

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, 2020

via Zoom Conference Call

Board Members Present

John Jopling
Bruce Robinson
Bob Ulanowicz

Advisory Board Members Present

Jaime Lynn Bach
Judy Sayre

Staff Member Present

Lu Merritt

Board Members Absent

Hayley Curilla
Eric Flagg
Angeline Meeks

1. *Agenda approval/additions/deletions.* We moved item #15 to the top of the agenda (see below).

MONTHLY REPORTS

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

3. *Staff Assistant's reports, January & February.* There were no questions.

4. *Membership report.* The report was emailed 3/22/2020.

5. *Treasurer's report.* The report was emailed 3/24/2020.

6. *Science Team report.* Jaime Bach reported that the water monitoring team has decided to continue their work during the COVID-19 outbreak and the team is considering ways to open this activity to a bigger group once a year. Lu encouraged Jaime to write up a brief article about the monitoring sessions when/if she has time.

OLD BUSINESS

7. *MFL update re: written comments.* Lu reported that comments have been submitted to the Suwannee River Water Management District and can be viewed at:

<http://ichetuckneealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/IA-MFL-Tech-Doc-Comments-214187.pdf>

8. *BMAP challenge update.* John reported that the Florida Springs Council and the Alliance are awaiting the final order from the Administrative Law Judge who is presiding over the challenge.

9. *Tabling at events:*

- February 1: Springs Run at First Magnitude in Gainesville. Discussion was tabled.
- O'Leno Springs Celebration and Chili Cook-off. Lu announced that this event is CANCELLED because of COVID-19.

10. *Brief report on 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.* Lu gave a brief report about this event that filled a large lecture hall at the University of Florida's Law School.

11. *Need for new board members.* We again discussed the need for more board members, particularly people from Columbia County.

NEW BUSINESS

12. *Zoom teleconference monthly expense of \$14.99.* The board approved this as an ongoing monthly expense until such time as it may no longer be needed.

13. *Need for another signatory on bank account and another admin on Square store.* Lu said that given the current COVID-19 situation, she feels the need to have at least one other signatory on the Alliance's bank account and that that person and John Jopling should also have sign-in access to online banking, e-statements, etc. She also feels the need to have one board member familiar with the Square online store that is used for taking membership fees; that person would be able to work with Stewart Thomas, who set up the Square store, in the

event Lu was unable to continue that task. After discussion, John Jopling nominated Eric Flagg for both tasks and Eric was approved.

14. Florida Springs Council sign-on letter asking Governor to veto SB 712. Lu reported that the Alliance is now listed as a signatory on this letter; the relevant Internet link was emailed to board members earlier on 3/24/2020.

15. Request approval to add Jaime Bach to advisory board. This item was moved to the top of the agenda and Jaime, who has been coordinating the water monitoring effort, was enthusiastically welcomed onto the advisory board.

16. What should be the board's and staff assistant's priorities during COVID-19 emergency? We discussed what the board and staff assistant should be working on during this time. Judy and John suggested the need to plan for another event to be held in the fall; John would like for Eric to be involved. Lu will talk to Judy about this. Lu suggested the creation of a "biography" or "profile" of the Ichetucknee, either as a website or a hard copy publication or both, that would include a holistic account of the Ichetucknee—not only environmental and ecological information but also the socio-cultural, economic, inspirational/creative and political/legal significance of the springs and the river—the role that they have played in the life of the surrounding communities and the role that those communities might play in saving "the Ich."

17. Meeting dates for 2020: 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.

18. Other new business. None.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt
Staff Assistant