

**ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE  
Board of Directors Meeting  
MINUTES  
February 16, 2016, @ North Florida Springs Environmental Center**

***Present***

Jasmine Lott Hagan  
John Jopling  
Charles Maxwell  
Lucinda Merritt  
Cathy Street

***Members & Guests***

Karen Glaser  
Bill Stasiewicz  
John Stranick  
Stewart Thomas

***Absent***

Jill Lingard

1. *Agenda approval/additions/deletions.* Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson was unable to attend so her item of discussion, need for rezoning in Columbia County & zoning workshop for commissioners, was deleted.

***PRIORITY ITEMS/GUESTS***

2. *North FL Springs Environmental Center/welcome & mission.* Heather Culp welcomed us and talked about the creation and mission of the new center. For future reference, the center's phone number is 386-454-2427.

3. *Discussion about theme for exhibition panels for Water/Ways.* Stewart Thomas presented ideas to the group for consideration. After discussion, we decided that John Jopling would be Stewart's liaison with the board. Lu Merritt will work with Stewart to develop content, which will go through John for approval.

***OFFICER, TEAM, AND MEETING REPORTS***

4. *Review/approval of December 17 meeting minutes.* The minutes were approved with no changes.

5. *Treasurer's report.* Jasmine Hagan will email a report to the board.

6. *Staff Assistant's report, December 2015.* There were no questions about this report.

7. *Science Team update and next monitoring dates.* Jasmine reported that her boat is fixed and she will be able to do monitoring on weekends again.

8. *T-shirt and hat sales report.* Item tabled; no report this month.

9. *"Water Voices" update.* Lu updated the group about publicity efforts and other planning for Water Voices, which will feature geologist Jim Gross speaking on Feb. 29, 2016, at Florida Gateway College in Lake City.

10. *Update on meeting at SRWMD.* John, Charles Maxwell, and Lu updated the group on their meeting with Noah Valenstein and Tom Mirti on Jan. 20, 2016. We will continue the dialogue. Charles suggested that we press legislators for purchase of land contiguous to the state park.

***OLD BUSINESS***

11. *New computer projector for Water Voices programs and public presentations.* Item tabled. No report this month; however, purchase of a carrying case for the projector was approved.

12. *New board member(s).* Lu will send an email to all members currently in good standing to see if any of them are interested in serving on the board.

13. *Planning for annual meeting/election of officers in March 2016.* We discussed plans and publicity for this meeting as well as revising our bylaws to allow more flexibility in meeting structure and to solve problems with assuring quorums for our meetings. We agreed that we should have a minimum of seven board members and that a majority of members present (rather than a majority of all members) would suffice to approve

actions of the board. Charles will draft revisions to the bylaws and submit them for consideration at our next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*14. Funding the PARKnership program.* We discussed how to help find funding solutions for this very worthwhile environmental education program that involves the Fort White schools and the state park. Lu will invite Trini Johannesen, Valerie Thomas, and their “boss” to an upcoming meeting to discuss.

*15. Ideas about how to get more people paddling the Ich through our website.* This item was tabled.

*16. Information from Dorian Morgan of Upper Case about costs of a PR campaign.* Lu reported on this contact and that she would be floating this idea to the Florida Springs Council to see if there is any interest.

*17. SpringsFest & O’Leno Springs Celebration participation.* SpringsFest (at Silver Springs in Ocala) is March 19-20; Jasmine and her friend Lindsey can staff an IA table on Saturday, Mar. 19. There were no volunteers for staffing on Sunday, Mar. 20. The O’Leno Springs Celebration is Saturday, Apr. 3; Lu, Cathy, and John volunteered to work that event. Charles offered use of his tent. Jasmine currently has our banner.

*18. Confirm next meeting:* Meeting confirmed for 6:30 p.m. on March 15 at North FL Springs Environmental Center.

*19. Several guests had questions about the chicken factory in Fort White and the permitting process required for that facility.* We discussed what we knew about this situation and that IA had made statements requesting that the Columbia County commissioners re-visit county zoning ordinances to prevent something like this from happening again and especially to prevent the siting of any industrial agricultural operations in the Ichetucknee springshed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Secretary/Staff Assistant

