

**ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES**

**6:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 26, 2019**

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

**Board Members Present**

Eric Flagg  
John Jopling  
Lu Merritt  
Bruce Robinson  
Brenda Wells

**Advisory Board Members Present**

Angeline Meeks  
Judy Sayre  
Bob Ulanowicz

**Board Members Absent**

Amelia McKnight

**Guests**

Jaime Bach  
Tom Mirti  
Ryan Smart

1. Agenda approval/additions/deletions (All)

**GUESTS**

2. **Tom Mirti**, *Suwannee River Water Management District, re: 2019 reassessment of Ichetucknee MFL.* Tom reviewed the previous Ichetucknee Minimum Flow & Level (MFL) assessment by the District which placed the Ichetucknee “in recovery” status. He explained that the MFL is being reassessed this year to meet the State of Florida’s deadline of Dec. 31, 2019, for this project. There will be District-wide presentations in March and he expects public review in an April-May time frame, with legislative rulemaking to follow in June. The District’s governing board will have a workshop about this project “in the next few months.” Water data from 2015 will be used in the re-assessment. “Documents come out. Please read them.”

3. **Ryan Smart**, *Florida Springs Council (FSC), re: fundraising for BMAP challenge.* Ryan explained that all of the BMAP challenges are being consolidated and that the Council is expecting the administrative hearing to be held during the second or third week of September. The Council is encouraging the Alliance to raise money to contribute toward the costs involved; all of the money raised will go to pay for those costs. FSC has nominated two people for appointment to the Suwannee River Water Management District. The Rainbow River MFL has been pulled back because of opposition. Of note: Since the original MFL was established for the Ichetucknee, 945 water use permits have been issued by the District in the Ichetucknee area; 633 of those are for domestic self-supply, 6 for agricultural operations, and 249 for water monitoring.

**PRIORITY ITEMS**

4. *Report on fundraising/social event in Gainesville.* Brenda and Eric reported that the event will be called “Following the Ichetucknee.” It will primarily be a membership drive with a chance to meet the Alliance’s board members, visit an information table and take a tour of the restored well at Cypress & Grove Brewing Company, whose proprietors have agreed to let us use their space. Representatives of the Kings of the Springs and SpringsWatch groups will also attend. Fundraising for the BMAP challenge can be mentioned. Videos will be screened at 7 and 7:45 p.m. and will include “Following the Ichetucknee” with a new score by Michael Amish as well as the “Ichetucknee Yesterday-Today-Tomorrow” videos. Prizes may also be offered.

After discussion, a motion, and a second, we unanimously approved spending of up to \$500 for the event.

5. *BMAP challenge: Developing a fundraising strategy and sharing fundraising pages.* Brenda shared information about the fundraising page she has created for the Alliance, how people may find that page via text message to 44321 with “ich4ever” in the subject line (without quotation marks), and how people may create their own fundraising pages from the Alliance’s page. Money donated through those pages will go to the Florida Springs Council but will be credited as having been raised by the Ichetucknee Alliance. A more in-depth discussion about different fundraising strategies was tabled until the March meeting.

6. *Need for Vice President.* After determining his willingness to serve, John nominated Bruce Robinson for Vice President, there was a second, and Bruce was unanimously elected.

**OFFICER REPORTS & UPDATES**

7. *Review/approval of January 2019 meeting minutes.* The minutes were unanimously approved.

8. *Staff Assistant's report, January 2019.* There were no questions.

9. *Treasurer's report.* Lu reported that the Alliance currently has a bank balance of \$3481.14. There are ongoing problems, as yet unsolved, with PayPal that involve the need to change ownership of our account from Jasmine Hagan (past treasurer) to Lu.

10. *Membership Report.* Previously submitted via email by Lu on Feb. 25, the report totaled 50 members (includes 20 Lifetime and 30 currently paid).

11. *Science Team update.* Brenda reported that water monitoring and fish counts are continuing.

**OLD BUSINESS**

12. *Land acquisition project.* Discussion tabled.

13. *Podcast report.* Nothing new to report.

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

15. *Report on Southeastern Geological Society Tour of Ichetucknee Trace (Feb. 23) & interactive map for Ichetucknee springshed (for website).* Briefly discussed by Lu; Angeline has materials useful for interactive map/virtual tour.

16. *Report on FACETS meeting #3 and paddle tour of Santa Fe River Springs.* The paddle tour scheduled for Feb. 26 was cancelled because of weather (possibility of rain). Lu will send a full report via email. The meeting continues on Feb. 27.

17. *Long table needed for O'Leno Springs Celebration and Chili Cook-off April 6.* Eric has a table and we may be able to use one of FSI's tables.

18. *Meeting dates for 2019:* Mar. 26; Apr. 23; May 28; June 25; July 23; Aug. 27; Sept. 24; Oct. 22; Nov. 26 (that may change since it's the Tuesday before Thanksgiving); no meeting in Dec. since it would be on Christmas Eve

19. *Other new business?* None.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt  
Secretary-Treasurer