

## **ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES**

**6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, 2018**

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

### ***Board Members Present***

Paul Donsky  
Eric Flagg  
John Jopling  
Lu Merritt

### ***Board Members Absent***

Amelia McKnight

### ***Guests***

Hugh Thomas, SRWMD  
Angeline Meeks, FSI  
Hilda Gilchrist, IA member

### ***Advisory Board Members Present***

Loye Barnard  
Bob Knight, FSI

John Jopling called the meeting to order and presided.

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

### ***PRIORITY ITEMS***

*2. Guests:* Bob Knight and Angeline Meeks gave a presentation about how the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Insitute (FSI) is conducting a Blue Water Audit to create detailed maps of water use within the springs heartland and, in particular, within the Ichetucknee springshed. The effort is based on determining the “Aquifer footprints” of different land use parcels. Knight pointed out that flow loss in the Ichetucknee is a regional problem as well as a local problem. Regarding nitrate pollution, Knight and Meeks have created a spreadsheet showing the top 50 land parcels that contribute to nitrate loading in the Ichetucknee. This list could be used as a restoration tool, with financial incentives to landowners willing to reduce or discontinue their practices that result in nutrient loading. Since the Ichetucknee is one of Florida’s spring systems that might be most easily restored, using the Blue Water Audit data to prioritize land parcels for spring restoration “could be a great demonstration project for the whole state,” Knight said.

Lu Merritt suggested that using the Blue Water Audit data to create a visual animation of the rise and fall of groundwater levels in the Floridan aquifer could be an effective teaching tool.

Hugh Thomas talked about efforts at the Suwannee River Water Management District that dovetailed with the idea of the Blue Water Audit and Ichetucknee restoration efforts. He gave credit to the Ichetucknee Alliance for initially floating the idea of an Ichetucknee restoration area and said that the district is exploring interest among area agriculturalists in receiving financial incentives for switching to water-friendly crops.

### ***OFFICER REPORTS***

*3. Review/approval of February 2018 meeting minutes.* The minutes were approved with no changes.

*4. Staff Assistant’s report, February 2018.* There were no questions.

*5. Treasurer’s report.* Jasmine Hagan resigned as treasurer because she is moving out of the area. There was no treasurer’s report this month.

*6. Membership Report.* Lu reported that as of March 25, we have 58 paid members with 1321 members of our Facebook group discussion page. 121 people like and 125 people are following our official Facebook page.

### ***OLD BUSINESS & UPDATES***

*7. Science Team update.* No report this month.

*8. T-shirt and hat sales update.* No report this month.

*9. Report on SRWMD meetings.* Lu sent her report to board members via email.

10. *Follow-up on comments about website revisions.* None.

11. *Update on videos.* Lu reported that she has recorded the audio for all three videos so Eric can continue working on them.

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

- Replacing interpretive sign at Rose Sink and possibly Cannon Sink. Lu reported that she will complete photos at the Cannon Sink sign this week.
- Continuing the basin tours and/or creating a “basin tour experience” for people. Tabled.
- Following up on establishment of the required restoration focus area for Ichetucknee. We await word from DEP about when we will be able to review this map.

13. *Dye trace study.* John reported he had a discussion about this with an employee of Karst Environmental Services. Lu will follow up with Pete Butt from the same organization.

14. *O’Leno (April 7) and Alligator Lake (April 14) event tabling.* We do not have two board members to work at O’Leno this year; Lu will let Stacie Greco know. Amelia and Eric will work Alligator Lake.

15. *Board memberships.* Paul reported that Benjamin Loughran accepted a job in Tampa and will not be able to serve as a board member.

16. *Better IA presence in TREPO.* Paul and John reported that they had each spoken to Glenn Hunter, who would like someone from IA to speak at a TREPO picnic on April 14. Lu will check her schedule and follow up with Glenn.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**17. Resignation of Jasmine Hagan (3/13/2018) and election of new treasurer. Jasmine has resigned because she got a job in Sarasota and will be moving. Lu nominated Amelia McKnight, who has indicated she is willing to serve as treasurer. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.**

18. *Meeting schedule for 2018:* fourth Tuesdays 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).

19. Other new business. Lu mentioned that there are indications that the new Lake City wetland treatment area may have a problem with capacity and with removing phosphorus; Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson is investigating this matter. Lu also mentioned that the Floridians’ Clean Water Declaration Campaign is urging organizations to contact Governor Scott to urge him to veto the “toilet-to-tap” water bill that was passed by the Florida Legislature. Lu will draft a letter and send it to John for his edits and signature.

20. Adjourn. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Secretary