

**ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE
MINUTES
February 14, 2015, @ Rum 138**

Present

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

N.B.: Action items that people said they would take are highlighted in yellow.

1. Agenda approval/additions/deletions. John Jopling reported on an Alachua County legislative meeting and said there is “enormous pushback” on Amendment 1. He would like to publicly support Rep. Porter’s new bill for stricter water requirements and adjacent districts’ respecting each other. After some discussion, we agreed that **John would draft a statement of support** including caveats for the “current wording of proposed legislation” and a summary of what we understand the legislation will do. Cathy Street stressed, “It is important to let people know what we are for” as well as what we are against.

2. Announcement: Floridians for Clean Water and Amendment 1 Rally, Feb. 18. Lu Merritt reminded people about this event.

REPORTS

3. Review/approval of January 10 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

4. Treasurer’s report, including questions about audit committee. Jasmine Hagan reported that the Alliance has \$3387.52. She asked for volunteers to be an internal audit committee to review the treasurer’s work. Charles Maxwell has experience at this task and volunteered to serve as the audit committee.

5. Staff Assistant’s report including membership update, January 2015. There were no questions.

6. LARC (Land Acquisition & Restoration Committee) report. We discussed the Alliance’s plans to create a proactive list of lands for potential purchases and/or conservation easements to protect the Ichetucknee. Bob Knight has an intern working to identify potential properties; criteria include properties over 20 acres in size that have row crops, dairies, poultry and/or turf grass. Bob will also get information from Jim Stevenson on properties that Jim has identified. **John recommended that we send a list of properties to Ann Shortelle at SRWMD as soon as possible. Bob suggested exploring a partnership with the Conservation Trust of Florida for land acquisition.**

7. Science Team update and next monitoring dates. **Next monitoring dates are February 28 and March 21, 2015.** We discussed Science Team activities. If there are problems with equipment, please get that equipment to Bob, who handles quality control for this project. **Bob will send the directors the report that he prepares on the Springs Watch program.** Bob reported that, “The photos give us a record of vegetation that we’ve never had before.”

8. SRWMD meeting coverage. **Lu will send dates of upcoming meetings to the board and board members will sign up to cover meetings.**

9. “Water Voices” speaker series report. Cathy Street and Lu reported that the first event is set at the High Springs New Century Woman’s Club on March 9 with Aliki Moncrief and Pegeen Hanrahan of Florida Water and Land Legacy, who will discuss Amendment 1. The Alliance is co-sponsoring this event with Our Santa Fe River and the Woman’s Club.

10. Report from speakers' bureau team. This is our internal team that will take the Alliance's message out to community and civic groups in our area. Jill Lingard reported that the planning team met and came up with a good list of groups to contact about making our presentation. We will use the presentation to Paddle Florida as a template. Lu will send Jill some ideas about information to include from the recent Springs Roundtable planning meetings for the Florida Springs Council.

11. Report on meeting with Bartlett & Shortelle. John, Bob and others who were there reported on this meeting. The Alliance remains hopeful that FDEP will agree to make the Ichetucknee a restoration focus area/demonstration project.

OLD BUSINESS

12. T-shirt design. Jill reported on her proposal for a t-shirt featuring a wonderful photo by Jenny Adler. Bob moved that we fund the printing of up to 250 shirts, color to be decided by Jill in consultation with the designers at Dragonfly Graphics. The motion was approved by consensus.

13. Pipeline and compressor station. Jasmine presented a report and asked that the Alliance take a public stance against the pipeline. The proposal passed with some abstentions. Jasmine will write comments and a statement for the Alliance to release.

14. Upcoming event planning: Springs Celebration at O'Leno March 28 and Alligator Lake Spring Festival April 11. We have agreed to table those events and we also agreed to table the upcoming event (March 14) at Ichetucknee Springs State Park (ISSP). Here are the volunteers for each event:

ISSP, March 14

John
Cathy
Lu

(Charles will supply tent; Cathy will supply tables.)

O'Leno Springs Celebration, March 28

Cathy
Jill
John
Lu

(Charles tent; Cathy tables)

Alligator Lake Spring Festival, April 11

Jasmine
Jill
Lu

(Lu will check to see if we need tent and tables, but thinks we will not.)

NEW BUSINESS

15. Should the Alliance purchase Board of Directors insurance? Lu read a recommendation from Heather Culp of the Florida Springs Institute. John would like to spend no more than \$400-\$600. Cathy reported that Merrillee is looking into this for her group and Cathy will ask Merrillee to let us know what she finds out. Charles suggested we could also ask John Wheeler in Lake City.

16. Alliance affiliation with Florida Springs Council (FSC). The Alliance approved affiliation with this group, especially because John Jopling volunteered to serve on it and he and Jill, as John's substitute, have been attending meetings of the FSC steering committee.

17. Nominating Bob Ulanowicz to the Advisory Board. Lu nominated Bob Ulanowicz to the Advisory Board and his appointment was approved unanimously.

18. Annual meeting/election of officers/bylaw revision. We decided to postpone officer elections until 2016.

19. Date of the next meeting? The next meeting will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at John's river house, 542 Riverside Drive, Fort White (in Three Rivers Estates).

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Secretary

