

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE

Meeting Minutes (approved by the Board 7/20/2013)

June 20, 2013

@ Rum 138

Attending

John Jopling

Lori Lang

Charles Maxwell

Lu Merritt

Terri Skiles

Cathy Street

Jacqui Sulek

President John Jopling called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes of the June 3 meeting could not be approved because we did not have them. Jacqui Sulek moved and John Jopling seconded that we table approval of minutes until our next meeting; the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Terri Skiles reported that the group has \$525 in membership fees, but that there have been problems setting up a bank account because of incorrect signatures on forms relating to our Articles of Incorporation. One of those incorrect forms was prepared by the bank. There was a discussion and suggestions were made about how to proceed with this task.

Staff Report: Lu Merritt updated the group on her activities, as follows:

- Website update:
 - Lu attended a tutorial w. Stewart Thomas on June 5 and has had questions for him since then. She has also obtained "WordPress for Dummies" resource book.
 - The site is visible but not yet announced to the public (need PayPal page).
 - Much text is posted; still working on "Science" and "History & Culture."
 - Image gathering is ongoing.
 - The Alliance needs to identify our partners and decide how to list them on the site.
- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) work will begin as soon as the Science section of website is finished.
- Lu needs to work w. Jacqui and Terri on a budget, then register as a nonprofit with DACS.
- Lu needs to follow up on Jim Stevenson's air quality monitoring concerns with FDEP.
- Hours worked this month as of Tuesday, June 18: **37.25** (mostly website). Jim Stevenson has given verbal approval to work more hours than usual this month because of the need to get the website up; this will be noted on Lu's invoice for June.

Setting a date for the next Springs Watch session on the river: Lu will email Megan about this. We do not need to wait for Bob Knight's response to the Doodle Poll in order to set the date.

NEW BUSINESS

Report on communications with Columbia County Commissioners: John has not heard from Ron Williams, but is willing to follow up on his meeting with Dale Williams re: the new FLOW group

and the possibility of money being available for projects. There was consensus that the Alliance should wait to see how the new FLOW group is constituted and what their work plan will be before we attempt to get involved.

Report on communications with John Wheeler/The Ichetucknee Partnership: Jacqui reported that they are receptive and are interested in making small grants if they get good proposals. Charles will also talk to John Wheeler.

Jacqui gave reports on the **SRWMD June meeting, her lunch with Ann Shortelle** and their conversation about the importance of maintaining open communications and working together, and the **next meeting of the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership** that she will not be able to attend. That meeting is on July 15, and John Jopling will attend for Jacqui. She also reported about the **Lake City Reporter's coverage of FLOW and the legislators' paddle of the Lower Santa Fe River.**

Jacqui also reported that there will be a July 2 workshop at the SRWMD office about minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for the Ichetucknee and Lower Santa Fe Rivers.

Lu reported that she is keeping a list of **people we might want to invite personally** to join the Alliance. If you have suggestions for people to add to this list, send them to Lu. We had a discussion about the pros and cons of asking elected officials to join. For a variety of reasons, we decided not to pursue that course of action.

We discussed **possible partners**. Possibilities: The Ichetucknee Partnership; Columbia County Commission; Three Rivers Estates Property Owners (TREPO); Lake City/Columbia County Chamber of Commerce; Suwannee River Partnership; Ichetucknee Springs State Park; Four Rivers Audubon; Springs Eternal Project; Center for Earth Jurisprudence; Lake City Garden Club. We need to develop a way for the Alliance and other groups to agree formally on partnership status.

We decided that **the July workshop will be a closed meeting** so that we can concentrate on developing our work plan for the next year. Cathy Street will facilitate; she reviewed her plans and the group agreed with her proposed approach. Lu will check on the availability of the Fort White Library. Documents we will need:

Restoration Plan (on our website)
Specific Recommendations from the Restoration Plan (on our website)
Jim Stevenson's document on protecting the springs (Lu)
Florida Water Sins (on our website)
Cynthia Barnett's Florida water ethic (Jacqui)

Cathy Street reminded the group about the **June 26 informational meeting about MFLs** that is being organized by Our Santa Fe River. The meeting will feature Ann Shortelle of SRWMD and will be held at 6 p.m. at the Fort White Community Center.

Our meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt