

**ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE
MEETING MINUTES****6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21, 2016****@ North Florida Springs Environmental Center, 23695 W. U.S. Highway 27, High Springs FL*****Present***

Jasmine Lott Hagan
Scott Jantz
John Jopling
Jill Lingard
Charles Maxwell
Lucinda Merritt
Cathy Street

Members & Guests

Bob Knight
Amelia McKnight

1. Agenda approval/additions/deletions: (a) Jill Lingard on “Explore the Ichetucknee” (#14 below); (b) Lu Merritt on a concert to benefit the Alliance (#15 below); (c) Bob Knight on a proposal to FDEP via SRWMD (#16 below).

OFFICER REPORTS

2. Review/approval of March 15 meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved with no corrections.

3. Treasurer’s report, including money earmarked for education and money collected for exhibition panels. Jasmine Hagan reported that the Alliance has \$7,683.75 in the bank; of that amount, \$6,101.41 was received from Florida’s Eden and is earmarked for education/outreach purposes. \$178.13 has been donated in the current fundraising drive for exhibition panel & information card creation for the Water/Ways exhibition. \$14.26 is in PayPal, a new membership. Lu requested information from Jasmine about who has donated to the Water/Ways exhibition, so those people can be sent thank-you acknowledgements.

4. Staff Assistant’s report, March 2016. There were no questions about the report. *Note: As of April 16, the Alliance had 58 members and 1007 members of the Facebook group page.*

OLD BUSINESS/OTHER REPORTS

5. Science Team update. Jill reported on activities and that the next monitoring events are scheduled for May 6 and June 3, 2016. All equipment is working and the group may take on more monitoring tasks, per Bob Knight’s request.

6. Report on tabling at SpringsFest (March 19-20) & O’Leno Springs Celebration (April 2). Jasmine reported that she and Lindsey Kelly handed out information at SpringsFest in Ocala on March 19. Cathy reported that the Alliance did not attend the O’Leno Celebration because of rain.

7. Report on t-shirt and hat sales. Jill reported no new sales.

8. Report on SRWMD April meeting. Lu gave a brief report on this meeting that she attended on April 12 at the request of Bob Palmer; she referenced her email report to the Board on April 13, 2016.

9. Update on development of exhibition panels. Lu reported that work is proceeding on the Alliance’s exhibition for the Water/Ways event in High Springs in July and August. She met with Stewart Thomas, who has created a beautiful, eye-catching concept for the panels. Lu is working to get permission for use of one key photo from an area photographer.

10. Update on next Water Voices program. Lu reported that she has secured a venue, the High Springs New Century Woman’s Club, and two speakers—Traci Deen of the Center for Earth Jurisprudence and Heather Culp of the Florida Springs Institute—for a program on July 25 that is tentatively titled, “Why Aren’t Florida’s Water Laws Protecting Florida’s Waters?”

11. *Update on Restoration Focus Area/Springs Tag Grant application/meetings with Noah Valenstein.* John has had no further meetings with Valenstein and there is no word yet about the Springs Tag Grant proposal that the Alliance submitted.

12. *Confirm new meeting date:* May 18 presented no problems for any of the directors.

NEW BUSINESS

13. *Spending \$100 to affiliate with Florida Wildlife Federation.* Affiliation had been discussed and approved at a previous meeting; the \$100 expense was unanimously approved.

14. *"Explore the Ichetucknee" section of the Alliance's website.* Jill proposed a new section for the website that would direct people to the various ways they could explore the Ichetucknee. Everyone thought this was an excellent idea. Lu explained that the needed website re-design is on hold until after the Water/Ways exhibition is created. Jill agreed to gather the information for the "Explore the Ichetucknee" section in a text file that can be used on the new website.

15. *Benefit concert.* Lu reported that a local musician has volunteered to play music and possibly help to organize a concert to benefit the Alliance. The Board was enthusiastic about this idea and authorized Lu to begin conversations about this effort. She will report results of those conversations to the Board.

16. *Proposal to FDEP via SRWMD.* Bob Knight shared for consideration a draft proposal for \$3 million for "Accelerating Ichetucknee Springs Restoration Through Rural Land Conservation and Management Incentives." After much discussion, the Board unanimously approved submittal of the proposal by the Ichetucknee Alliance, pending further preliminary discussions and feedback from a potential cash match partner and other potential participants. Bob Knight and John Jopling will take the lead on this effort.

17. *Donation to the Fort White PARKnership program.* Charles Maxwell suggested that the Alliance donate \$400 to this educational program at the Fort White schools; his suggestion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Secretary