

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES
6:30 p.m. Monday, January 23, 2023
via Zoom Conference Call

Board Members Present

Marcia Davis (added 1/23/2023)
Paul Donsky (added 1/23/2023)
John Jopling
Bruce Robinson
Bob Ulanowicz

Advisory Board Members Present

Judy Sayre

Others Present

Lucinda Merritt

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

PRIORITY ITEMS

2. Introductions. Potential board members introduced themselves and were introduced to others attending.

3. Reconstituting the IA Board of Directors and dividing up the Staff Assistant's duties. John Jopling gave an overview of IA's activities and nominated Marcia Davis and Paul Donsky to join the board of directors. Davis and Donsky were approved unanimously. Lu Merritt added a brief overview of various IA accounts that will either need new owners or need to be closed by the time she leaves the staff assistant's job. John will become responsible for the official reports IA needs to file with the IRS and the State of Florida, and will serve as interim treasurer and interim membership coordinator until someone else can take on those roles. Judy Sayre will take meeting minutes. Other duties are yet to be assigned. Potential board members were discussed and ways to contact those people were suggested.

4. What will be IA's educational activities for members & the public in 2023-2024? What do people need to know and how do they need to learn it? What do our members need to keep them engaged? John Jopling suggested that this subject be tabled until IA has a full board of directors; potential directors are still being approached and recruited.

MONTHLY REPORTS

5. Approval of November 28 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

6. Staff Assistant's reports, November & December 2022. There were no questions.

7. Membership report. Lu reported that IA is currently in the grace period for renewals of memberships that expired on Dec. 31, 2022; Lu will email an updated membership report ASAP after Jan. 31, 2023.

8. Treasurer's report. IA finances were briefly discussed. John Jopling mentioned that one goal for the new board could be to raise approximately \$500/month to pay someone to take on some of the staff assistant's duties.

9. Science Team report. There was no official report, but John reported that he has witnessed water monitoring from his house on the Lower Ichetucknee, which the monitoring groups use as a staging area.

OLD BUSINESS

10. Report on Springs Protection Zone Working Group activities. John gave a brief overview of the new Florida law that permits the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to establish springs protection zones. IA is assisting with such an effort on the Lower Ichetucknee, which is designed to restrict boating activities that are harmful to the aquatic ecosystem there. IA expects to be on FWC's agenda for consideration of this request sometime during the first half of 2023.

11. MFL update. Lu reported that there have been no recent announcements from the Suwannee River Water Management District meetings about the status of the Ichetucknee's Minimum Flows & Levels (MFL) recovery plan, which is being worked on by that district and the St. Johns River Water Management District.

12. *BMAP update.* John updated the group on IA's challenge to the Lower Santa Fe River Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP), which includes the Ichetucknee. IA is awaiting a decision on that challenge from the First District Court of Appeals in Tallahassee.

NEW BUSINESS

13. *Cornerstone Crossing development in the Ichetucknee Trace.* We discussed the decision by the SRWMD Board of Directors—a decision that overruled District staff's recommendation—to grant a variance that will permit this development to be built on top of a waterway in the Ichetucknee Trace. Bob Ulanowicz and Lu will draft a press release about this situation.

14. *Donations to the Florida Springs Institute and Florida Springs Council.* John moved to donate \$200 to each of those organizations in recognition of the important services they provide to IA and to the public. The expense was approved unanimously. Lu will mail the donations as soon as possible.

15. *IA meetings in 2023: In person at FSI or continue via Zoom?* John indicated that he would like in-person meetings at least twice a year, especially important given new board members. He will talk to Bob Knight about the charges that have been quoted to IA for use of the Florida Springs Institute's new meeting space in High Springs.

16. *Next IA board meetings: Mar. 27; May 22; July 24; Sept. 25; Nov. 27.* Lu reported that the IA board approved those dates at the November 2022 meeting.

17. *Any other new business?* None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt
Staff Assistant

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