

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 22, 2018

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

Board Members Present

Paul Donsky
Eric Flagg
John Jopling
Amelia McKnight
Lu Merritt
Bruce Robinson
Brenda Wells

Advisory Board Members Present

Judy Sayre

Guests

Angeline Meeks

1. *Agenda approval/additions/deletions.* The agenda was approved with the addition of item #19, below.

PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

2. Brenda Wells and Paul Donsky gave a presentation about the volunteer-run SpringsWatch water monitoring and fish identification projects on the Lower Ichetucknee River. Fifteen different sites are monitored for water quality using eight different parameters. Monitoring has been going on for five years, since the Alliance was founded, and there have been 63 sampling trips in which 58 volunteers have participated, for a total of 516 volunteer hours. Fish sampling has been going on for one year and 19 species have been observed. There are now 60 people on the fish identification volunteer list. The Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute (FSI) is preparing a video-based guide to fish identification.

Board members expressed appreciation for the volunteer efforts and Lu indicated willingness to publish a blog entry about the SpringsWatch program on the Alliance's website.

OFFICER REPORTS

3. *Review/approval of April 2018 meeting minutes.* The minutes were approved as submitted.

4. *Staff Assistant's report, April 2018.* There were no questions.

5. *Treasurer's report.* Amelia emailed a report indicating that the Alliance currently has \$4,169.08.

6. *Membership Report.* Lu reported that as of May 17, the Alliance has 65 paid members; 1324 members of our Facebook group discussion page; 123 people like and 127 people are following our official Facebook page.

OLD BUSINESS & UPDATES

7. *Science Team update.* Brenda reported and mentioned the June 2 event honoring volunteers that is being hosted by FSI.

8. *T-shirt and hat sales update.* Tabled.

9. *Update on videos and new Water Voices program.* Eric showed the group rough cuts of the "Ichetucknee: Yesterday" and "Ichetucknee: Today" videos. Lu talked about plans for a new Water Voices program that will feature the videos as well as Bob Knight discussing the latest Ichetucknee Report Card. There was enthusiasm for a social event/membership drive at First Magnitude Brewing Company in Gainesville and Water Voices programs in Lake City and the Fort White/High Springs area. Lu will organize Water Voices with assistance from others; we will aim for late August/early September for that program. Eric, Brenda, Angeline, Paul and John all expressed interest in organizing an event at First Magnitude, date to be determined.

10. *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 the sign at Cannon Creek has a placard indicating that it was placed by The Ichetucknee Partnership (TIP). She also learned that the sign at Rose Sink is being maintained by Ichetucknee Springs State Park. She will make contact

with both of those organizations to follow up. We will not need to replace signs that are being maintained by other organizations.

- *Continuing the basin tours and/or creating a "basin tour experience" for people.* Angeline mentioned ARC GIS, a computer program that can be used to create self-guided online tours, and said she would be interested in helping to create such a tour for the Ichetucknee basin once FSI's Blue Water Audit project is finished. Lu is willing to provide route information and draft text.
- *Following up on establishment of the required restoration focus area for Ichetucknee.* Lu reported on the May 15 Santa Fe River Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) meeting and that the priority focus area will be included in the new draft BMAP which should be ready for review soon.

11. *Dye trace study.* Lu reported that she had located a study on line that indicates dye trace has been done that shows the water from Alligator Lake flows to the Ichetucknee. The publication is *Springsheds of the Santa Fe River* prepared for the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners by Sam B. Upchurch, et al., published July 8, 2008, second revision October 28, 2011.

12. *Ichetucknee PARKnership Program at Fort White Schools end-of-year celebration on May 9.* Lu reported on this event, at which she presented Valerie Thomas with the Alliance's \$300 contribution. Before tonight's meeting, Loye Barnard dropped off the Alliance's thank-you certificate that she accepted on behalf of the Alliance at the May 9 event. John Jopling will be the keeper of the certificate for the Alliance.

13. *Update on DEP's Santa Fe River Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) meeting.* See item #10, above, bullet #3.

NEW BUSINESS

14. *Ichetucknee Estates Homeowners Association event on May 26.* Lu reported that Amelia has plans to attend and Bruce Robinson said he would go too.

15. *IA business cards.* Lu asked if everyone had seen the proof of the "generic" card and everyone had seen it and approved the design.

16. *New email address for Lu, effective the week of May 28:* ichetuckneealliance@gmail.com

17. *Potential Communications staffers meeting.* Lu and Judy reported on plans to have this meeting with staff members from the Suwannee River Water Management District, The Ichetucknee Partnership, Alachua County Environmental Protection Department and FSI. Brenda Wells from the Florida Springs Council will also be included.

18. *Meeting schedule for 2018:* fourth Tuesdays 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. *Participating in next year's Alligator Lake Festival on April 13, 2019.* We agreed that we should continue to participate in this event.

20. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Secretary