

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE MEETING MINUTES

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 13, 2017

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

Present

Paul Donsky
Jasmine Hagan
John Jopling
Lu Merritt

Absent

Eric Flagg
Amelia McKnight

President John Jopling called the meeting to order.

1. Agenda approval/additions/deletions. We added #17, two items from Paul Donsky.

PRIORITY ITEMS

2. Status of appeal of dismissal of our challenge to the new regional water supply plan. Lu reported that members of the Board of Directors voted unanimously via email to appeal the dismissal of our challenge to the North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan. John Jopling relayed information about the appeal from his conversation with Attorney John Thomas: The paperwork for the appeal has been filed. Our appeal may be consolidated with that of Paul Still. Our attorney will file a brief, the water management districts will file briefs, and then there will be rebuttals. John Jopling will get a copy of the brief and share it with the Board. Jopling thinks this process will take about 90 days.

3. Report about meeting with John Wheeler, Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, John Jopling and Lu Merritt. John and Lu reported on the meeting with Wheeler, who is a past director of The Ichetucknee Partnership (TIP) and may be able to help locate some Board or Advisory Board members from Lake City/Columbia County. The purpose of the meeting was to talk about a proposed urban fertilizer ordinance for Lake City, which Merrilee is pursuing in her work for Sierra Club and which the Alliance stands ready to assist with, since fertilizers within the springshed affect water quality in the Ichetucknee.

4. Report about letter to move sewage sludge spreading area out of the springshed. Jim Stevenson had requested that we take action on sewage sludge spreading at Lake City's Branford Road site, which is in the springshed. Lu had shared the letter with Board members via email. We agreed it would be good to have follow-up meetings with representatives of the agencies involved in permitting this operation, the City of Lake City and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Lu will follow up to make sure they received the letter and to explore having a follow-up meeting.

OFFICER REPORTS

5. Review/approval of May meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as submitted.

6. Staff Assistant's report, May 2017. There were no questions.

7. Treasurer's report. Jasmine reported that we have \$5211.11. Note: Out of the funds we received from Florida's Eden, we have \$2084.91 remaining that is earmarked for education-related expenses.

8. Membership Report. Lu reported that we have 56 active members, 16 lifetime members, and 1 corporate member, for a total of 73 members. There are 1262 members of our Facebook group page.

OLD BUSINESS & UPDATES

9. Science Team update. Jasmine reported that because of her new work schedule, monitoring on the Lower Ichetucknee will continue to happen monthly but more flexibly, i.e., not on pre-assigned days.

10. Trace Race exploration update. This item was tabled.

11. T-shirt and hat sales update. Jasmine and Paul reported that five shirts were sold to the Florida Springs Institute for resale at the North Florida Springs Environmental Center.

12. Report on SRWMD meetings. Lu added a few comments to the reports she had emailed to Board members.

13. Votes needed for new bumper stickers:

- The Board unanimously approved spending \$200 for 200 of our standard stickers (with colors reversed) from Hunter Printing.
- The Board approved the version of “No Water No Farms No Food” with white letters for our URL.

14. Feedback on PowerPoint presentation. Lu explained that she will make the presentation to the Board before taking it to any other group. She is open to suggestions about the pdf that was sent to Board members via email.

NEW BUSINESS

15. Set date for tour of Ichetucknee Basin by Jim Stevenson. We chose September 23, 2017. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

16. Next meeting dates or suspend for summer? Our next meeting will be September 20, 2017. Because of vacation schedules, we will not meet in July or August.

17. Water monitoring data; social media. Paul explained a handout he had prepared about results of fish counting and water monitoring on the Lower Ichetucknee. He said that “no one else is doing this kind of monitoring” for the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute. He will submit a write-up about the findings that we can publish as a blog entry on the Alliance’s website.

Paul also discussed augmenting the Alliance’s social media presence through an official Ichetucknee Alliance Facebook page (different from the group page we have now), Instagram, Twitter, etc. The Board authorized him to create pages as he sees fit, with messages that should dovetail with the current Facebook page and website.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Secretary