

**ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Minutes of Conference Call**  
**March 24, 2014**

**Present**

John Jopling  
Bob Knight  
Charles Maxwell  
Lu Merritt  
Cathy Street  
Jacqui Sulek

**Absent**

Terri Skiles

President John Jopling convened the conference call shortly after 7:30 p.m. by summarizing an earlier conference call with Bob Knight, Attorney John Thomas, Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, Robert Hutchinson and Lu Merritt as well as a subsequent telephone conversation that Jopling had with Attorney Thomas.

Lu Merritt clarified that the point of tonight's call was to decide whether the Alliance should join with other groups to request an administrative hearing on the proposed minimum flows and levels (MFLs) rule for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers.

The ensuing discussion dealt with: "grandfathering in" current consumptive use permit holders; inaccuracy of the water models used to make decisions and calculations used to compute the MFLs; flow loss that has already occurred in the Ichetucknee that is not accounted for by the proposed MFLs; weakness/lack of enforcement of the recovery plan; the process, cost (none to the Alliance, although we could do individual fundraising) and potential outcomes of an administrative hearing; other groups that might join the request for a hearing; how the Alliance might use the administrative hearing to leverage a better outcome for the Ichetucknee River System; and the potential for other developments to affect water-related decisions over the next year (springs legislation, November elections).

Jacqui Sulek, who sits on the North Florida Regional Water Partnership Stakeholder Advisory Committee, made the following points:

- Establishment of MFLs is a key component of the Ichetucknee River Restoration Plan.
- We need to think about quantities.
- This is the first time that two rivers and 16 springs are ruled in recovery and this is the first time that two water management districts are working together, making this a very complicated process.
- She is disturbed that people who have not attended the meetings about MFLs don't understand what we have to lose.

- If funds become available as a result of passage of Amendment 1 or the springs bill and the Ichetucknee has no MFL, the Ichetucknee may not be entitled to funds.
- Grandfathering is “short term.”
- “We’re really going to lose out if we lose this MFL.”
- MFLs are critical to a recovery plan.

Following discussion, Knight moved that the Ichetucknee Alliance join the petition for an administrative hearing to challenge the MFLs and the recovery plan, and that the Alliance be represented by Attorney John Thomas. Merritt seconded.

Votes were as follows:

John Jopling	For
Bob Knight	For
Charles Maxwell	For
Lu Merritt	For
Cathy Street	For
Jacqui Sulek	Against

The motion carried. The Ichetucknee Alliance will join the petition to ask for an administrative hearing about the Lower Santa Fe River and Ichetucknee River MFLs.

The call concluded at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt  
Secretary