

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES
6:30 p.m. Monday, July 25, 2022
via Zoom Conference Call

Board Members Present

John Jopling
Bruce Robinson
Bob Ulanowicz

Guests

Amy Bond Rozelle
Candace Britton
Hilda Gilchrist

Others Present

Jaime Lynn Bach
Lucinda Merritt

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

PRIORITY DISCUSSIONS AND GUESTS

2. *Request for contribution from Fort White Schools Ichetucknee PARKnership Program.* The board voted unanimously to contribute \$500 to this educational program that uses Ichetucknee Springs State Park as an outdoor classroom and service-learning center for middle and high school students.

3. *Establishing a Springs Protection Zone on the Lower Ichetucknee River.* After discussion, the board decided to hold a longer meeting to map out a strategy for requesting that the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission establish a Springs Protection Zone on the Lower Ichetucknee River. Lu will work with John Jopling and Amy Rozelle to set a date.

4. *Should IA accept Play Hard Florida's invitation to become a B2B partner and/or participate in The State of Water Juried Art Exhibition and The Water State Festival in Spring 2023 at Cypress & Grove?* After discussion, the board decided not to partner with this group right now, leaving open the possibility of partnership at a later date. Concerns included the idea of "play hard" in light of the ecosystem damage that springs such as the Ichetucknee have experienced from high recreational use.

5. *Resignation of board member Mark Smith and need for more board members.* The board again discussed the need to identify more and younger board members, especially people from Columbia County. Jaime Lynn reported that younger people tend to favor group activities such as river cleanups, fish counts and turtle counts over old-style advocacy strategies.

6. *Information from Ryan Smart re: new Florida Springs Council (FSC) hire of an advocate for the Suwannee, Santa Fe and Ichetucknee rivers.* John and Lu reported on this new effort by FSC to employ full-time advocates for Outstanding Florida Springs, beginning with the hire of an advocate for the Suwannee, Santa Fe and Ichetucknee rivers. According to Ryan, the advocate will primarily be working on matters related to water policy.

MONTHLY REPORTS

7. *Approval of May 23 meeting minutes.* The minutes were approved as submitted.

8. *Staff Assistant's reports, May-June 2022.* There were no questions.

9. *Membership report.* The report was emailed before the meeting and reviewed; there were no questions.

10. *Treasurer's report.* The report was emailed before the meeting and reviewed; there were no questions.

OLD BUSINESS

11. *Update on address changes.* Lu reported that the IA address has been changed with the IRS and various state agencies with which we must file annual reports.

12. *Update on Specific Conductance meter purchase for AquiferWatch for \$624.98.* Lu reported that the meter has been received by Gary Maddox of AquiferWatch, to whom it was delivered in Tallahassee. Total price of \$643.07 as shown on the treasury report included shipping charges.

13. *Update on Science Team report.* Jaime Lynn reported that the SpringsWatch science team's water monitoring activities continue.

14. *Update on Gainesville Sun's "Messages" project.* Lu reported that new columns will appear in the print edition of *The Gainesville Sun* on July 31 and that all "Messages" columns are now listed online at: <https://bit.ly/springsheartland>

15. *MFL update.* Lu reported that no news came from SRWMD about the recovery strategy this month.

16. *BMAP update.* John reported that oral arguments in our appeal of DOAH's BMAP ruling were held in June at the First District Court of Appeals in Tallahassee. We await a decision.

NEW BUSINESS

17. *Any new business.* None.

18. *Next meetings:* Board retreat, August 20; Board meeting, Sept. 26

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt
Staff Assistant

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