

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 23, 2018

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

Board Members Present

Paul Donsky
 Jasmine Hagan
 Amelia McKnight
 Lu Merritt

Board Members Absent

John Jopling
 Eric Flagg

Guests

Jim Stevenson, IA Advisory Board

In President Jopling's absence, Paul Donsky facilitated the meeting.

1. *Agenda approval/additions/deletions.* We discussed the Instagram page and how to facilitate distribution of hats and t-shirts.

PRIORITY ITEMS

2. *Guests:* Jim Stevenson talked to us about several subjects, as follows.

- The Alliance needs more members. Jim recommends familiarizing staff at Ichetucknee Springs State Park with our organization so that they can point interested people to our website. We should also ask about putting our brochures in the park's visitor center. Also, ask the park manager to permit us to brief the staff during a personnel meeting.
- Jim recently led a basin tour for David Clark, deputy secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and Callie DeHaven, director of FDEP's Division of State Lands. The deputy secretary is over all state parks.
- Phase I of the Blue Water Audits that are being conducted by the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute (FSI) is complete. Phase II will examine water use at the level of smaller land parcels.
- The Wakulla Springs Alliance has a Springs Champion award program for people who have done outstanding work to help the springs. Jim will send photos of the awards they present to people. Board members are not eligible.
- A dye trace study at Lake Jackson in Tallahassee proved that water from Lake Jackson travels 20 miles to Wakulla Springs in 35 days. A similar study at Alligator Lake in Lake City could determine how long it takes water from that lake to travel to the Ichetucknee. The study would need to be done when Alligator Lake is draining to help push the dye. Jim recommends asking Pete Butt to submit a proposal to IA. The IA can request funding from Three Rivers Trust so that we will be ready when the lake begins to drain.
- A Wakulla Springs tour boat operator has determined that people from 48 different countries have visited that spring. Could there be a similar effort to identify where visitors come from at Ichetucknee Springs State Park?
- Regarding land acquisition outside the park to protect the water, Jim recommends talking to Tom Kay at Alachua Conservation Trust and encouraged us to act.
- Jim reported that an idea has been floated about an annual meeting of spring alliance representatives from throughout the state. The meeting would give the groups a chance to share ideas.

OFFICER REPORTS

3. *Review/approval of November 2017 meeting minutes.* The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. *Staff Assistant's reports, November and December 2017.* There were no questions.

5. *Treasurer's report.* Jasmine reported that the Alliance has \$4238.78. ***Note: Out of the funds we received from Florida's Eden, we have \$1134.91 remaining that is earmarked for education-related expenses (\$2084.91 - \$950 earmarked for Stewart Thomas/Palmstone Studios for help with new website, although Stewart's costs will be less).***

6. *Membership Report.* Lu reported that membership numbers are in limbo until Feb. 1 since we give people whose memberships expired in December a one-month grace period for renewals. We have 1319 members of

our Facebook group discussion page; 114 people like and 119 people are following our official Facebook page. Lu will create a special email for expired members to remind them to renew.

OLD BUSINESS & UPDATES

7. *Science Team update.* Jasmine reported that monitoring occurred in November and December. She is going to talk to Emily at FSI about the idea of having people “Adopt a Spring” to monitor. Three Rivers Trust is funding an FSI project that will create a video for fish identification.

8. *T-shirt and hat sales update.* Jasmine reported that there have been no sales but t-shirts and hats have gone to new and renewing members. We discussed whether to give these to renewing members and confirmed that this is what we want to do. Lu will check with Stewart to see if people who join or renew online can mark their choice of hat or t-shirt. Lu will revise the mail-in form to include that choice.

9. *Report on SRWMD meetings.* Lu reminded everyone that she sends these reports via email immediately following the meetings.

10. *Second opinion re: “vote for water” as opposed to “vote wisely” in IA messaging.* No report.

11. *Update on website revisions.* Lu reported that work on the website is ongoing.

12. *Update on videos.* Lu reported that Eric has produced a rough cut of the first video. She will work with him to record narration.

13. *Possible action items related to discussions held on the basin tour with Jim Stevenson on Sept. 23, 2017.*

- Requesting money from Three Rivers Trust to hire an experienced person to help with land acquisition in the springshed (recommended by Jim). Lu is going to contact Tom Kay about this. Kay has indicated that he is interested and would not need to be paid, since the Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) already pays him for that work. ACT’s work is not limited to Alachua County.
- Replacing interpretive signs at Rose Sink and Cannon Sink (recommended by Jim). We agreed that this is a worthwhile project and that both signs should be replaced in order to have a coordinated message and design. Members of the board will work to get photographs of the current signs as a starting point for this project.
- Continuing the basin tours and/or creating a “basin tour experience” for people. Discussion was tabled.
- Following up on establishment of the required restoration focus area for Ichetucknee. Lu reported that she has been in touch with Terry Hansen at FDEP and they anticipate an April review of a draft of the revised Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) for the Lower Santa Fe, which will include this information about the Ichetucknee. Terry is checking to make sure that IA is on the list to be notified about the review.

14. *SpringsFest (March 3-4), O’Leno (April 7) and Alligator Lake (April 14) event tabling.* We discussed event tabling. No one is available to table at SpringsFest in Ocala; however, FSI will have a table and could distribute our “Action” brochures. There were “maybes” but no firm commitments for the other two events.

15. *Other old business.* Paul reported that our Instagram page now has 58 likes.

NEW BUSINESS

16. *Meeting schedule for 2018:* fourth Tuesdays Feb. 27; Mar. 27; Apr. 24; May 22; Jun. 26; Jul. 24; Aug. 28; Sept. 25; Oct. 23; Nov. 27 (the week AFTER Thanksgiving); No meeting in December (it would fall on Dec. 25). Everyone’s calendars were clear for the next scheduled meeting on Feb. 27, 2018.

17. *Other new business.* None.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Secretary