

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 25, 2021
via Zoom Conference Call

Board Members Present

Eric Flagg
John Jopling
Mark Smith
Bruce Robinson
Bob Ulanowicz

Advisory Board Members Present

Judy Sayre

Others Present

Hilda Gilchrist
Lucinda Merritt
Ryan Smart

1. *Agenda approval/additions/deletions.* There were no changes.

GUEST

2. *Ryan Smart, Florida Springs Council, re: BMAP challenge decision and possible appeal.* After discussion with Ryan, the board voted unanimously to appeal the administrative law judge's decision in our case.

MONTHLY REPORTS

3. *January meeting minutes.* The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. *Staff Assistant's reports, January-April.* There were no questions.
5. *Membership report.* Lu summarized the report that was emailed to board members.
6. *Treasurer's report.* Lu explained the report that was emailed to board members.
7. *Science Team report.* Tabled. Lu will ask Jaime if there is someone else we should ask to provide these reports.

OLD BUSINESS

8. *MFL update.* Lu reported that the MFL will not become final until the Florida Legislature approves DEP's new rule. The rule will be developed later this year and Legislative approval will probably come in 2022.

9. *"Ichetucknee: Beloved Blue River" website update and possible launch events.* Lu reported on the soft launch of the website that occurred on May 11. She talked about how to celebrate or recognize the formal launch when that happens, possibly by doing an event or two and taking a water conservation campaign into Columbia County. Lu asked for feedback from the board on possible events and on the website itself. Eric reported about progress on his video interviews. Hilda reminded us that out of all the damaged spring systems in Florida, scientists think that the Ichetucknee will be one of the easiest to restore; Lu said she will work to bring that information front and center on Beloved Blue River. Restructure and redesign of the current website will be the next step in this process.

NEW BUSINESS

10. *Fundraising for staff assistant's salary.* John reported that Three Rivers Trust is encouraging the Alliance to seek other funding for this position so we will not be completely dependent upon funding by Three Rivers. John said that one reason for this is because grant funding can be unstable; he suggested that we might want to devote a whole meeting to discussions about fundraising. Lu agreed about the instability of grant funding and mentioned her experience in California with several other fundraising strategies that included annual board member contributions; sales of goods; individual gifts and bequests; and memberships. She made a distinction, however, between the individual and community financial resources in the San Francisco Bay Area where she worked and in the area surrounding the Ichetucknee.

11. *Next meetings in 2021: Jul. 27; Sept. 28; Nov. 23.* Board members expressed interest in meeting in person. Lu will check with staff at the Florida Springs Institute to find out if meeting space at the North Florida Springs Environmental Center in High Springs is still available.

12. *Other new business?* There being none, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt
Staff Assistant