

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 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
Amelia McKnight
Lu Merritt
Bruce Robinson
Brenda Wells

Advisory Board Members Present

Bob Palmer
Judy Sayre

Guests

Zachary VanEtten

1. *Agenda approval/additions/deletions.* John Jopling added item #5.5, below.

GUEST SPEAKER

2. Blue Water Audit information. Paul Donsky reported that he is leaving in December to attend Oregon State University. He then shared information about the Florida Springs Institute's new Blue Water Audit project.

PRIORITY ITEMS

3. Report on fundraising/social event in Gainesville. Eric reported that the event will be in late January and will involve a celebration/membership drive around the re-release of his short video, "Following the Ichetucknee," which will have a new musical score. The event will be held at Cypress & Grove Brewing Company, the location of the old Gainesville ice house where there is a well on site. Publicity was discussed briefly.

4. BMAP challenge. Bob Palmer briefed the group about reasons for the challenge and answered questions. We discussed the need for fundraising. There was a motion and a second to challenge the BMAP. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of \$84 expenditure to the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) for fulfillment of a public records request. Lu explained the situation with the records request. There was a motion and a second to approve the expenditure. The motion passed unanimously.

5.5 Request from Florida Wildlife Federation (FWF) for the Alliance to file an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief in support of FWF's lawsuit involving misuse of Florida Water and Land Legacy Amendment funds by the Florida Legislature. John explained the request. There was a motion and a second to approve filing the brief. The motion passed unanimously.

OFFICER REPORTS & UPDATES

6. Review/approval of September & October 2018 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as submitted.

7. Staff Assistant's report, September & October 2018. There were no questions.

8. Treasurer's report. Amelia had emailed the report to everyone earlier, showing a balance of \$3092.44.

9. Membership Report. Lu had included information on the meeting's agenda. She reported that she is starting to post membership renewal reminders & membership/donation gift reminders to Facebook and will continue through December. Reminders will also be included in member newsletters. The grace period for renewals, which are due Dec. 31, extends through January 2019.

10. Science Team update. Water monitoring and fish counts continue.

11. T-shirt and hat sales update. None to report. New members have their choice of these.

OLD BUSINESS

12. Feedback on whether or not to continue with Water Voices programs. John agreed with Bruce that different outreach methods would be more productive in the future.

13. 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 will follow up with the ranger she spoke with at Ichetucknee Springs State Park about replacing the Plexiglas at the sign at Rose Sink. She will also invite park staff to attend our meetings. Eric suggested asking the park if we can put a QR code on the sign that would drive people to the new videos. No one is claiming ownership of the sign at Cannon Sink; however, that sign is basically in good shape.
- Continuing the basin tours and/or creating a "basin tour experience" for people. Tabled.

14. Land acquisition project. Lu reported that she is waiting to review a draft proposal from Tom Kay to Three Rivers Trust that, if funded, would allow Tom to hire a person to help with this effort. Lu will follow up with Tom.

15. Report on Florida Springs Restoration Summit. We discussed the summit and in particular, the failure of the Santa Fe/Ichetucknee panel to discuss issues related to the Santa Fe and Ichetucknee rivers. Lu reported that she met with Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson and Mike Roth of Our Santa Fe River about the possibility of having a joint event to report on "state of the rivers" since there was no substantive discussion at the springs summit. That group made no decision and realizes that this may be "water under the bridge."

16. Columbia County "Water Protection Ethic" outreach effort. Lu reported that the first meeting of the committee that will be working on this effort is tomorrow (Nov. 28, 2018). The committee includes Loye Barnard, Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, Lu Merritt and Judy Sayre.

NEW BUSINESS

17. Creating a podcast, "Ichetucknee Voices." Lu repeated that this is something she will be working on when she is able.

18. Should IA participate in Fort White Christmas Parade? We decided that we are not prepared to participate this year but will try to participate next year. Bruce indicated that he plans to join the Fort White Chamber of Commerce, which organizes the Christmas parade. There was agreement that IA should join the chamber.

19. Should IA ask FSC for a refund of the scholarship money (~\$55) that was not used? We decided to leave the money with FSC (Florida Springs Council).

20. Meeting schedule and membership renewals for 2019. Membership renewals were discussed in agenda item #9, above. We agreed to keep meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Lu will send dates to everyone ASAP.

21. MFL being re-assessed in 2019. Lu reported that the MFL is due to be re-assessed in 2019 and that Tom Mirti of the Suwannee River Water Management District has asked to come to an upcoming meeting to talk to us about the MFL; she will send him dates now that we have set our meeting schedule for 2019.

22. Other new business? None.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Secretary