

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE MEETING MINUTES

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 15, 2017

@ North Florida Springs Environmental Center, 23695 W. U.S. Highway 27, High Springs FL

Present

Eric Flagg
Jasmine Hagan
John Jopling
Charles Maxwell
Lu Merritt
Cathy Street

Guests

Hayley Cunilla
Paul Donsky
Amelia McKnight
Mike Smith

President John Jopling called the meeting to order.

1. Agenda approval/additions/deletions. Jopling indicated he also wanted to talk about new Board members and the suggestion that we consider merging with Our Santa Fe River; see #11 below.

PRIORITY ITEMS

2. Report about possible challenge to new North Florid Regional Water Supply Plan. Jopling reported about his discussions with IA Advisory Board and Florida Springs Council members Bob Knight and Bob Palmer as well as Attorney John Thomas. The Alliance is involved in these discussions because we are the group that would have legal standing to challenge the plan. There will be a meeting with people from the water management districts on February 20. Merritt asked if Board members could attend; Jopling will check and let us know.

OFFICER REPORTS

3. Review/approval of January meeting minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes.

4. Treasurer's Report. Hagan reported that the Alliance has \$4474.88. Out of that amount, \$2084.91 is earmarked for education-related expenses.

5. Membership Report. Merritt emailed membership information to the directors earlier on February 15, as follows: 16 Lifetime members (including one Corporate Lifetime member) + 29 other members = 45 members. As of February 15, we have 1242 members of the Facebook group page.

OLD BUSINESS & UPDATES

6. Science Team update. Hagan reported that she, Charles and others are continuing to do monitoring and Brenda Wells is doing fish counts.

7. Trace Race exploration update. Eric Flagg reported about his ongoing research into the possibility of having this event. He spoke with Joy Hancock, executive director of Bike Florida, who wants to collaborate. Park staff members are excited about the event. Jim Stevenson recommended that the rally should take place on "visible roads." Paddle Sport Risk Management LLC gave the average cost of insurance for such an event as \$2500. Other suggestions of insurance agencies to contact included American Reliable (Jopling) and John Wheeler Insurance Agency in Lake City (Charles Maxwell). Logistics of the event still need to be worked out. Flagg reported that the costs to participants for such events run from \$25-\$65 and we could probably expect 50-100 participants. Guest Amelia McKnight said she would talk to her husband, who works at San Felasco Hammock, about insurance for the Tour de Felasco.

8. T-shirt and hat sales update. Hagan reported no recent sales.

9. Report on SRWMD meetings. No one had a report.

NEW BUSINESS

10. Columbia County Commission meeting re: proposed CAFO ordinance. The group discussed the draft ordinance and this meeting, which Jopling and Hagan will attend. Merritt will provide Jopling with Jim Tatum's contact

information so they can talk before the meeting. It will be important for IA to offer support for the work that Our Santa Fe River (OSFR) has done on the draft ordinance.

11. Other new business: need for new Board members; suggestion to merge with OSFR. Since Jill Lingard and Scott Jantz have resigned and Cathy Street's resignation is effective at the end of this meeting, IA needs new board members. After discussion, introductions, and indications of their willingness to serve, Paul Donsky and Amelia McKnight were unanimously approved as new Board members. Given these additions and the feedback of several Board and Advisory Board members, Merritt withdrew her suggestion to discuss the possibility of a merger with OSFR.

12. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Secretary