

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 26, 2020

via Zoom Conference Call

Board Members Present

Eric Flagg
John Jopling

Advisory Board Members Present

Jaime Lynn Bach
Judy Sayre

Staff Member Present

Lu Merritt

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

PRIORITY ITEM

2. *Bob Knight's new book.* Lu showed the group the photos of the Ichetucknee on the cover and in an inside two-page spread in her copy of "Death by a Thousand Cuts: An Anthology of Springs Opinions," just published by the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute.

MONTHLY REPORTS

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

4. *Staff Assistant's report, April.* There were no questions.

5. *Membership report.* Report was emailed before the meeting.

6. *Treasurer's report.* Report was emailed before the meeting.

7. *Science Team report.* Jaime reported that monitoring has been continuing during COVID-19 lockdown and that the science team needs a new light meter. Jaime said she will send the specs to Lu and Lu will get cost estimates for a replacement meter from FSI staff. When Lu receives cost estimates, she will email those to the Alliance's board for final approval of the expenditure.

Jaime also reported that the monitoring team is now going to be using LakeWatch to analyze samples taken at three stations on the Lower Ichetucknee River.

OLD BUSINESS

8. *MFL update.* Lu reported that as of May 26, there were no new announcements on the Suwannee River Water Management District's website about the postponed MFL peer review meeting.

9. *BMAP challenge update.* John reported that we are still awaiting the administrative law judge's final order in this case, even though cases that were heard after our challenge have already received final orders. It has been six months since the hearing concluded.

10. *FACETS update.* Lu reported on the progress of this five-year participatory water-modeling project that is being run by the Water Institute at the University of Florida, where she represents the Alliance by invitation. The project is about halfway through its five-year timetable and Lu attended two webinars in May. The first webinar was about crop, forestry and forage management systems in Florida and how they are ranked in regard to net aquifer recharge, nitrate leaching into groundwater, and net financial return for growers. Results are preliminary and are not yet available for public release.

The second webinar, about valuing ecosystem services and creating natural capital accounts, was run by the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Duke University. Lu reported that her main takeaways were that natural capital accounts do not account for depletion or damage to the environment that may affect future prosperity and that there is no way to account for protection and/or restoration of ecosystems.

11. *Suggestions for future projects & events.* Lu reported that it is difficult to plan any kind of in-person activity when we don't know when those kinds of activities might resume safely. She encouraged all members of the board and advisory board to write articles for the blog on our website so that we could maintain some public

education activities during the COVID-19 “lockdown” and isolation periods. John said he would send Lu a piece about a heron, Eric will ask his father to write something, and Judy will email Lu to set a time to talk about other potential activities.

NEW BUSINESS

12. Website update. Lu reported on her recent updates to the website, including a restructuring of the home page, creating new website sections for videos and frequently asked questions, editing wording to reflect new research on the links between nitrate pollution and spring flow, enlarging some photos and updating article links to open in new tabs.

Lu reported that Angeline is creating a new map of the Ichetucknee Trace to be posted on the website, and Loye is in contact with a person at the Columbia County Department of Health about other areas of interest (older maps and numbers of septic tanks).

13. Other new business. John asked for an update on Alachua Conservation Trust’s efforts to protect land in the Ichetucknee Trace and Lu said she would invite ACT staff members to attend our next board meeting via Zoom so they can report.

John also asked for an update on the AquiferWatch well monitoring project and Lu reminded him that project is on hold because of COVID-19. The project will resume when it is safe for everyone involved.

14. Meeting dates for 2020: Our meeting on Jun. 23 will be another Zoom meeting. We discussed possibly meeting in an outdoor space when we are able to meet in person. Remaining meetings are Jul. 28; Aug. 25; Sept. 22; Oct. 27; Nov. 24; and Dec. 22, although we typically skip the December meeting.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt
Staff Assistant