

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES

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

via Zoom Conference Call

Board Members Present

Eric Flagg
John Jopling

Advisory Board Members Present

Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson

Others Present

Hilda Gilchrist
Lucinda Merritt

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

GUEST PRESENTATION

2. *Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, Our Santa Fe River, re: Lake City Industrial Park water use permit and boating on the Lower Ichetucknee River.*

Regarding the Lake City Industrial Park water use permit, Merrilee gave an overview of the park's history and suggested that we stress the importance of water re-use and gray water systems.

Regarding boating on the Lower Ichetucknee, we discussed the problems caused by heavy boat traffic; safety issues and environmental damage were major concerns. Hilda mentioned the possibility that the Ichetucknee should technically be considered a "spring run" instead of a "river" and that the five parks along the Lower Ichetucknee are used by residents as areas for passive recreation such as swimming, with which heavy boat traffic is incompatible; state law evidently provides for boating restrictions in such areas. Merrilee and Hilda will continue to work with others, including members of the IA board, to explore how Columbia, Suwannee and possibly Gilchrist counties could enact boating restrictions on the Lower Ichetucknee and at its confluence with the Santa Fe River.

MONTHLY REPORTS

3. *September & October meeting minutes.* The minutes were approved as drafted.

4. *Staff Assistant's report, September & October.* There were no questions.

5. *Membership report.* This report was emailed to board members.

6. *Treasurer's report.* This report was emailed to board members.

7. *Science Team report.* Tabled.

OLD BUSINESS

8. *BMAP challenge update.* John reported that there is still no decision about the challenge from the judge at the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings.

9. *MFL update.* Lu reported that more information about the MFL should be coming out soon from the Suwannee River Water Management District.

10. *"Ichetucknee: Beloved Blue River" update.* Lu reported that Three Rivers Trust approved a grant for \$6000 of the \$10,480 requested for the project. She asked for the board to approve use of the \$1184.91 that is earmarked for education in IA's general fund for the "Beloved Blue River" project, and the board approved that request. John asked for a Zoom meeting with Lu and Stewart Thomas to discuss this project in more detail and Lu said she would set that up.

NEW BUSINESS

11. *Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute fundraising appeal.* John moved, and the board approved, a donation of \$500 in support of the activities of FSI.

12. *Meeting schedule for 2021.* Board members agreed to keep meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month and to hold every-other-month Zoom meetings for 2021, to begin in January. Lu will send out a schedule.

13. Other new business. John Jopling mentioned the need to recruit younger board members and that we need to be training the next generation of springs defenders. Lu mentioned that she has recruited a volunteer to join the board in January, if approved. Eric Flagg requested copies of our membership lists, which Lu will send to him.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt
Staff Assistant

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