

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES
6:30 p.m. Monday, September 26, 2022
via Zoom Conference Call

Board Members Present

Eric Flagg
John Jopling

Advisory Board Members Present

Judy Sayre

Others Present

Lucinda Merritt

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

PRIORITY ITEMS

2. *Who will take over essential IA duties when Lu's funding runs out?* Lu called everyone's attention to a list of her duties for IA and added that someone will also need to provide storage space for multiple bins that contain IA's materials (financial records, displays, t-shirts, hats, printed materials, banner). John suggested that he talk to Lu to see if she is willing to downsize her work for IA and Lu indicated that downsizing is not an option at this time because she needs to concentrate on paid work. She also suggested that the IA board needs a re-set and the most effective way for that to happen may be for her to no longer be involved once current funding runs out, which will happen in early 2023. Lu also reported that her work representing IA on the UF FACETS stakeholder group is concluding in December when that project holds its last meeting in Albany, Georgia, which she will attend.

MONTHLY REPORTS

3. *Approval of July 25 meeting minutes.* The minutes were approved.

4. *Staff Assistant's reports, July-August 2022.* There were no questions.

5. *Membership report.* Lu emailed the report before the meeting.

6. *Treasurer's report.* Lu emailed the report before the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

7. *Update on Science Team report.* Lu reported that as far as she knows, work continues.

8. *Update on AquiferWatch water monitoring.* Lu reported that AquiferWatch monitored wells in the Ichetucknee Basin on Sept. 10. She has paid UF LAKEWATCH \$221.28 for analyses of the water samples that were collected. That amount does not appear on the current treasury report since the check has not yet cleared the bank.

9. *Update on Gainesville Sun's "Messages" project.* Lu gave an update on this project that represents IA's educational programming for 2022. The project will conclude as a monthly series in November, at which time her work on the project will also conclude. Nathan Crabbe at *The Gainesville Sun* has indicated that "Messages" may run occasional columns as they are submitted after November 2022.

10. *MFL update.* Lu reported that there has been no recent news from the Suwannee River Water Management District about development of recovery plans for the updated Ichetucknee MFL.

11. *BMAP update.* John reported that we are still waiting for a decision from the First District Court of Appeals in Tallahassee about our appeal of the BMAP challenge decision that was made in the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings.

12. *Springs Protection Zone update.* John reported about the activities of the Lower Ichetucknee Springs Protection Zone (SPZ) working group, including a recent virtual meeting that group had with employees of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in which the type of evidence FWC needs to approve an SPZ was discussed. John also mentioned that Nichols Spring, one of the other springs for which request for a Springs Protection Zone has been made, has been granted that protection by FWC after submission of only four photos as evidence. Evidently that spring has a connection with a current or former Florida state senator. Lu suggested that the Lower Ichetucknee SPZ working group might want to write an

article for “Messages” about our SPZ effort and include information about FWC’s rapid approval of the SPZ request that was for Nichols Spring.

NEW BUSINESS

13. Any new business? Eric mentioned that he would like to work on another combined educational and membership recruitment event at Cypress & Grove in Gainesville and Judy volunteered to help with event planning.

John mentioned that IA needs to renew its membership in the Florida Wildlife Federation. Lu will check with Michelle Forman at FWF about this.

14. Next meeting: Lu reminded everyone that the next IA board meeting is Nov. 28 (the Monday after Thanksgiving).

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt
Staff Assistant

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