

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE MEETING MINUTES

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 16, 2016

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

Present

Eric Flagg*
Jasmine Hagan
Scott Jantz
Jill Lingard
Charles Maxwell
Lu Merritt
Cathy Street

Absent

John Jopling*

*Eric Flagg was added to the Board via unanimous email approval on 10/24/2016.

Vice-President Cathy Street called the meeting to order.

1. *Agenda approval/additions/deletions.* None.

OFFICER REPORTS

2. *Review/approval of October meeting minutes.* The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. *Treasurer's report.* Jasmine reported that the Alliance has \$3912.72. Lu pointed out that \$2084.91 of that amount is earmarked for educational purposes. We discussed pros and cons of paying \$10/month for printed bank statements and decided that saved pdf statements, which can be printed if need be, are preferable.

4. *Staff Assistant's report, October 2016.* There were no questions about the report.

OLD BUSINESS & UPDATES

5. *Science Team update.* Jill reported that there are new volunteers and the team is continuing with fish counts. Next monitoring sessions are Dec. 9 (regular monitoring) and Dec. 10 (fish count).

6. *Trace Race exploration update.* Eric, Scott, and Jill reported about their activities and that there is a meeting with William Register of the park staff at noon on Tuesday, Nov. 29, at the park office. They think that the park staff, the CSO and the new concessionaire may be receptive to the idea. Lu stressed the importance of including an educational component in the event. It will be important, if the other organizations want to participate, to decide who will take the lead in organizing the event and what role each organization will assume. Charles stressed the importance of involving Columbia County (calendar, Chamber of Commerce, TDC). Eric has information about required permits; one is required for the activity and there is a checklist for insurance, etc.

7. *T-shirt and hat sales update.* None to report. Stewart Thomas has updated our membership page with hat & t-shirt choices for new members; Jill and Jasmine will double-check to make sure information about choices is getting to Jill so she can mail out t-shirts and hats.

8. *Report on SRWMD meetings.* No one attended the regular board meeting in November. Lu reported on the public meeting about the new regional water supply plan and her subsequent communications with Noah Valenstein at the District. She recommended holding off on making any statements to the District about what the Alliance wants, per our September retreat, since it seems that the District may already be doing some of those things. She will bring more information to the next meeting or circulate it in an email.

9. *Publicity strategy/Water Voices for new Ichetucknee Report Card & presentations to civic & community groups.* Lu recommended that we aim for one presentation in Gainesville and one in Lake City early in 2017, to launch our new PowerPoint (still in process), have Bob Knight explain the new report card, and possibly have Wendy Graham talk about agricultural best management practices if she is available and willing. Lu also reported that Columbia County has a new commissioner, Tim Murphy, who replaces Scarlet Frisina.

10. Review of & comments on North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan. This was discussed as part of #8, above. Lu will send Jasmine Bob Ulanowicz's draft comments. Deadline for comments is Dec. 5, which means we need to get our comments submitted by Dec. 4.

11. Columbia County Fair display panel report. Lu reported that only a few brochures had been taken, the water fortune supply was not depleted, and one of the display panels needs to go back to Stewart for repair. We agreed that we might not want to put the display at the fair again next year. Lu will work to secure the next venues for the display at Columbia County Library sites.

NEW BUSINESS

12. Tour of Lake City sprayfield recommended by Jim Stevenson. Directors were receptive to this idea and John Jopling's assistant has informed us that he has already had the tour. Based on that information, Lu will proceed with contacting the relevant people to find out when we might be able to schedule a tour. Eric suggested that we ask if the tour could be videoed for the Alliance's directors only; Lu will check on this.

13. Manatee data reporting & MFL review email from Jacqui Sulek. Jacqui has suggested that we ensure that manatee data that's being collected follows the protocol recommended by the Save the Manatee Club so that it can be used in the next Ichetucknee MFL review. Lu will continue to try to obtain this information from Lars Andersen and will work with Lars and the Club on this task.

14. Report on number of water use permits issued or increased since the MFL was adopted. Lu reported about her conversation with Noah Valenstein about this and about the District's claim that they have stopped issuing permits that affect the Ichetucknee. Because there are still questions about how the District is making its decisions, Bob Palmer is investigating this in more scientific detail.

15. Next scheduled IA meeting date: Dec. 21. Do we want to reschedule or cancel? Do we want a Christmas/holiday get-together? We agreed not to have a formal meeting in December but we would like a holiday social. Lu will ask John Jopling if his river house is available. Lu will send third Wednesday dates for 2017 to all directors.

16. Other new business. Lu reported that she is waiting until the end of the calendar year to file the 501(c)(3) "h" designation. She will check on whether this designation enables the Alliance to endorse candidates or not. Charles asked if John needs to appoint a Nominating Committee and we agreed that since we elected new officers and a new director this year, a committee is not needed (directors serve for either two or three years and can be added at any time).

17. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Secretary