

**ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
December 14, 2013, at Rum 138**

Minutes

Present

John Jopling
Bob Knight
Charles Maxwell
Lucinda Merritt
Terri Skiles
Cathy Street
Jacqui Sulek

Guests

Mebane Cory-Ogden, Ichetucknee Springs State Park
Jane Gray, donor
Sue Karcher, IA Member
Bill Main
Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, Our Santa Fe River
Ginger Morgan, Ichetucknee Springs State Park

President John Jopling called the meeting to order shortly after 9:30 a.m.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

1. Mebane Cory-Ogden and Ginger Morgan gave an update about activities at Ichetucknee Springs State Park.

- Dale Kendrick, former manager at O'Leno State Park, is managing the Blue Hole boardwalk replacement project that is proceeding.
- The conceptual design for the wall restoration project at the headspring is still in progress. There are no drawings available yet.
- The metal takeout dock at the South Entrance will be removed; this structure causes problems at different elevations of the river.
- "Iche Nippy Dip Day" is Saturday, January 4, 2014. Pre-registration is requested. Lu Merritt has shared information about this event on the Alliance's Facebook page and in emails.
- Ginger Morgan has participated in equestrian units in local parades and at an endurance ride in Bronson.
- The park will have visitors participating in Audubon's Christmas Bird Count.

REPORTS

2. Following a motion by Jacqui Sulek and a second by Bob Knight, the minutes of the meeting on November 18, 2013, were approved.

3. Treasurer Terri Skiles reported that the Alliance has \$101.04 in the PayPal account and \$1405.82 in the bank. In response to submitted receipts for reimbursement for post office box rental renewal

(\$27.00) and late payment fee (\$20.00), Lu Merritt received a check from the Alliance for \$27.00 and cash payment from Terri Skiles of \$20.00.

4. Merritt referred the directors to her Staff Assistant's report contained in the agenda packet. There were no questions.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS/DISCUSSION

Saying, "We can do more together than we can apart," Bob Knight suggested that closer ties and/or closer collaboration between the Ichetucknee Alliance and Our Santa Fe River might be advantageous for all groups; Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson suggested adding Save Our Suwannee. A lively discussion followed, during which Malwitz-Jipson of Our Santa Fe River was invited to become a member of the Ichetucknee Alliance's Board of Directors; she will consider this and let us know her decision.

By the end of the discussion, the group had reached consensus that each of the three mentioned groups has a valuable individual identity and that the Alliance should consider establishing working liaisons/information sharing pathways and should explore possible reciprocal memberships with the other two groups.

Knight moved and Sulek seconded that Merritt be put on the board as Secretary; the motion passed. There remains some question, however, about payment to the Staff Assistant if she is a Board member. More research remains to be done before this decision can be finalized.

OLD BUSINESS

5. Federal nonprofit papers review is *ongoing by John Jopling and a colleague.*

6. Need a Secretary. *Merritt will function as Secretary for the time being. See "Additional Agenda Items/Discussion" above.*

7. Membership report, cycle and acknowledgements

(per our bylaws, each membership gets one vote)

Student/Senior Members: 3

Individual Members: 11

Family Memberships: 13

Business/Corporate: 0

Lifetime: 2

Total Members: 29

The proposed membership cycle and wording for the acknowledgement letter were approved. People who joined in 2013 will automatically be renewed until January 2015. People who enroll in the first half of 2014 will need to renew in January 2015; people who join in the second half of 2014 will renew in January 2016.

8. Update on MFLs for the Lower Santa Fe & Ichetucknee Rivers & research on a possible challenge for Ichetucknee MFL: *Knight pointed out that the MFLs being proposed for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers by the SRWMD "are devastating" because of underestimation of the rivers'*

historical flows. "They've done everything they could to minimize the problem and hundreds of gallons a day will be gone if word does not get out," Knight remarked.

Following a lengthy and lively discussion, the group reached consensus that Jopling should send another comment on MFLs stressing our call for return to the historical flow of 350 cfs for the Ichetucknee River and emphasizing our intention to "be a force for accountability" while, at the same time, being willing to work with the District on implementation of the Recovery Plan.

9. Should the Alliance submit official comments on the FPL pipeline? *Merritt was authorized to revise the position paper's language to include "springshed" and to then submit the Alliance's position paper as an official comment to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).*

10. Should the Alliance sign the Floridians' Clean Water Declaration? *This item was deleted from the agenda because the decision to support the Declaration had already been made by e-mail vote.*

11. Should the Alliance fund and deliver "Springs Eternal" booklets for Ichetucknee-area legislators and if so, to whom should the booklets go? *We decided to share this information with Our Santa Fe River to see if they are willing to support the purchase of any booklets and if so, for whom; this will be a shared effort between the Alliance and OSFR.*

12. Should the Alliance have a presence at SRWMD and related water meetings and if so, how should we coordinate this? *Jopling, Sulek, Street and Merritt are willing to share in this task.*

13. Should the Alliance seek a volunteer to help with manatee data collection, per request from Jim Stevenson? *Merritt will email Karen Glaser of Three Rivers Estates to find out if she might be willing to become involved in this project.*

14. Should the Alliance request a meeting with the City Engineer of Lake City to learn more about the sprayfield project, per suggestion from Jim Stevenson? *Sulek will follow up.*

15. Should the Alliance create a table display for participation in the Springs Celebration/O'Leno Chili Cook-Off on March 29, 2014? *Yes. Street and Merritt will work on this project.*

16. Work plan for 2013-2014

- a. "Adopt a Problem" approach for fertilizer & biosolids/Who are our team members? *Not discussed.*
- b. Introductory event. *Sulek and Merritt will work on this.*
- c. Communications Team has a draft plan that may need to be revised re: fertilizer/biosolids team tasks, introductory event, O'Leno Chili Cook-off table display. *Not discussed.*

17. Springs Alliance group meeting update (Bob, John, Charles). *Not discussed.*

NEW BUSINESS

18. Date of next river monitoring event: *9 a.m. Thursday, January 9, 2014*

19. Date of next meeting: *9:30 a.m. Saturday, January 18, 2014. We will aim to meet on the third Saturday of the month on a more-or-less regular basis.*

20. Should the Alliance seek a larger venue for meetings? *Not needed at this time.*

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Staff Assistant