

**ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE
MINUTES
January 10, 2015, @ Rum 138**

Present

Jasmine Lott Hagan
John Jopling
Bob Knight
Jill Lingard
Charles Maxwell
Lucinda Merritt
Bob Palmer
Jim Stevenson
Cathy Street

Guests

Mebane Cory-Ogden
Scott Jantz
David Moritz
Fritzi Olson
Bob Ulanowicz

1. Agenda approval/additions/deletions. John Jopling added a discussion about the need for one or two focus areas for Alliance projects. He thinks we need a signature issue and he thinks it should be acquiring conservation easements in the Ichetucknee Basin, a need that coincides with Amendment 1. A detailed discussion followed and a Land Acquisition and Restoration Committee (LARC) was formed that includes Jopling, Bob Knight, and Charles Maxwell. Highlights of the discussion included: (1) the need to have a ready list of identified tracts (Jim Stevenson); (2) the need to work with Marianne Gengenbach (mentioned by Jim Stevenson) of FDEP's Division of State Lands Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC; mentioned by Bob Palmer); and (3) the need to talk about a cap on pumping or E = mc² (Efficient Management = metering, capping, charging, mentioned by Bob Ulanowicz).

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

2. Ichetucknee Springs State Park update (Mebane Cory-Ogden). In 2014, Ichetucknee Springs State Park had its fifth busiest summer in 32 years; Mebane will send us attendance figures. Design work for the dock at the South End is ongoing and there is a new project manager. The second annual Iche Nippy Dip Day on Jan. 3, 2015, saw an increase in attendance to 200 people from 32 attendees in 2014, with 80 actual "dippers." The park website is changing. Old Timers Day has been renamed Ichetucknee Appreciation Day and will be held on a date to be announced in March. There will be another water workday with the Fort White Schools. There is a new assistant park manager who is a certified burn boss, so more burning is planned. Quarterly moonlight paddles and sunrise trips are fundraisers for the new park Friends group. Mebane hopes to have construction of a hydrilla warning sign for divers in process within a month.

3. Water lettuce removal (Fritzi Olson). Olson expressed concern that the Ichetucknee Alliance was going to take an official position against water lettuce removal in the park. We assured her that we have not and do not intend to take such a position. In a previous discussion, we had decided not to get involved with this project as a group, but that does not mean we are going to take a stand against it. Instead, we are going to concentrate our energies on trying to reduce nitrates that are polluting the springs and the river. Individual Alliance members are of course free to assist with this effort should they choose to do so.

4. Mitigating JEA water use (Bob Ulanowicz). Ulanowicz reviewed information about the cone of depression in the aquifer caused by water withdrawals by JEA in Duval County. The cone extends west for 65 miles and we know that Duval County's water use is siphoning water away from the Ichetucknee. Ulanowicz has been analyzing ways that JEA could use less water. One idea is to construct wetlands that could be used to purify water before it is put back into the aquifer. JEA is required to report next month (February 2015) on measures it could take to reduce pumping; at that time, we could ask to review their report or file as an interested party. We know that the Columbia County Commission is also interested in this issue. Ulanowicz recommended that we consider possible actions when the report is issued and we agreed that this was a good plan.

5. *Taking a position on Amendment 1 (David Moritz)*. David raised the issue of using Amendment 1 money for wastewater treatment and stated that this is not what the Amendment was designed to encourage. Bob Palmer and Bob Knight added to the comments about how the money should be spent vs. how it is likely to be spent. Lu Merritt remarked that this is a sticky issue for springs groups and reminded everyone about the Amendment 1 team's new talking points and the request/advice to not use Amendment 1 money for wastewater treatment. The conversation then turned to Jopling's ideas about focused projects (see #1, above).

PRIORITY ITEMS

6. *Columbia County Legislative Delegation Meeting: Jan. 13, 2015. Does the Alliance want to send a representative to make a statement and if so, who will attend and what shall we say?* Jim recommended that we speak to the importance of springs legislation. Bob Palmer suggested targeting our message to Sen. Charlie Dean and saying: (1) we are here to help and want to speak at committee hearings to help make the springs bill as strong as possible; (2) we want to restore the springshed; (3) we are working on a list of projects to accomplish that aim and we will be happy to share that list with our representatives.

