

**ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES**

**6:30 p.m. Monday, July 29, 2019**

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

***Board Members Present***

John Jopling  
Eric Flagg  
Bruce Robinson  
Brenda Wells

***Advisory Board Members Present***

Loye Barnard  
Angeline Meeks  
Bob Ulanowicz

***Staff Member Present***

Lu Merritt

***Guests***

Rick Copeland, AquiferWatch  
Gary Maddox, AquiferWatch  
Amy Brown, Suwannee River Water Management District  
Darlene Velez, Suwannee River Water Management District  
Hayley Curilla, IA Member

1. *Agenda approval/additions/deletions.* No changes except order of discussion to accommodate people's schedules.

***GUEST***

2. Rick Copeland and Gary Maddox of AquiferWatch (AW) discussed their proposal for a water quality monitoring program in the Ichetucknee Trace. AW would like to sample 25-30 wells twice a year for total nitrogen (TN) and specific conductance, which can indicate salinity. AW supplies all equipment and trains volunteers; they would like IA's help to recruit volunteers to take water samples and to recruit owners of residential wells within the Ichetucknee Trace and nearby Ichetucknee Basin (springshed) who are willing to have their wells sampled. AW would like at least two 2-person teams (4-8 people) with drivers' licenses to conduct the sampling. AW would secure permission to go onto the well owners' properties and would share results of the testing with the well owners.

AW also needs help covering costs of the testing, which are \$10 per sample for two samples. A total estimate is \$500/year for 25 wells. A University of Florida laboratory does the sampling and there would need to be a contract between IA and UF for payments.

Amy Brown and Darlene Velez of SRWMD reported that the district has 12 monitoring wells in the area. The district's monitoring results are available online at:

<http://www.mysuwanneeriver.org/portal/waterquality.htm>

The IA board was unanimous in support of AquiferWatch's plan and agreed to help with testing costs and recruiting.

***MONTHLY REPORTS***

3. *Review/approval of May meeting minutes.* The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. *Staff Assistant's reports, May and June.* There were no questions.

5. *Membership report.* Lu reported that IA currently has 137 total members.

6. *Treasurer's report.* Lu reported that IA currently has \$4148.97 in the general fund and \$6347.75 in the fund that pays the staff assistant.

7. *Science Team report.* Brenda reported that water quality monitoring and fish counts continue on a regular basis. She shared the new waterproof springs field guide to common fish, a print publication developed by the Florida Springs Institute. She also mentioned FSI's online video fish ID guide. Kings of the Springs now follow the fish counters to clean trash out of the river. Lu asked Brenda to write a short article about these activities for the IA website's blog.

**OLD BUSINESS**

8. *BMAP challenge preparations progress report.* John reported about an upcoming settlement conference, which is required by the State of Florida before an administrative hearing can take place. The hearing is scheduled for Sept. 3-6 and Sept. 9-13 in Tallahassee. We also discussed the affidavits that will need to be signed by IA's members in order to demonstrate IA's legal standing for the hearing. Some requests for volunteers to sign affidavits went out to non-members; all of those non-members' names will be removed from the official list of willing signers that we will send to our attorney.

9. *Reporting about the BMAP hearing for IA members & depth of that reporting.* Since Ryan Smart and Brenda Wells will be attending the hearing for the Florida Springs Council and will report to all of the groups that are part of the challenge, IA will not send a person to the hearing.

10. *Preparations & budget for October 10 event (6:30-8:30 p.m.) at Halpatter Brewing Company in Lake City.* Note we have a Facebook event page for this at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/435710263649403/>

- Program. We will have the same program as the one at Cypress & Grove in Gainesville.
- Providing free drinks. Lu will contact Halpatter about how IA can provide one free drink to each person who joins at the event.
- Providing pizza. The board agreed that we should provide pizza since no food truck will be present.
- Prizes. The board agreed we should provide prizes. We will seek sponsors for things such as masks & snorkels, paddleboard, etc. Possible sponsors mentioned include Dive Rite (Bruce Robinson), Lars Andersen/Adventure Outpost (Eric Flagg), and Paddling Adventures (Brenda Wells).
- Budget. The board approved a budget of \$500 for the event.
- Publicity. Bruce volunteered to contact the Lake City Chamber of Commerce to invite their members and place the event on their calendar.

11. *Podcast report.* Lu reported that she has conducted an interview with Jim Stevenson but that parts will need to be re-recorded. She would like to interview Trini Johannesen and Valerie Thomas with the Fort White Schools PARKnership program next.

**NEW BUSINESS**

12. *Amelia McKnight resigned from the board via an email sent June 4, 2019.* Lu repeated this announcement, previously sent to board members via email.

13. *Submittal of DACS charitable solicitation registration renewal names Eric Flagg as secretary-treasurer.* The board unanimously confirmed Eric to fill this vacant office.

14. *BMAP challenge fundraising concert at Heartwood Soundstage in Gainesville.* Brenda reported that she had talked with an employee of Heartwood and they would charge us \$500 to rent the facility and provide the sound equipment and technician(s). IA would keep all proceeds. The board agreed that Brenda and Lu should explore this possibility, with the understanding that a concert could not occur until after the administrative hearing in September.

15. *Reminder for Alachua County residents: SAFE BOR (Santa Fe River Bill of Rights) informational meeting is 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 30, at the Millhopper Branch Library in Gainesville.* Lu reminded the Alachua County residents of this meeting and reported that she would be taking a step back from involvement with this group in August.

16. *Remaining meeting dates for 2019:* No meeting in Aug.; Sept. 24; Oct. 22; Nov. 26; no meeting in Dec. since it would be on Christmas Eve

*17. Other new business.*

- Bruce reported that he is able to speak at the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs in Lake City but he needs a technical assistant to run IA's videos. Both Brenda and Angeline indicated willingness to help with that task.
- Eric shared a design for IA that was created by a friend of his. The design is something we will want to use if the designer is willing to make a few changes. We discussed offering her a small stipend if she is willing to do that and give us permission to use her work, but we did not agree on an amount.
- IA member Hayley Curilla introduced herself and spoke about her willingness to serve on the board beginning in September. She was unanimously approved as a new board member.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt  
Staff Assistant