

**ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE
MEETING MINUTES
September 3, 2014 @ Rum 138**

Present

John Jopling
Sue Karcher
Bob Knight
Jill Lingard
Merrillee Malwitz-Jipson
Lucinda Merritt
Cathy Street

Absent

Charles Maxwell

1. Agenda approval/additions/deletions. Several Board members (Cathy, Jill and Bob) asked to make reports and those requests were approved. Bob spoke about a member who wants to be active in the group and then reported about the administrative hearing on the Adena Springs/Sleepy Creek permit challenge. Jill reported about Paddle Florida's October activities at the Ichetucknee and Santa Fe Rivers and requested help with a presentation about the Ichetucknee on Friday, Oct. 24; Jill will work with Lu on a presentation and other officers may attend the event if they are able. Cathy reported on the Ag Module workshop that she will attend on Sept. 18. New Advisory Board member Merrillee Malwitz-Jipson reported on her recent meeting with Suwannee River Water Management District employees.

Given that Terri Skiles had resigned from the Board earlier in the day, Lu nominated Sue Karcher to become treasurer. The motion was seconded and Sue was elected unanimously.

REPORTS

2. Review/approval of August 9 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

3. Treasurer's report. Lu provided the report that was supplied by Terri Skiles with Terri's resignation email earlier in the day. The report showed \$1,464.50 in our account after the gift of \$400 to the PARKnership Program.

4. Staff Assistant's report including membership update/August 2014. There were no questions about the report. As of September 3, the Alliance had 107 members, up seven members from the August meeting.

5. Science Team update. No report; Jacqui Sulek had a schedule conflict and could not attend.

6. Meeting Committee update. The committee had not met and so had no report.

7. Report on email vote to combine the previously approved amounts of \$150 and \$250 to give \$400 to the Ichetucknee PARKnership program: All Board members voted "yes." There was no further discussion.

OLD BUSINESS

8. Update on t-shirt design. The Board directed Lu to confirm our ability to use one of the photos of Wes Skiles and to research t-shirt prices with a local printing company.

9. Update on plans for Intermodal Park in Lake City. No report.

10. Update on a plan to show "Following the Ichetucknee" video to elected officials & civic groups. Lu secured information from John, Bob and Cathy about their availability for a November 20 meeting of the newly elected Columbia County Commission, and will follow up to see that we can be placed on the agenda.

11. Update on membership recruitment brochure distribution. John reported that as he was distributing brochures at Ichetucknee Springs State Park, he learned from the park manager that we are not allowed to place brochures on car windshields; we must hand them to people. Reason: Brochures on windshields create

litter. Sue reported that she had distributed brochures at a Fort White Chamber of Commerce meeting. Both Sue and Jill took more brochures for distribution. Jill will distribute to cave divers as well as dive shops and outfitters. Cathy will contact Mike Foret of TREPO for more information about distributing our brochure with the TREPO newsletter in November.

12. *Update on award for Fort White PARKnership Program (formerly the award for Trini Johannesen).* Lu secured information from John and Cathy on their availability for a September 23 presentation at a Columbia County School Board meeting in Fort White; she will follow up to schedule this.

13. *Planning for BBQ on Nov. 8.* We discussed a planning committee, an invitation for members and elected officials, an invitation article/ad in the TREPO newsletter, and the need to get a head count via RSVPs before the event. The BBQ planning committee (Charles, Bob & others) should meet in October. Lu will take RSVPs and track that count. John volunteered to staff the membership/information table since Lu will not be available that day.

14. *Planning for our response to the ruling on the Alliance's MFL challenge that is due by Sept. 11.* Lu reminded John, who will be out of town on Sept. 11, to review a draft press release. Bob suggested that our vice president, Cathy, be the point person for media contacts, etc., if John is not easily reachable while he is away.

NEW BUSINESS

15. *Amending our Articles of Incorporation so that the Articles & Bylaws are consistent.* John advised that we should not change any of our founding documents until we have received a decision about our federal nonprofit status; we agreed to wait until we have received that decision.

16. *Report on email vote for Save the Manatee Club sign-on letter/Floridians' Clean Water Declaration Campaign.* The email vote was unanimously positive and we have sent sign-on information to the appropriate parties.

17. *Using crowd funding for a membership drive or other project.* Jill reported that Indiegogo seems to be the best site to use and we discussed a potential project. Lu suggested \$5000 for an updated report card on the Ichetucknee, which is the amount that would be needed according to Bob. More discussion will take place at a future meeting.

18. *Nomination for new Advisory Board member.* Lu nominated Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, who has already been sharing information with the Alliance. Cathy seconded the nomination and it was approved unanimously.

19. *Date of next river monitoring event(s).* Not discussed.

20. *Date of the next meeting?* Because of travel schedules, we decided not to have a full Board meeting in October; instead, teams will meet as necessary to work on various projects.

CONTINUATION OF PLANNING SESSION/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

21. *Review and finalize 2015 work plan.* This item was postponed for discussion at team meetings and discussion at a future Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Secretary

John Jopling, President

Date