

**ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES**

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

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

**Board Members Present**

Hayley Curilla  
Eric Flagg  
John Jopling

**Advisory Board Members Present**

Bob Knight  
Bob Palmer  
Judy Sayre

**Staff Member Present**

Lu Merritt

**Board Members Absent**

Bruce Robinson  
Brenda Wells

**Guests**

Amy Brown, Suwannee River WMD  
Zoey Hendrickson, Florida Springs Institute  
Tom Mirti, Suwannee River WMD

1. *Agenda approval/additions/deletions.* There were no changes.

**GUEST PRESENTATION**

2. *Amy Brown, Suwannee River Water Management District, re: water supply planning.* Amy gave a presentation about how the District conducts water supply planning. There were questions, answers, and a lively discussion. The District is projecting significant increases in agricultural water use over the next 20 years. Amy’s slides will be shared with IA Board and Advisory Board members.

Tom Mirti described the schedule for the new Santa Fe/Ichetucknee MFL. The draft MFL will be rolled out in a workshop following the December 10 SRWMD Governing Board meeting. Mirti indicated that the draft MFL has yet to be sent to the peer-review panel, but that should happen soon.

*Of note:* The State of Florida separates concerns over water quality and water quantity rather than considering them in tandem; would it be more effective to consider them together? Also: Suwannee American Cement’s water use permit was probably grandfathered in; when is it up for renewal?

**PRIORITY ITEMS**

3. *AquiferWatch report.* Lu reported that she talked to Rick Copeland on Nov. 22. In January, Rick and Gary Maddox will be surveying the 22 wells we have identified so far to see if they can be used in this water monitoring effort. Rick is pleased with what he described as “exceptionally good distribution” of the wells throughout the Ichetucknee Trace area. IA has committed to pay \$10 per sample to UF/IFAS for sample testing (each sample includes a test for nitrates and a test for specific conductance/salinity). We may need to identify eight or more additional wells after Rick and Gary complete the well surveys in January.

4. *Report on BMAP challenge hearing.* John, Bob Knight and Bob Palmer all gave reports about the hearing. Next steps are for the lawyers for the participants in the challenge to draft their desired final orders and send those to the judge. Bob Palmer expects a ruling may come in January. *Of note:* The judge in this case was previously a lawyer for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the State agency that is being challenged.

5. *Need to change IA address with IRS, State of FL, etc.* John indicated the address should be changed to his new office address: 2631 NW 41 Street, Bldg. B, Gainesville, FL 32606.

6. *Suggestions for “A Blue Path for Columbia County”?* Tabled.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

7. *Review/approval of October meeting minutes.* The minutes were approved with one change submitted by Eric.

8. *Staff Assistant’s report, October.* There were no questions.

9. *Membership report.* The report was sent by email; there were no questions.

*10. Treasurer's report.* The report was sent by email. John asked about the financial report from the Halpatter event; Lu will re-send that to everyone. Lu reported that IA has stopped using PayPal to take membership fees and donations online because of problems with PayPal's customer service. She is working with Stewart Thomas to identify a replacement service and hopes to have that in place the first week in December.

*11. Science Team report.* Tabled.

**OLD BUSINESS**

*12. MFL update.* According to guest Tom Mirti of SRWMD, the MFLs for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee rivers will be presented to the SRWMD Board of Directors at a workshop following their regular board meeting on Dec. 10. See agenda item #2, above.

*13. FACETS meeting Nov. 6-7 in Georgia.* Lu emailed her report of that meeting on Nov. 10; emailed questions and responses followed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*14. This is our last meeting in 2019.* We decided to continue meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month. Lu will get those dates and email them to everyone.

*15. New springs grant program from SRWMD.* Tabled.

*16. Other new business?* None.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucinda Faulkner Merritt  
Staff Assistant