

**ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE
MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, July 19, 2014, @ Rum 138**

Present

John Jopling
Sue Karcher
Jill Lingard
Charles Maxwell
Lucinda Merritt
Terri Skiles
Cathy Street

Absent

Bob Knight

Members & Guests

Jenny Adler
Loye Barnard
Judy Etzler
Hilda Gilchrist
Trini Johannesen
Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson
Betsy Martin
Jacqui Sulek
Jim Tatum
Valerie Thomas
Dave Wilson

President **John Jopling** called the meeting to order shortly after 10 a.m.

1. Presentation about Fort White Middle/High Schools Ichetucknee PARKnership Program. Trini Johannesen and Valerie Thomas described the history, evolution and activities of this 11-year-old educational program that uses Ichetucknee Springs State Park as an outdoor classroom for assignments and projects throughout the schools' curricula. The focus of the program is on water. Suwannee American Cement has provided support for the program in the past but is not currently doing so. There is always a need for contributions to keep the program running because the Columbia County School Board does not pay the salary for the coordinator (Valerie Thomas).

2. Agenda approval/additions/deletions. Jopling had requested addition of "consideration of new board member," but this item was tabled because of time constraints.

REPORTS

3. Review/approval of June 21 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as submitted.

4. Treasurer's report. Terri Skiles reported that the Alliance has \$3158.78; of that amount, \$816 is owed to Alta Printing for membership brochures and \$500 is owed to Earthjustice for their representation of the Alliance in the MFL challenge.

5. Staff Assistant's report/June 2014. There were no questions about the Staff Assistant's report; however, Jopling questioned membership numbers and said that he would like to set a goal of 250 members by the end of 2014.

6. Science Team report. Jacqui Sulek discussed Springs Watch water monitoring activities on the Lower Ichetucknee (outside the state park) including a proposed new two-team, two-week schedule and a new cooperative effort with the University of Florida to track nutrient levels (nitrogen, phosphorous, and chlorophyll).

7. Report on July 8 SRWMD meeting. Jill Lingard gave a report on this meeting.

8. Report on July 10 Ichetucknee Springshed Water Quality Improvement Project meeting. Lu Merritt and Cathy

Street gave a report on this meeting.

9. *Report on Florida Earth's Ag Module attendance in September.* Cathy Street reported that she will pay \$95 to attend this meeting with high-ranking officials on September 18. She will then report back to the group.

Jacqui Sulek reported that she has been invited to be on a panel at this event.

10. *Report on meeting with Ann Shortelle.* John Jopling reported on a recent meeting he had with Ann Shortelle, executive director of SRWMD, at which Shortelle indicated an interest in working with the Alliance on nutrient reduction projects. Shortelle also gave assurances that consumptive use permits will not be issued by the District if board members are aware that those permits are for "water banking" or land sale purposes only.

OLD BUSINESS

11. *Update on funding an updated report card for the Ichetucknee.* Tabled because of time constraints.

12. *Update on t-shirt design.* Tabled because of time constraints.

13. *Update on plans for Intermodal Park in Lake City.* Tabled because of time constraints.

14. *Update on plans for September 27 social/BBQ at Three Rivers Estates.* Tabled because of time constraints.

15. *Update on a plan to show "Following the Ichetucknee" to elected officials & civic groups.* Tabled because of time constraints.

16. *Update on membership recruitment flyer progress.* Brochures should be ready Monday or Tuesday, July 21 or 22. Terri Skiles will arrange payment so Lu Merritt can pick up the brochures. Several good suggestions were made about where and how to distribute the brochures. John Jopling will contact Mebane Cory-Ogden to see if brochures can be distributed in the state park.

17. *Potential Alliance meeting w. Ann Shortelle & SRWMD staff about concerns/projects.* Several ideas were discussed briefly after Jopling described his meeting with Shortelle (see #10, above.)

18. *Developing a strategy for reviewing/commenting/challenging large CUP applications.* Merritt stated that we probably need to discuss this at a planning retreat and reminded the group that she works 10 hours per week.

19. *Continue discussion on crowd funding for projects.* Tabled because of time constraints.

NEW BUSINESS

20. *Waters of the U.S. sign-on letter/Floridians' Clean Water Declaration Campaign.* Tabled because of time constraints.

21. *Complimentary Individual or Lifetime membership for John Moran.* Jopling moved that we grant a retroactive Lifetime membership for Moran based on his many contributions of images for the Alliance's website and his long-term advocacy for Florida's waters. After a second, the motion was approved.

22. *Complimentary Family membership for Merrillee & Doug Jipson or Business membership for Rum 138.* Jopling moved that we grant a complimentary Business membership to Rum 138 based on Doug & Merrillee's in-kind donation of meeting space for the Alliance. After a second, the motion was approved, making Rum 138 the Alliance's first Business member.

23. *Formation of Honorary Board for writers/artists/musicians/etc.* Tabled because of time constraints.

24. *Do we need a summer retreat/planning session?* This was suggested by Merritt but not acted upon because of time constraints.

25. *Date of the next river-monitoring event:* Per schedule handed out by Jacqui Sulek at the meeting.

26. *Date of the next meeting:* Tentatively set for 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 16.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt