

**ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES**  
**6:30 p.m. Monday, January 24, 2022**  
**via Zoom Conference Call**

***Board Members Present***

Eric Flagg  
John Jopling  
Mark Smith  
Bob Ulanowicz

***Advisory Board Members Present***

Judy Sayre

***Others Present***

Lucinda Merritt

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

***MONTHLY REPORTS***

2. *Approval of October 2021 meeting minutes.* The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. *Staff Assistant's reports, October-November-December 2021.* There were no questions.

4. *Membership report.* There was no report this month because membership is in flux. The renewal grace period extends through Jan. 31, 2022. Lu reported that a membership numbers will be sent to the IA board ASAP after Jan. 31.

5. *Treasurer's report.* The report was shared on-screen and discussed. John asked if IA had donated to the Florida Springs Council (FSC) as well as to the Florida Springs Institute. Lu reported that we have not received a request from FSC. John will check with FSC to see if support is still needed.

***OLD BUSINESS***

6. *Update on Science Team report.* Lu read the report that had been provided via email by Jaime Lynn Bach. The board agreed that purchase of boat batteries or reimbursement of battery purchase costs for Charles Maxwell, who is boat captain on the Science Team, should be considered; the boat batteries are used to get back upstream to the launch point from the confluence of the Ichetucknee and Santa Fe rivers. Lu will get in touch with Jaime Lynn to get information about battery costs.

7. *Update on Nov. 4 OSFR/IA cooperative "Wilder Heart of Florida" writers' event at Rum 138.* Lu gave an update on this successful event that was attended by 50-55 people.

8. *Update on 2022 Legislative Update with Ryan Smart.* Lu reported that a recording of this update, which was given by Ryan to IA and Our Santa Fe River members via Zoom, is now available on IA's YouTube channel.

9. *Update on IA website projects.* Lu reported that both the Beloved Blue River website project and the Ichetucknee Alliance website project are both complete and final reports have been submitted to both grant funders. Information will be added to both sites as necessary on an ongoing basis.

10. *Update on Gainesville Sun's "Messages from the Springs Heartland" project and Zoom springs forum.* Lu gave an update on these activities and reported that her time spent on the "Messages" project will count as an Ichetucknee Alliance educational activity for state reporting purposes. A recording of the Zoom session is available on the newspaper's website.

11. *Update on AquiferWatch water monitoring project.* Lu reported that Rick Copeland and Gary Maddox will perform the next water monitoring session in the Ichetucknee Basin on Feb. 26, 2022.

12. *MFL update.* Lu reported that the prevention and recovery plan is still being developed by the two water districts (Suwannee River and St. Johns River) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. There will be another public meeting about the plans, but that date has not yet been announced.

13. *BMAP update.* John reported that legal appeals have a long time frame and that we do not yet know when oral arguments might be held.

14. *Update on staff assistant's salary.* Salary funding was discussed by everyone and Lu received assurances that funding should be forthcoming.

**NEW BUSINESS**

15. *Brainstorming: Creation of educational activities and staying engaged with the public during election year 2022.* The board agreed to have a retreat to discuss this matter ("Where is our impact?") as well as how to increase memberships and financial support. John asked Lu to get in touch with a facilitator that IA has used in the past. The retreat was tentatively planned for a Saturday—March 12, April 9 or a Saturday in May. Ideas discussed included: having IA serve as a citizen science clearinghouse, a one-stop Internet location where people could find out information about citizen science programs for which they could volunteer; full moon river trips or other exclusive events/special experiences for IA members; a music concert fundraiser featuring a country music star or a group of well-known local musicians; and taking advantage of Facebook's birthday fundraisers that route money to selected organizations through Network for Good. (Other suggestions were included with the initial agenda sent to IA board members prior to the meeting.)

16. *In 2022, we meet on the fourth Mondays of every other month. Next meetings are:* Mar. 28, May 23, July 25, Sept. 26, Nov. 28.

17. *Other new business?* Lu reported that Our Santa Fe River is having a board meeting on Wed., Jan. 26, at which they will have a knowledgeable speaker about the recreational impacts of boating and boating problems on our local rivers; Lu will forward information about that meeting to the IA board. She also reported that the Right to Clean Water state constitutional amendment effort is being reorganized to focus on getting that amendment on the ballot in 2024; more information will be forthcoming on Feb. 14.

The meeting was then adjourned.

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