

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 28, 2020

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

Board Members Present

Hayley Curilla
Eric Flagg

Advisory Board Members Present

Bob Knight
Merrillee Malwitz-Jipson

Staff Member Present

Lu Merritt

Board Members Absent

John Jopling
Bruce Robinson

1. *Agenda approval/additions/deletions.* None.

MONTHLY REPORTS

2. *Review/approval of November meeting minutes.* The minutes were approved.

3. *Staff Assistant's reports, November & December.* There were no questions.

4. *Membership report.* A preliminary membership report was emailed to the Board. Renewals are still coming in and Lu will send a final January membership report to the board in early February.

5. *Treasurer's report, including report on IRS tax report filings.* The treasurer's report was emailed to the Board. Form 990-N e-postcard and Form 1099-MISC (required by IRS) have been filed.

6. *Science Team report (vacant position).* We discussed how to proceed now that an IA Board member is no longer active with the two teams (water quality monitoring and fish counts). Zoey Hendrickson at the Florida Springs Institute is our contact; Lu will follow up with Zoey.

OLD BUSINESS

7. *MFL update. Report on DEP workshop. Should IA file written comments by Feb. 21?* After discussion, Bob Knight recommended that IA should file comments. Lu will prepare a draft, which Bob is willing to review for accuracy. The full voting IA Board will also need to approve the comments before they are submitted.

8. *BMAP challenge hearing update.* Lu explained the process that is occurring now and that IA's recommended order has been submitted to the judge. There will be a waiting period before a decision is reached.

9. *Changing IA address with IRS, state agencies, and bank.* Lu has successfully changed the address with our bank and is working to change it with IRS and state agencies.

10. *Tabling at upcoming events:*

- *February 1:* Springs Run at First Magnitude in Gainesville, Hayley. Eric will loan Hayley a table for this event; he will also be attending, but as a runner. Lu provided Hayley with a box of supplies including membership forms, handouts, and mailing list signup pads. Hayley will not accept any money at the event, but will provide mail-in membership forms and explain that people can join IA online via the "Become a Member" page under the "Get Involved" tab at the top of our website.
- *April 4:* O'Leno Springs Celebration and Chili Cook-off, Hayley & Lu (Lu has reserved space). Eric will provide tent and table and volunteered to help staff our information table. Having three people will mean that there is plenty of coverage and people will have a chance to circulate, taste chili, and perhaps no one will have to stay all day.
- *Date TBA:* Alligator Lake Spring Festival, Lake City. Merrillee reported that she has heard that this event will not be held this year.

11. *Need for new board members.* We discussed the need for new board members and potential candidates. Bob Knight knows someone who might be willing. Eric and Merrillee are committed to finding new members.

12. FYI only: UF Law School Public Interest Environmental Conference on Rights of Nature: Defending Our Biosphere (Feb. 6-8) and Florida Rights of Nature convention on Feb. 8: <https://ufpiec.org/>. Lu reminded the group about this gathering.

NEW BUSINESS

13. Annual meeting & election of officers: March 2020? Lu reported that because of the higher-priority need for new board members, election of officers will probably be postponed until 2021.

14. Do we want to have an IA board retreat? Possible items for discussion:

- IA's strengths
- IA's weaknesses
- IA board & advisory board members' talents
- Assessment of IA's educational efforts
- Priorities for 2020 and beyond

Nothing firm was decided about a retreat; however, we had a good discussion about the need for more activities for members, which is dependent on acquiring new active Board members. We also discussed the need to expand our educational efforts. Videos, podcasts, Instagram and a Netflix channel were all mentioned. Lu and Eric will work together to try to identify professional audio help for a podcast.

Hayley suggested bringing in a social media consultant to speak to us as a guest at one of our upcoming meetings. Eric will talk to a person he knows at Heartwood Sound Stage about having a "Water Music" concert to benefit the Ichetucknee. Merrilee reported that this is the 10th year that Our Santa Fe River will have a song contest and there are now approximately 100 songs about the Santa Fe River as a result of this event.

Hayley asked about possible agricultural representation on our board. Merrilee discussed some of her activities in our area and other activities she knows about, including the Suwannee River Partnership. Lu described the 5-year Floridan Aquifer Collaborative Engagement for Sustainability (FACETS) project in which she serves as an invited representative of the Ichetucknee Alliance, and on which there is agricultural representation.

15. Prioritize suggestions for guests at upcoming IA Board of Directors meetings:

- Ichetucknee Springs State Park manager & staff
- Alachua Conservation Trust representatives re: land acquisition effort
- Warren Zwanka from SRWMD re: regulatory implementation of Ichetucknee Recovery Strategy
- Trini Johannesen and Valerie Thomas re: Fort White schools Ichetucknee PARKnership program
- Representative of FACETS coordinating team from UF Water Institute re: Floridan Aquifer Collaborative Engagement for Sustainability water modeling project
- Others?

We discussed these only briefly and no firm priorities were set.

16. Meeting dates for 2020: Feb. 25; Mar. 24; Apr. 28; May 26; Jun. 23; Jul. 28; Aug. 25; Sept. 22; Oct. 27; Nov. 24; and Dec. 22, although we typically skip the December meeting.

17. Other new business. None.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt
Staff Assistant