

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

**6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 28, 2019**

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

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

John Jopling  
Eric Flagg

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

Amelia McKnight  
Bruce Robinson  
Brenda Wells

### ***Advisory Board Member Present***

Judy Sayre

### ***Staff Member Present***

Lu Merritt

1. *Agenda approval/additions/deletions.* No changes.

### ***PRIORITY ITEMS***

2. *Treasurer's Report and change in status from voting board member to staff assistant.* The status change and report were discussed. Board members approved the report as submitted.

3. *Deciding how much to contribute to the PARKnership Program at the Fort White Schools for 2019.* Board members voted to donate \$500 to this program. This will decrease the amount in our general fund that was received from Florida's Eden and earmarked for education from \$1684.91 to \$1184.91. Board members also noted that earmark could be removed by board vote at any time since it was not a condition of the donation.

4. *Deciding whether to spend \$1008.85 to order 100 hats.* We discussed the pros and cons of spending money on promotional items. Board members decided to postpone a hat order until our finances are more robust. We still have plenty of t-shirts and bumper stickers. Eric suggested getting a smaller bumper sticker the size of airport stickers; the staff assistant mentioned seeing a recent aerial photo of the headspring in the shape of a heart that she found striking.

5. *Request from Jim Gross for IA to sign on to a letter about restoring the Ocklawaha River, sent via email on May 15.* Board members approved signing on to this letter.

6. *Staff Assistant's recommendation: All voting needs to be conducted at monthly meetings.* Board members decided to keep the option to vote by email and instructed the staff assistant to include those requests in clearly marked emails that do not include information about other matters.

### ***REPORTS & UPDATES***

7. *Review/approval of April meeting minutes.* Board members approved the minutes as submitted.

8. *Staff Assistant's report, April 2019.* There were no questions about the report.

9. *Membership Report.* This informational item was sent via email prior to this meeting.

10. *Science Team update.* Tabled.

### ***OLD BUSINESS***

11. *Halpatter Brewing Company event in Lake City.* Eric and John volunteered to attend a meeting with Halpatter representatives. Contact will be arranged by the staff assistant.

12. *Land acquisition project.* The scheduled tour of the Ichetucknee Trace was held on May 1. Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) has also recently received a grant that will help with this project. Erica Hernandez has been hired by ACT to help with the project and she and Tom Kay of ACT and Ryan Smart of the Florida Springs Council and Three Rivers Trust attended the tour led by Jim Stevenson.

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.* The staff assistant called the park and requested a call back about this issue, but her call was not returned. She will try again.
- *Continuing the basin tours and/or creating a "basin tour experience" for people.* This project is on hold until Angeline Meeks at FSI is able to help with a virtual tour.

***NEW BUSINESS***

14. *Keeping new members engaged and energizing old members (EDUCATE -> ENGAGE -> ENERGIZE).* Board members discussed a social hour for members at Cypress & Grove in Gainesville in the fall and/or a moonlight paddle on the Lower Ichetucknee from John Jopling's river house. The social hour could involve viewing and learning about some old maps of Florida that are owned by various members and friends and/or a report about the BMAP challenge hearing that will be held in early September.

15. *Remaining meeting dates for 2019:* June 25 (guest: Rick Copeland, AquiferWatch); July 23 (guest: Amy Brown of SRWMD re: water supply planning); Sept. 24; Oct. 22; Nov. 26; no meeting in Dec. since it would be on Christmas Eve.

***Special note: The previously scheduled August meeting is cancelled. The Nov. 26 meeting date is firm.***

16. *Other new business*

- Board members discussed the need for additional board members and a secretary-treasurer; the staff assistant will publicize this need first to current paid members in the early June member newsletter, then to members of the Facebook group discussion page.
- John Jopling reported that he would order a promotional banner to hang at his river house on busy holiday weekends; wording was discussed. Possible printers were mentioned.
- John Jopling again asked how membership opportunities are publicized. The staff assistant reminded voting board members that they are administrators of the Facebook discussion page and can post about memberships at any time. Information about how to join the Alliance is also available in the "Get Involved" menu on the website, in every newsletter that is sent to our inactive members and interested citizens email lists, in the "About" section of the Facebook group discussion page and in "General Information" in the "About" section of the official Facebook page.

17. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt  
Staff Assistant