

**ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE  
MINUTES****November 17, 2015, @ High Springs Library****Present**

John Jopling  
Jill Lingard  
Charles Maxwell  
Lucinda Merritt  
Cathy Street

**Absent**

Jasmine Lott Hagan

1. *Agenda approval/additions/deletions.* ADDED: Should IA take a position on hunting in state parks? & Eric Flagg event (see #s 20 & 21, below)

**PRIORITY ITEMS**

2. ~~Opening of Florida Springs Institute's new springs education center in High Springs.~~ DELETED.

3. *Decision about Floridians' Clean Water Declaration sign-on letter.* The decision to sign on was approved unanimously.

4. *Report on creation of exhibition panels for Water/Ways (Smithsonian exhibition coming to High Springs in 2016), including possibility of applying for a Florida Humanities Council grant.* Lu gave a report about her discussions with Stewart Thomas. Discussion followed. The idea of applying for a grant and/or doing crowd funding to raise money for exhibition panels was approved unanimously.

5. *Should IA purchase a slide projector for Water Voices programs and public presentations?* After some discussion, this item was tabled. Jill will investigate prices for projectors.

**OFFICER, TEAM, AND MEETING REPORTS**

6. *Review/approval of October 5 meeting minutes.* The minutes were approved as submitted.

7. *Treasurer's report and financial reporting/audit.* Since Jasmine was absent because of a death in her family, there was no report. Lu will check the bank account on line and email a report.

8. *Staff Assistant's report, October 2015, and current membership update.* There were no questions about the Staff Assistant's report. There was discussion about a membership drive, which was approved unanimously. For six months, members can renew and new people can join at the following prices: \$10 student/senior, \$15 individual, \$20 family (other categories remain at their current prices). Lu will draft a letter encouraging renewals to people whose memberships are expiring on Dec. 31; she will also encourage purchases of holiday gift memberships and items from our on-line store. She will email a draft of the letter to Board members for approval before it is sent out.

9. *Science Team update and next monitoring dates.* Jill reported that the next monitoring date is Dec. 11 and that all equipment is now working properly.

10. *T-shirt and hat sales report.* Jill reported no recent sales.

11. *Tailgating report.* There was no report because Jasmine was absent because of a death in her family.

12. *Update on Florida Springs Council's efforts to contact Bill Gates's people who are involved in agricultural land purchases in North Florida.* We discussed what has been done to try to make contact and the problems of industrial-level agriculture in our region, including the new "chicken factory" in Fort White.

**OLD BUSINESS**

13. *Suggestions for new board member(s).* John reported he has had no luck contacting some of the people who were suggested. Noah Shitama was mentioned again and Jill will talk to Jenny Adler.

14. *Planning for meeting with Noah Valenstein, new executive director of SRWMD, re: follow-up with SRWMD about identification of sensitive properties for acquisition.* John reported that our letter to Valenstein has been sent.

15. *"Water Voices" update.* Lu reported that she has contacted Jim Gross, a geologist recommended by Bob Knight, who is willing to give a presentation about the Floridan aquifer, and that the Water Resources program at Florida Gateway College (FGC) has agreed to co-sponsor the event and provide a free room. Lu will work with Jim and the people at FGC to set a date, probably in February.

16. *Update on IA Messaging Critique meeting, we have a sponsor and date is firm: Dec. 9.* Lu gave an update

about this activity, which is being supported by a sponsor, and will notify Board members if there is room for any of them to attend.

*17. Update on "Water 101" water use decision-making educational project.* Lu updated the Board about discussions she is having with John Moran about this project.

*18. Making a presentation to the Columbia County Commission about land use practices & how they affect the Ichetucknee.* After discussion, we decided that Lu would try to set a meeting with John Jopling, Bob Knight, and Wendy Graham of the University of Florida's Water Institute to talk about this. Graham has research that demonstrates how Best Management Practices (BMPs) do not work for row crops, turf grass, poultry farms or dairies.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

*19. Renewal of High Springs post office box rental.* Lu reported that renewal of our box rental is due at the end of November and she will take care of this matter before the end of the month.

*20. Should IA take a position on hunting in state parks?* There were differences of opinion among Board members; this item was tabled until the next meeting.

*21. Eric Flagg's personal challenge/potential IA Ichetucknee Relay event.* We had limited time to discuss this item. Lu will email more information to the Board about what Eric is doing.

*22. Date & location of the next meeting?* December 15, time to be decided, at John Jopling's river house. The meeting will be held before a holiday potluck social hour.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Secretary