

**ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE
MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, May 17, 2014, @ Rum 138**

Present

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

Members & Guests

Gina Alvarez
Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson (brief attendance)
Fritzi Olson
Bob Palmer
Jacqui Sulek
Jim Tatum

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

1. Introduction of Bob Palmer, Advisory Board nominee (Lu). After Palmer's introduction and a brief discussion, Bob Knight moved that Palmer be placed on the Advisory Board; Lu Merritt seconded. Approval by five board members was unanimous (Terri Skiles was late to the meeting).

2. Agenda approval/additions/deletions. Jacqui Sulek was added to the agenda to give the Science Team's report. Because of high water on the river, markers at the monitoring stations are underwater and this has caused problems with scheduled monitoring. Ron Clarke of Wetland Solutions will help mark the stations for high water. The May monitoring date will be Friday, May 23.

REPORTS

3. Review/approval of March 20 meeting minutes and two teleconference minutes (March 24 and April 21). Charles Maxwell moved for approval; Cathy Street seconded and the motion passed. Maxwell noted that he would like shorter, less detailed minutes in the future.

4. Treasurer's report. Skiles reported that the Alliance now has a total of \$1335.94.

5. Staff Assistant's reports/March & April 2014. There were no questions.

6. Report on SRWMD May 13 meeting. Merritt had emailed a report earlier to the Board. Discussion about a new large consumptive use permit (Messer Farm, 2.3142 mgd, converting silviculture to row crops) followed. Knight feels we should be commenting on every new permit. Street said that we need to be "plugged in" to when permits are applied for. Palmer suggested that we collaborate with Alachua County Environmental Protection Department and Advisory Committee to "watchdog" consumptive use permit (CUP) applications. There was some discussion about whether we should be monitoring all CUPs or only the larger ones. Jopling volunteered to talk to Alachua County Commissioner Mike Byerly about this issue and offered that one of the new hires at his law firm might be willing to help.

OLD BUSINESS

Additional item from Jopling: The need for a new board member was discussed. Sulek indicated that she might be willing to come back on the board once a decision about the MFL challenge is announced.

7. Water conservation award for Trini Johannesen to be presented at Columbia County Commission meeting. This award was approved at the March meeting. There was some feeling that the award should be presented at a School Board meeting in Fort White instead of a County Commission meeting; however, a County Commission meeting would offer more exposure. Presentation at both meetings was considered.

8. Update on MFLs/petition for administrative hearing. Jopling and Merritt gave updates on their respective communications with Earthjustice about the hearing scheduled for May 28-30 in Tallahassee.

9. Funding an updated report card for the Ichetucknee. Merritt reported on communications with Abbie Chasteen of The Ichetucknee Project (TIP), who indicated that the project would not be eligible for funding. Sulek volunteered to talk further about this issue with John Wheeler of TIP and mentioned the possibility of involvement with Four Rivers Audubon.

10. Follow-up on plans for Intermodal Park in Lake City. Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, briefly present at the meeting, mentioned that facilitated discussions about this project are ongoing at Florida Gateway College.

11. Restoration-focused public event/identification of budget priorities in Ichetucknee springshed for next legislative session. Knight and Maxwell expressed interest in and willingness to be involved with a barbecue in Three Rivers Estates that would involve brief educational presentations and a chance for members and other interested people to socialize. Jopling offered the use of his river house. Different dates in July were considered but no firm date was set. Talking points should be developed and decided upon before the event.

NEW BUSINESS

12. Developing a plan to show "Following the Ichetucknee" to elected officials & civic groups. The idea was discussed but no firm plans were set.

13. Developing a membership recruitment flyer to hand out to people waiting to enter ISSP. Knight volunteered help with designing the flyer; Merritt will send him suggested wording.

14. Does the Alliance want to sign on to the Floridians' Clean Water Declaration letter about Attorney General Pam Bondi's challenge of the Chesapeake Bay cleanup plan? After discussion, a decision was made to sign on to the letter.

15. Date of the next river-monitoring event? After May 23 (see above), the next monitoring day will be Friday, June 13.

16. Date of the next meeting will be Saturday, June 21, although Skiles may be out of town.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Secretary