

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE MEETING MINUTES

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 20, 2017

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

Present

Paul Donsky
Jasmine Hagan
John Jopling
Amelia McKnight
Lu Merritt

Absent

Eric Flagg

President John Jopling called the meeting to order.

1. *Agenda approval/additions/deletions.* Paul added #13a. Amelia added #18.

PRIORITY ITEMS

2. *Status of appeal of dismissal of our challenge to the new regional water supply plan.* Lu read John Thomas's email report and excerpts of two emails from Heather about the need for the Alliance to make a formal request for the Florida Springs Council to continue their financial support of the Alliance's appeal. We discussed this matter. John Jopling will follow up with Dan Hilliard and/or Heather and Lu will communicate the results of our discussion with Heather.

3. *Reminder: Ichetucknee Basin tour with Jim Stevenson 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Sept. 23, 2017, and Solar Rocks for the Equinox at Rum 138 that same day, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.* Lu reminded the group about these two events.

4. *For the IA's official record:* We took a telephone vote on 7/11/17 in favor of limiting tubing to the lower part of the river and managing flow for manatees. In favor: Jopling, Hagan, Donsky, McKnight, Merritt; also in favor via post-call conversation: Flagg. We then submitted written comments about this to the Acquisition and Restoration Council relevant to the new draft Ichetucknee Springs State Park unit management plan. John Jopling mentioned that there was some media coverage of the tubing issue, for which he was interviewed.

OFFICER REPORTS

5. *Review/approval of June meeting minutes.* The minutes were unanimously approved.

6. *Staff Assistant's reports, June/July/August 2017.* There were no questions.

7. *Treasurer's report.* Jasmine reported that the Alliance has \$4787.03. After discussion, there was a motion and a second to donate \$750 to the Florida Springs Council's legal fund, to be earmarked for costs associated with the Alliance's legal appeal. The motion passed unanimously. **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 as of 9/18/2017, we have 17 Lifetime members and 64 current members for a total of 81 members. We also have 1298 members of our Facebook group discussion page. One hundred people have liked our new official Facebook page and 104 people have followed that page. We discussed the need for individual Board members to promote IA memberships to their family members and friends, including reminders that memberships make good holiday gifts.

OLD BUSINESS & UPDATES

9. *Science Team update.* Jasmine reported that Emily from the Florida Springs Institute has been leading the water monitoring sessions. There was no monitoring in September because of Hurricane Irma. Equipment is now at the North Florida Springs Environmental Center. Paul will make sure that Amelia gets put on the email list to receive notifications about monitoring sessions.

10. T-shirt and hat sales update. Jasmine reported that new members are given their choice of a t-shirt or hat, but some new members are requesting both. She will ask Stewart Thomas if he can correct this confusion on the PayPal and/or website pages. We discussed who has which items.

11. Report on SRWMD meetings. Lu reported on the part of the meeting she had been able to attend today (Sept. 20). Other reports have been emailed to the Board.

12. PowerPoint presentation report. Jasmine volunteered to help Lu with projector and computer compatibility issues. If the problem cannot be resolved, Lu will visit GatorTec for help at her own expense since this may be an issue of MacBook compatibility.

13. FYI item: New "No Water No Farms No Food" bumper stickers. Lu brought a supply of these to the meeting for Board members to take.

13a. Facebook pages. Paul reported that the new official page is up and running. The page enables him and other page administrators to post announcements that are identified on Facebook as coming from the Ichetucknee Alliance. Jasmine suggested that we start using the hash tag #IchAlliance.

NEW BUSINESS

14. FYI item: Lu reported that Three Rivers Trust has agreed to fund three new short (3- to 5-minute) videos that will highlight the Ichetucknee Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow, with scripts by Lu (in consultation with Eric) and video production by Eric. Goal: to reinforce the importance of the Ichetucknee to its surrounding communities, to identify problems (per most recent report card) and offer ideas for solutions, and to inform people about how water-related decisions are made prior to the 2018 election cycle. Videos will include mention of the importance of voting and the possibility that the Ichetucknee could end as a failed or dried-up spring; however, the scripts were written to avoid being "inflammatory" and to make it clear that all water users must be part of the solutions to our overuse and pollution of water. John will check with other lawyers to seek opinions about whether a "vote for water" message is safe to use without threatening our nonprofit status.

15. Request approval for Stewart Thomas's proposal for help with new website design & launch. The proposal was presented by Lu, discussed, and approved unanimously for expenses up to \$950.

16. Consider John Moran's suggestion for a billboard or sign in Fort White. After some discussion, we decided that "No Water No Farms No Food" was not an appropriate billboard message because there were reports of confusion about what it means. Lu explained that it was designed expressly as a bumper sticker to drive people to our website. Lu will ask Heather about billboard costs in case the Alliance wants to investigate this idea in more detail, using a different message.

17. Next meeting dates: Oct. 18 and Nov. 15. We decided not to meet in December.

18. Other new business: Amelia mentioned that she is inviting people to kayak with her on the river. This could eventually be expanded into an Ichetucknee Alliance event. With that potential goal in mind, Lu will ask Jill Lingard and Heather Obara for the copies of the release forms they use for Paddle Florida and Florida Springs Institute activities.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Secretary