible stormwater projects was \$132 per pound TN reduced, while the average total project cost was \$574 per pound TN.

Previously, Stormwater Treatment Priority Basin Projects received location-based cost shares:

- \$357 on the Mainland
- \$380 on Merritt Island
- \$409 on the Beaches

These figures exclude the M1-Crane Creek Re-diversion Project due to its large economy of scale.

The original rationale for tiered cost-shares was that construction costs were presumed to be higher in Merritt Island and the Beaches. However, recent analysis indicates the need to re-evaluate this approach for improved consistency and cost-effectiveness.

Staff seek a recommendation from the Citizen Oversight Committee to approve continuing the 2025 cost-share rates across all project types for the 2026 SOIRL Plan Update, except for an updated cost-share of \$574 per pound TN reduced by Stormwater Priority Basin projects, regardless of location.



Project Type	2025 Cost-share Rate per Pound per Year of Total Nitrogen (with 5-year capped inflation)	2026 Cost-share Rate per Pound per Year of Total Nitrogen
Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades for Reclaimed Water	\$431	\$431
Package Plant Connections	\$1,500	\$1,500
Sewer Lateral Rehabilitation	\$289	\$289
Septic-to-Sewer by Extension	\$1,553	\$1,553
Septic System Upgrades	\$1,600	\$1,600
Stormwater Projects (Priority Basins)	-	\$574
Mainland	\$357	-
Merritt Island	\$380	-
Beaches	\$409	-
Vegetation Harvesting (excluding M-T and County projects)	\$114	\$114
Muck Removal	\$607	\$607
Treatment of Muck Interstitial Water	\$124	\$124
Oyster Bar	\$475	\$475
Planted Shorelines	\$259	\$259