

**ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
January 18, 2014, at Rum 138**

**Minutes**

***Present***

John Jopling  
Lucinda Merritt  
Terri Skiles  
Cathy Street  
Jacqui Sulek

***Absent***

Bob Knight  
Charles Maxwell

***Guests***

Mebane Cory-Ogden, Ichetucknee Springs State Park  
Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, Our Santa Fe River  
Ginger Morgan, Ichetucknee Springs State Park  
Dan Rountree  
Jim Stevenson

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.

- Iche Nippy Dip Day on the first Saturday in January will be expanded. This event is based on “an old cultural tradition” in our area. The inaugural event this year created positive buzz.
- The park also urges participation in First Day Hike on January 1 each year.
- Construction of the boardwalk to Blue Hole is continuing.
- The park is still getting designs for the broken wall at the headspring.
- The visitors’ center is open on Saturdays with volunteers from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The center is staffed by park employees from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Thursdays & Fridays.
- Sam Cole is the person at the park who does volunteer training.
- March 15 is Water Wonder Workshop Day for area schools.
- There is a tour of the mission site on Feb. 8.
- Hiring for summer seasonal workers begins in April.
- Two people from AmeriCorps are removing exotics and working on trails.
- The park is a pilot site for Florida Cadets, structured like AmeriCorps.
- The park is a pilot site for new archaeological assessment forms.
- The park is open to the idea of volunteers to check in divers.

Discussion about the problem of hydrilla ensued. Ichetucknee does not currently have this invasive plant. Alliance members discussed the possibility of placing a sign to ask divers to check their equipment for hydrilla and park employees were receptive to this idea. Discussion included the need to monitor and count divers at Blue Hole.

**2. Jim Stevenson**, who is an advisor to the Ichetucknee Alliance, brought **news from the Wakulla Springs Alliance**. His presentation included the following reports and ideas:

- A sample business card from the Wakulla Springs Alliance.
- Need for Ichetucknee Alliance (IA) to develop a project list, especially for potential student involvement.
- Need for the IA to increase membership.
- “Walk for Wakulla Springs” is a successful event that has included as many as 250 people. IA could do something similar with a rally at City Hall and then follow water toward the springs or Alligator Lake. Such an event could help raise awareness and get press. Guest **Dan Rountree** suggested a cleanup at Cannon Sink. **Jacqui Sulek** mentioned The Ichetucknee Partnership as a possible partner.
- **Stevenson** stressed the idea of basin tours: “More people need to love this river.”
- Three Rivers Trust is funding a three-minute video of a trip down the Ichetucknee River. The videographer is **Eric Flagg** of Jellyfish Smack Productions and the Digital Media Department at Santa Fe College in Gainesville.
- We need a list to keep track of the good things we do.
- Regarding Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) and Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs), these are “almost useless as far as I am concerned.”

3. Additions/Deletions to today’s agenda: Consensus was reached that the IA should have a table display at this year’s Alligator Lake Festival in Lake City on April 12. **Lu Merritt** will register the IA for this event.

## **REPORTS**

4. Review/approval of Dec. 14 minutes. **Terri Skiles** moved and **Cathy Street** seconded that the minutes be approved; motion passed.

5. Treasurer’s report. **Skiles** reported that we have \$1551.76 in the bank.

6. Staff Assistant’s report. *There were no questions.*

7. Federal nonprofit papers review. **John Jopling** and his assistant are almost finished with reviewing the application.

8. Need a Secretary/Need to add new board member(s)? **Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson** declined to serve because Saturdays are her busy day and she cannot attend meetings on a regular basis. **Merritt’s** status remains in limbo pending research on the paid board member question.

9. MFLs: *The group was made aware of the FDEP rule workshop in Gainesville at 10 a.m. Wed., Jan. 22, in the Alachua County Administration Bldg. A discussion about MFLs ensued. **Jopling** reported that he had met with **Ann Shortelle** of SRWMD. **Sulek** reported on the most recent SRWMD meeting. She met with **John Dinges** and **Carlos Herd** of SRWMD. The new version of the MFLs includes measurement tools for the recovery plan.*

10. Reciprocal memberships. **Merritt** reported that **Malwitz-Jipson** of Our Santa Fe River indicated interest but thought that people should be given the opportunity to opt out of reciprocal memberships if they so desire. There has been no response from anyone at Save Our Suwannee to our query about interest in reciprocal memberships.

11. “Springs Eternal” booklet distributions. *Our Santa Fe River will distribute to Columbia County*

Commissioners and to board members of the Suwannee River Water Management District. IA will distribute to City of Lake City council members and mayor (**Jopling**), Town of Fort White mayor and council members (**Cathy Street and Charles Maxwell**), and Rep. Elizabeth Porter (**Sulek**).

12. New manatee data collection volunteer: **Lars Andersen. Stevenson** reported that he (**Stevenson**) is working with the Florida Park Service and the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission to reach agreement on a reporting form that will be acceptable to all parties. **Stevenson** will then work with **Andersen** to get this effort up & running.

13. Lake City sprayfield project. *Tabled.*

14. Work plan for 2013-2014. *Tabled.*

### **NEW BUSINESS**

15. Report on SRWMD January meeting. **Sulek** provided a report about this meeting.

16: Floridians' Clean Water Declaration Campaign Commit to Clean Water event in Gainesville, 8:30-10 a.m. Wed., Jan. 22. *FYI from Merritt.*

17. Floridians' Clean Water Declaration Campaign "rally in Tally," Tues., Feb. 18. *FYI from Merritt.*

18. Need volunteer writers for new blog entries for website! *FYI & encouragement from Merritt.* **Skiles** will ask **Tom Morris** and/or **Pete Butt** for a blog entry about what it is like to dive at Blue Hole.

19. Should we do an on-line annual report? *Consensus indicated yes.* **Merritt** will work on this.

20. Establishing an on-line calendar of relevant meetings. **Merritt** is working on this and will let people know when it is set up.

21. Date of next river monitoring event? **Friday, Feb. 14.**

22. Date of next meeting? **Saturday, Feb. 15, 9:30 a.m. at Rum 138.** *Note: Sulek will be unable to attend.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Staff Assistant