

ICHETUCKNEE ALLIANCE (IA) MEETING MINUTES
6:30 p.m. Monday, November 28, 2022
via Zoom Conference Call

Board Members Present

Eric Flagg
John Jopling
Bob Ulanowicz

Advisory Board Members Present

Judy Sayre

Others Present

Lucinda Merritt

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

PRIORITY ITEMS

2. *Report on Springs Protection Zone Working Group activities.* John reported on a recent conversation with a representative of FWC and that he feels IA is in a “pretty strong” position. The board of Three Rivers Property Owners (TREPO) voted 10-3 in favor of a motorized boat ban on the Lower Ichetucknee; the 10 approvals included some people who own boats who indicated they are happy to launch elsewhere if that will help protect the aquatic ecosystem. Lu reminded everyone that there is still time to submit support letters.

3. *Report on IA Advisory Board members’ meeting with SRWMD re: Lake City mega industrial park water issues.* Bob Ulanowicz reported on discussions that he had participated in that included representatives of SRWMD and Bob Knight and Bob Palmer of IA’s advisory board. During discussion, serious concerns were voiced about the ineffectiveness of proposed offsets for the large mega industrial park’s water use permit. Board members agreed that an article should be prepared to publicize this problem.

4. *Set meeting schedule for 2023. If the board continues to meet on the 4th Mondays every other month, this would be the schedule: Jan. 23; March 27; May 22; July 24; Sept. 25; Nov. 27.* That meeting schedule was approved and Lu will send dates to all board and advisory board members.

5. *Who will volunteer to take over which IA staff assistant duties when Lu’s funding runs out?* During discussions, Lu indicated she would probably finish her work with IA on or about April 1, 2023. John mentioned the need for new board members and asked Lu to email everyone a copy of our membership lists so people can scan the lists for potential board members. Since we are heading into a busy holiday time, Judy suggested we wait to do a formal recruitment of board members until after 1/1/2023. Lu suggested that potential board members could be approached informally before then if opportunities to do that present themselves over the holidays. John volunteered to take on the legal aspects of reporting to state agencies, IRS, etc.

6. *Establish a committee to plan educational activities for 2023-2024.* Tabled until we have more board members.

MONTHLY REPORTS

7. *Approval of September 26 meeting minutes.* The minutes were approved.

8. *Staff Assistant’s reports, September & October 2022.* There were no questions.

9. *Membership report. To be emailed before the meeting.* This was briefly discussed.

10. *Treasurer’s report. To be emailed before the meeting.* This was briefly discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

11. *Update on Gainesville Sun’s “Messages” column series.* Lu reported that this series, which ran from October 2021 through October 2022, has ended because *The Gainesville Sun* has discontinued its opinion pages and Issues section. Her participation in the series and her work on the Alliance’s two websites, along with her development of the new “Florida Creatives for Clean Water” Facebook page, constitute the Alliance’s educational programming for the past year.

12. *Update on Science Team report.* Lu reported and John confirmed that the Science Team monitored water quality on the Lower Ichetucknee on the last Saturday in November.

13. *MFL update.* No news, per Lu.

14. *BMAP update.* No news, per John.

15. Lu reported that unanimous email votes from Jopling, Robinson, Flagg and Ulanowicz approved payment of \$400 to the Florida Springs Institute for an analysis of SAV on the Lower Ichetucknee River. Lu has paid that invoice.

NEW BUSINESS

16. Any new business? None.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Faulkner Merritt
Staff Assistant