

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 25, 2018

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

Board Members Present

Paul Donsky
John Jopling
Amelia McKnight
Lu Merritt
Brenda Wells

Board Members Absent

Eric Flagg
Bruce Robinson

1. Agenda approval/additions/deletions. John reported about his involvement with the Florida Wildlife Federation.

PRIORITY ITEM

2. Report on fundraising/social event in Gainesville. Eric and Brenda have discussed having the event at Cypress & Grove. John asked for ongoing updates.

OFFICER REPORTS & UPDATES

3. Review/approval of August 2018 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as drafted.

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

5. Treasurer's report. Amelia reported that we have \$3,011.45.

6. Membership Report. Lu reported that as of September 22, 2018, the Alliance has 75 paid members. Our Facebook group discussion page has 1335 members and our official Facebook page is liked by 144 people and followed by 149 people.

7. Science Team update. Brenda and Paul reported that the monitoring work continues and end-of-year reports will be coming out soon.

8. T-shirt and hat sales update. Amelia reported no sales.

OLD BUSINESS

9. Angeline Meeks introduction & Blue Water Audit update. Tabled.

10. Update/feedback on Water Voices program, including budget & help needed at events. We discussed the Sept. 24 session of Water Voices in High Springs and the upcoming session on Oct. 2 in Lake City. Lu reported that Judy Sayre counted 33 people in attendance in High Springs, which is lower than past events. Lu will send a final budget when we have received our refunded deposit from the High Springs Woman's Club. Lu and John mentioned the importance of continuing to try to build bridges with agriculturalists, some of whom have been alienated by ongoing water advocacy messages that have identified problems and have been interpreted as personal attacks. Brenda suggested having some farmers speak at a future session. We discussed the possibility of checking out a new brewpub in Lake City after the Oct. 2 event to see if it might serve as a venue for a social event/membership drive.

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

12. John Moran's "Burma Shave" springs sign project & possible use of billboards. The "Burma-Shave" project is on indefinite hold because of right-of-way and location obstacles. Lu reported that Heather said billboards work well to advertise special events, but not as well for general messaging/awareness raising.

13. Reminder: Florida Springs Restoration Summit is Nov. 2-4, 2018, in Ocala. Lu reported that the Alliance's two 1-day scholarships have been offered via email newsletter to paid members. If there is no response as of Oct. 3, she will publicize the scholarships more widely. Brenda may know someone who is interested.

NEW BUSINESS

14. Lu reported that Dennis Price is coming to our October 23 meeting to talk about the possibility of phosphate mining in Columbia County. John indicated that we should be worried about anything south of I-10 but that he will not be able to attend that meeting. There was a suggestion that we should try to record Dennis's presentation for John to view later. Lu will check on this with Dennis.

15. Meeting schedule for 2018: fourth Tuesdays Oct. 23; Nov. 27 (the week AFTER Thanksgiving); No meeting in December (it would fall on Dec. 25). We did discuss the possibility of having a Christmas/Hanukkah party.

16. Other new business. Amelia gave us the date for her next trip down the river in case any of us want to join.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Secretary