

**ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE
MINUTES
October 5, 2015, @ Florida Springs Institute**

Present

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

Absent

Jasmine Lott Hagan

1. *Agenda approval/additions/deletions.* There were no changes to the agenda.

PRIORITY ITEMS

2. *Prioritizing use of the \$5-\$6K windfall from Florida's Eden.* A motion was made to track this money as a separate budgetary line item and use it for education/advocacy as those topics are "broadly construed" (as opposed to operating expenses). The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Members of the board will need to let Jasmine know when expenses fall into this category so that she can track them separately.

3. *Need to create exhibition panels for Water/Ways (Smithsonian exhibition coming to High Springs in 2016).* We agreed that Lu should start discussions with Stewart Thomas and bring some recommendations to the board at the November meeting. Lu will re-send the press release that has been issued about the exhibition.

4. *Acceptance of Bob Knight's resignation from the Board and nomination to place him on the Advisory Board.* Bob's resignation was accepted and there was unanimous support for placing him on the Advisory Board, to which he agreed.

5. *Suggestions for new board member(s).* Suggestions included Dale Williams, Noah Shitama, Martha Ann Ronsonet, and John Wheeler. John will call Dale, Martha Ann and John Wheeler (in that order) to gauge their interest and availability.

OFFICER, TEAM, AND MEETING REPORTS

6. *Review/approval of July 16 meeting minutes.* The minutes were approved with no changes.

7. *Treasurer's report and financial reporting/audit.* There was no Treasurer's report because Jasmine was out of town. Charles will ask Jasmine to submit a monthly report by email.

8. *Staff Assistant's report, July-August-September 2015, and current membership update.* There were no questions.

As of September 30, 2015, IA has 14 Lifetime members (incl. one corporate) and 71 other members, for a total of 85 members, with 708 members of our Facebook group page. Inactive members and people on our citizens' information list received encouragement to join the Alliance when the September session of Water Voices was announced via email on August 22, 2015.

9. *Science Team update and next monitoring dates.* Jill and Charles reported that they are handling the Friday monitorings and that there have been "equipment issues."

10. *Baseline monitoring update.* Bob Knight reported that over 20 volunteers helped. He expects to report on the work by the end of the year; we will plan to use the report as a blog entry. Visibility in the Lower Ichetucknee is only 25 feet, "not a single mullet" was spotted, but there was a "reasonable diversity of plants." He will contact Ken Sulak re: the possibility of sturgeon in the Ichetucknee. Bob encouraged us to focus on critical issues such as farming and septic tanks.

11. *SRWMD July, August, & September meeting reports.* Cathy emailed her report from the August meeting; she stressed to watch the graphs being generated by Megan Wetherington's replacement since those graphs can be misleading. Lu will draft a letter requesting a meeting with the new Executive Director about our identification of sensitive areas in the Ichetucknee springshed.

12. *T-shirt and hat sales report.* Cathy has been substituting for Jill and reported no sales.

13. *Tailgating report.* No report because Jasmine was out of town; Lu reported that Jasmine had mentioned \$118 generated from tailgating in September.

OLD BUSINESS

14. *"Water Voices" update (Lu).* For the September session, our budget of \$250 was spent as follows:

- \$50 to the Woman's Club for use of their space
- \$100 honorarium to Cynthia Barnett for speaking and moderating the panel
- \$100 to Doug Jipson for videoing the event, preparing titles for the video; preparing & compressing the video file and uploading it to YouTube

Lu gave a hat to Heather Culp in return for her running slides for the panel. Attendance was good although we again failed to attract elected representatives. The event was covered in the *Alachua Today* newspaper.

Loose ends:

- *Consider additional payment of \$100 to Doug Jipson (our original agreement w. him was for \$200 for his video work; this was not renegotiated since we failed to have a September meeting at which we could discuss renegotiation) and \$100 honorarium to Jim McFarlane.* McFarlane declined the honorarium and we approved paying Doug another \$100. John will negotiate with him for future payments. Cathy suggested having written contracts or memoranda of understanding with participants; John stressed the need to have this information in writing.
- *Consider approval for Rick Kilby's donation of a logo for Water Voices (suggest making Rick a Lifetime member, consistent to what we offered John Moran for use of his images on the website, and offering Rick his choice of a t-shirt or hat).* This idea was approved based on the group's enthusiastic approval of the logo offered by Rick.
- *Need agreement on topic & budget for winter session.* The group liked the idea of having Wendy Graham present her research on Best Management Practices in SRWMD and/or having Jim Gross give a talk on regional effects of aquifer decline. Bob Knight reported that Wendy is on sabbatical; Lu will contact Jim and since he was recently let go or resigned from SJRWMD, the group approved offering him a \$100 honorarium.
- *Formation of a Water Voices committee?* Discussed but no action taken.

15. *Duke Energy's spraying of defoliant along power lines that cross the Ich above US Hwy 27.* No follow-up information provided.

16. *Follow up with SRWMD re: identification of sensitive property acquisition?* See # 11, above.

NEW BUSINESS

17. *Creation of a consulting team to critique/improve IA messaging.* Lu explained that a sponsor has come forward who is willing to host the initial meeting and provide lunch for the participants. This effort was approved. A suggested addition, if she is available: Ann Christiano, Frank and Betsy Karel Endowed Chair in Public Interest Communications Professor, Public Relations, UF; see:

<http://www.jou.ufl.edu/faculty/facultydetail.asp?id=achristiano>

18. Need to forge & maintain better communications with Columbia County; need to form a governmental relations committee? John Jopling will talk to Dale Williams about the possibility of getting involved in this effort.

19. Date & location of the next meeting. Do we need to adopt a set meeting day? We liked the idea of meeting on the third Tuesday of the month (upcoming: Nov. 17, Dec. 15, Jan. 19, Feb. 16). Lu will try to find a meeting space and will send dates for the next year.

20. Signs. Charles will be the official keeper of the new signs the he had made and has donated to the group.

21. Annual meeting. Charles reminded us that we must set a date for our annual meeting and notify our members about election of officers.

22. Florida Springs Institute welcome center in High Springs. Bob Knight reported that he is working to make this center a reality and that he will need financial and volunteer help. The center will have Wi-Fi and will be a space where people could hold meetings and classes.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Secretary