

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 27, 2021

via Zoom Conference Call

Board Members Present

John Jopling
Mark Smith
Bruce Robinson
Bob Ulanowicz

Advisory Board Members Present

Jaime Lynn Bach

Others Present

Lucinda Merritt
David Vaina

REVISED ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE MEETING AGENDA

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

GUEST

2. *David Vaina, Our Santa Fe River board member, to discuss potential collaborative project.* David explained that Our Santa Fe River (OSFR) would like to hold an authors' reading program for the new book, *The Wilder Heart of Florida*, published by University Press of Florida. The event would be held in the fall at Rum 138 and OSFR would like the Alliance to partner in this event by helping with publicity and some organizational details. No financial support was requested. The board agreed to collaborate with OSFR on this project and thanked David for his initiative.

MONTHLY REPORTS

3. *May meeting minutes.* The minutes were approved as submitted.

4. *Staff Assistant's reports, May-June.* There were no questions.

5. *Membership report.* The report was emailed. John Jopling and others again stressed the need to increase our membership. No strategies to accomplish that goal were suggested other than to have more in-person events (problematic during a pandemic) and to have a brainstorming session about this.

6. *Treasurer's report.* The report was emailed. There were no questions.

7. *Science Team report.* Jaime Lynn reported that monthly water monitoring on the Lower Ichetucknee has been continuing throughout the pandemic. She recently attended SpringsWatch training held by the Florida Springs Institute and was able to tell other attendees, who were not familiar with this area of Florida, about the Ichetucknee. There are now 10 rivers in Florida that are being monitored through SpringsWatch. The Santa Fe River Turtle Project, led by Jerry Johnston (a professor at Santa Fe College), will be doing their annual turtle count on the Ichetucknee in September; that would be a good opportunity for IA to make contact with them.

OLD BUSINESS

8. *Report on vote to endorse the Right to Clean Water state constitutional amendment petition drive.* Lu reported that the Alliance's board of directors approved this effort via an email vote.

9. *Report on vote to make a contribution of \$500 to the Ichetucknee PARKnership Program at the Fort White Schools.* Lu reported that the Alliance's board of directors approved this effort via an email vote.

10. *MFL update.* Lu reported that some remarks that were made recently at a Suwannee River Water Management District meeting indicated that there might be a delay in approval of the re-evaluated MFL due to workload challenges at the St. Johns River Water Management District. When the two water management districts' work is complete, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will schedule public meetings about the MFL.

11. *"Ichetucknee: Beloved Blue River" website update, launch celebrations and UPF request for book proposal.* Lu reported that we need to be thinking about launch celebrations for the new website and that a senior editor at the University Press of Florida has requested a book proposal from us; however, the site is lacking underrepresented voices (African American, Asian American, Native American) and getting a book out of the site may be very difficult without that representation.

12. *Report on meeting with TREPO about boating issues on the Lower Ichetucknee.* John reported about a meeting with the Three Rivers Estates Property Owners and his subsequent conversations with employees at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). A new state law purports to offer stronger protections for spring runs and John was assured that FWC considers IA and TREPO as “stakeholders” and will keep us informed about what we need to do to ensure stronger boating protections for the Lower Ichetucknee River.

13. *Fundraising for staff assistant’s salary.* John again mentioned a directive from Three Rivers Trust that IA must find other sources of funding for the staff assistant.

NEW BUSINESS

14. *Should the Alliance take an official position on SRWMD idea about diverting water from other water bodies to increase flow in the Ichetucknee?* Lu reported that she has received no information that indicates scientific backing for taking an opposing position on this topic, so the Alliance will not adopt a position on this idea yet but may do so in the future. Lu will continue to seek pertinent information from additional scientists.

15. *Report on DACS renewal of charitable solicitations registration and related budgetary concerns.* Lu reported that the renewal application has been sent overnight to Tallahassee to meet the July 29 deadline.

16. *FSC Springs Summit is Nov. 11-13 in Crystal River and it’s free!* Lu reported on the summit and that she has suggested to Ryan Smart that “tiered water pricing” be one of the subjects discussed.

17. *Next meetings in 2021: Sept. 28; Nov. 23. Note: Nov. 23 is two days before Thanksgiving. Do we want to keep that meeting date or meet instead on Oct. 26 or Dec. 28?* The board decided to meet on Oct. 26 instead of Nov. 23. We will not meet on Dec. 28.

18. *Other new business.* Lu reported that AquiferWatch completed water sampling in the Ichetucknee Basin on July 17. She has received and paid the University of Florida’s LAKEWATCH invoice for analysis of the samples; that expense should show up in next month’s treasury report.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt
Staff Assistant