

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 26, 2021
via Zoom Conference Call

Board Members Present

Eric Flagg
John Jopling
Mark Smith

Advisory Board Members Present

Judy Sayre

Others Present

Hilda Gilchrist
Lucinda Merritt

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

PRIORITY ITEMS

2. *Adding Mark Smith to the board of directors.* Lu introduced Mark to those in attendance and Mark talked about his background. There was a motion and a second to add Mark to the board of directors; the motion was approved unanimously. The board also approved changing the bylaws to read that the board will consist of “three officers and a minimum of two other directors.” John expressed a desire to have seven directors. Lu reported that Angeline Meeks is moving out of the area and that Angeline’s name will be removed from the board of directors.

MONTHLY REPORTS

- 3. *November meeting minutes.* The minutes were approved as submitted.
- 4. *Staff Assistant’s reports, November & December.* There were no questions.
- 5. *Membership report.* Lu reported that this report would be updated on Feb. 1 or 2, because we are in the renewal grace period until then.
- 6. *Treasurer’s report.* Lu summarized the report that had been emailed to the board.
- 7. *Science Team report.* Tabled. Lu will contact Jaime Bach for an update prior to the March meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

8. *BMAP challenge update.* John gave an update that included some possible plans being discussed by the Florida Springs Council. We are still waiting, and have been waiting for over a year, for the administrative law judge’s decision.

9. *MFL update.* Lu reported that the Suwannee River Water Management District expects to reach a decision in February about whether the Ichetucknee will remain “in recovery,” be designated as meeting the MFL, or be designated as needing to be “in prevention.”

10. *AquiferWatch water monitoring update.* Lu reported that Rick Copeland and Gary Maddox of AquiferWatch will be taking the first well samples in mid-February and that IA will need to pay for testing to be done by Florida LakeWatch at the University of Florida; this expense was approved at a previous board meeting.

11. *“Ichetucknee: Beloved Blue River” update.* Lu gave an update about this project that is beginning to move along. She has a lead on another possible funder and will prepare a proposal that John will need to sign. In the meantime, she is sending content to Stewart Thomas, who is designing the new website and creating pages.

NEW BUSINESS

12. *Florida Springs Council fundraising appeal.* There was discussion, a motion, and a second to contribute \$500 in support of the work of the council. The motion was approved unanimously. Lu will transmit a check.

13. *Approval for fundraising effort for “Beloved Blue River.”* Lu reported about additional funds needed to complete this project and asked about including a fundraising appeal in the next member newsletter. John expressed a preference for priority to be given to memberships and membership renewals. Lu remarked that monies could always be moved from the General Fund to the Beloved Blue River Fund if the board approves. Eric reported on his plans for video interviews and Lu suggested a video of Mark performing his song “Wisdom of the River.”

13. *Next meetings in 2021:* Mar. 23; May 25; Jul. 27; Sept. 28; Nov. 23.

14. *Other new business.* Hilda asked if “Beloved Blue River” could be changed to “Beloved Blue Spring Run” but URLs for “Blue River” have already been secured. Lu suggested that she could incorporate text about the differences between “river” and “spring run” on the new website. Lu will also make sure that Hilda, John and Bruce Robinson all have each others’ emails so they can stay in touch as necessary about the boating situation on the Lower Ichetucknee.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Staff Assistant

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