John Jopling and Cathy Street will attend the meeting at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015, in the library at Florida Gateway College in Lake City.

7. *Who speaks for the Alliance in public settings?* We agreed that everyone on the board could speak for the Alliance.

8. *Streamlining group decision-making and the invoice approval process*. It was moved, seconded and approved that we waive the requirement in our bylaws for 48 hours' notice for conference calls. We agreed that previously approved expenses did not need separate approval by the board. Merritt and Stevenson stressed the need to be nimble in decision making. Lu Merritt will research what the bylaws say about an executive committee and bring that information to the next meeting.

9. *Proposal for IA sponsorship of a cooperative IA/Our Santa Fe River Speakers' Series*. John Jopling moved and Bob Knight seconded the motion to create a cooperative speakers' series with Our Santa Fe River. The motion included the financial commitments of paying travel costs and small stipends to the featured speakers. The motion passed.

10. *Compressor station issue (Jasmine)*. Our discussion revealed the need for more information about the station's specific location and the potential dangers of compressor stations. Jim Stevenson recommended that we "keep ourselves in the mix" regarding the pipeline route and Jasmine Hagan agreed to do more research.

REPORTS

11. *Review/approval of November 15 meeting minutes*. The minutes were approved with no changes.

12. *Treasurer's report (Jasmine)*. The Alliance has \$1906.10 in the bank and \$1120.46 in PayPal for a total of \$3026.56. We need to create an acknowledgement page on our website for corporate lifetime members.

13. *Staff Assistant's report including membership update/November & December 2014 (Lu)*. There were no questions about the reports, but membership was discussed. Membership numbers are in flux because of the one-month grace period for renewals by people who joined from March 2013 through June 2014. Bob Knight suggested that we recruit in Three Rivers Estates. Lu explained that we have had articles in their newsletter and that our membership brochures went out to all 1800 people on their mailing list. Knight thinks we should do more and will draft something to send if we can get permission to use their mailing list. John Jopling will approach Glenn Hunter. Cathy Street stressed that we need to say how we will use membership and donation money. Lu stressed that in the past, we have gotten members when we did something that was visible to the public.

John Jopling asked if we are communicating with our members on a regular basis. Lu Merritt explained that she sends "Member News" emails fairly regularly (though not on a set schedule) whenever there is anything

significant to report; other board members indicated that they had been receiving those emails. Jill Lingard volunteered to help Lu improve the visual appeal of the member communications.

14. Science Team update and next monitoring dates. Jasmine Hagan reported that the next dates are Jan. 16 and Jan. 24. Jacqui Sulek has sent an email to her team that includes dates; she has asked Lu to share that information with our membership.

15. SRWMD December meeting. No report.

16. North FL Regional Water Supply Partnership SAC meeting in December. Lu Merritt reported about this meeting and based on feedback from her and from Bob Palmer, we agreed that the Alliance will no longer send a representative to these meetings.

17. Suwannee River Valley Marketing Group meeting. Jill Lingard reported that this group has a Facebook page that would be helpful in sharing information and getting the word out about events.

OLD BUSINESS

18. Update on FDEP response to MFL challenge and latest public hearing (Rob Williams via Lu). This item was discussed in conjunction with item #21.

19. T-shirt design. Lu reported that Terri Skiles has withdrawn from this project. Jill Lingard suggested using a photo by Jenny Adler and the group was receptive to that idea. Jill volunteered to contact Jenny and present a design concept to the group for approval.

20. IA Speakers' Bureau team meeting. Charles, Jill, John and Lu will meet at John Jopling's house at 6 p.m. on Jan. 26 to discuss messaging for a speaker's bureau.

NEW BUSINESS

21. Florida Springsfest and O'Leno Springs Festival/Chili Cookoff date conflict on March 28. Should IA participate in either or both of these events and if so, how? We agreed that we would participate in the O'Leno event only.

22. Date of the next meeting? Saturday, Feb. 14.

BOARD ONLY

23. Update on meeting with Drew Bartlett re: MFL. Note: New date is Feb. 3, 9 a.m. at SRWMD headquarters in Live Oak. See emails initiated by Bob Knight on Jan. 6, 2015. We discussed our approach to this meeting and will follow up via email.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Secretary