



Meeting Minutes: Three River Estates Property Owners, Fort White, FL. 32038

Date: November 8, 2022

1. Call to Order by G. Hunter
2. Invocation
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call:

Board Members:	Officers:	Alternates:
Glenn Hunter, Chairman	Terri Hester, President	
Vonda Ackerson	-Mickey Olson, Vice President (surgery)	
-John Bryant	Victoria Imm, Treasurer	
Sassy Johnson	Hilda Gilchrist, Secretary	
Sammy Keen		
Tommy Matthews		
Rick Palm	Park Manager	
-Phyl Rea (sick)	Bill Brim	
Charlee Thompson		
Tom Tramel		

5. *Motion to approve all those absent by R.Palm, 2nd T.Tramel; motion passes*

6. *Approve November Agenda : Motion by C. Thompson, 2nd T.Tramel; motion passes.*

7. *Approve October Minutes : Motion to approve, T.Mathews, 2nd by R.Palm; motion passes.*
 Chairman noted that Joan Nano submitted her resignation at the October meeting and he asked Cathy Rieker to step into her board position at this time.

8. Secretary's report, H. Gilchrist, nothing to report.

9. Treasurer's Report, Vicky Imm:

Please refer to attachments for full report & P& L chart.

Drummond Bank Account info for October 2022:

Checking bal:	\$40,177.20	Monthly Checks:	\$ 7,692.88
Savings:	50,028.50	Auto Drafts:	<u>674.65</u>
Memberships:	<u>1,375.00</u>	Total Expenditures:	\$ 8,367.53
Total:	\$ 91,580.70		
		Transf. to Reg. Checking:	\$ 0.00
		Interest-Reg. Ckg:	.37
		Interest-Savings:	0.00
		Deposits-Reg. Ckg:	1,187.00
		Deposits-Mem Ckg:	0.00
		Electronic Deposits	150.00
		Total Deposits:	\$ 1,337.37

Profit and Loss Statements was handed out and include 'out of the norm' expenses due to elections.
Motion to approve treasure's report S, Keen, 2nd by C Thompson; motion passes.

10. President's Report, Terri Hester:

*Terri requests approval for a Porta Potty for Fishing Park,

*B.Brim discusses best location is on east side, just outside the rail.

*T. Mathews suggested considering locating it by the gate, but B. Brim noted that the slope is very steep and inaccessible.

*Chairman noted that the gate was put there as a utility service gate.

Motion to approve a Porta Potty for fishing Park T.Mathews, 2nd V.Ackerson; motion passes.

*Terri provided clarification on Proxy numbers (to respond to J. Crane's question at October meeting) Proxy's were listed follows : 113 proxy's were verified.

79 registered members ended up attending the BBQ that day, leaving only 34 proxy's.

*V.Ackerson noted she was on the way to the feed store, and they offered to buy the hay for the Fall Festival hay ride. They now are requesting 99 or \$100, and she's fine with that, because the hay will be available for the Christmas hay ride and then it can be donated to Tim Flanders.

*T. Tramel requests we come up with a procedure and require invoices and notice in order to approve payment/reimbursement.

Motion to approve by S.Keen, 2nd C.Rieker.

* President thanked B. brim and J. Brim for donating the ballot box.

11. Park Managers Report, Bill Brim:

Please refer to Park Manager's Report submitted by B.Brim

12. Maintenance Committee Report, Tommy Mathews & Hilda Gilchrist

* H.Gilchrist presented photos and discussed all the notes shown on the Proposed Improvement Plans for Fishing and Camping Park, which she created after she, T. Mathews and G. Hunter made site visits to Fishing and Camping Parks on October 12, 2022.

* Improvements proposed for arresting the bank erosion will require coordination and permitting through Suwanee River Water Management on the Santa Fe, + FDEP on the Iche. American with Disabilities (ADA) requirements will apply to the park improvements as well,

* PLEASE NOTE: The graphics and notes titled **Fishing Park, and Camping Park Proposed Improvement Plans**, will be sent as a separate e-mail, since they were too large to include.

Also, at Hodor Park where there is. A lot of potential to better utilize the pavillion and ncrease seating and gathering area, by constructing tables and benches similar to those in our small picnic shelters, while allowing for through passage along each of the three sides.

* T. Mathews passed out a form including capital improvements projects that need to be prioritized by the board and by the general membership. These are all projects that have been discussed and/or suggested. He requests each board member prioritize the list, add notes to suggest further improvements, (i.e.. add HC ="handicap"facilities at Hodor? He requests forms back ASAP so that by the December meeting we have a good idea of how to proceed. Chairman noted that as long as we can say we are addressing HC needs to greatest extent possible we should be okay.

*

* R.Palm suggests we place an "ADD" (defribulator) at Hodor and Midpoint,

* V. Ackerson asked about the cost, R. Palm estimated \$1,000(+-) each.

* Chairman discussed how/where it would be placed and suggested it be within camera view.

13. SPZ Working Group presentation, Recie Davis read the following:

Help Us Establish a Springs Protection Zone (SPZ) for the Lower Ichetucknee

The Ichetucknee River (Spring Run), needs your help to protect it from damage caused by motorized vessels such as boats and jet skis.

Recreational impacts are increasingly damaging our North Florida springs and rivers, and the Ichetucknee is no exception. While the upper part of the river is protected by the state park's ban on motorized vessels, the Lower Ichetucknee as it flows through Three Rivers Estates has no such protection.

Many weekends, especially holiday weekends, find the Lower Ichetucknee experiencing heavy motorized vessel traffic that results in turbid water and ecosystem damage to submerged aquatic vegetation and to the shoreline. In addition, the danger posed by motorized vessels to wildlife such as Florida's iconic manatees is well known.

Thanks to a new state law, Florida Statute 327.45, we now have an opportunity to change this situation to provide more protections for our beloved blue river. This law grants authority to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to establish Springs Protection Zones (SPZs) that "restrict the speed or operation of vessels or that prohibit anchoring, mooring, beaching or grounding of vessels to protect or prevent specified harm to first, second and third magnitude springs and spring groups and their associated spring runs."

In April 2022, a local citizen filed a request to the FWC to establish a non-motorized vessel SPZ for the Lower Ichetucknee. The Ichetucknee Alliance is helping with this effort. Establishing a Springs Protection Zone is a new process and all of us, including the FWC, are learning as this process unfolds.

Part of the process involves gaining public support for the SPZ request. If you agree that the Lower Ichetucknee could benefit from stronger protections, please consider:

- Writing a letter saying why you and/or your organization support establishing a Springs Protections Zone for the Lower Ichetucknee River. You may submit your letter electronically to ichetuckneealliance@gmail.com or by snail mail to the Ichetucknee Alliance, P.O. Box 945, High Springs, FL 32655-0945. We need your letters no later than November 23, 2022 please. See sample letters attached **
- Attending an upcoming FWC workshop to get public input on establishing the SPZ. We need large numbers of people who support the Springs Protection Zone to attend. We do not have a date for the workshop yet, but it will be held somewhere in the area where the zone was requested and should be held before the November 30-December 1, 2022 FWC meeting (location to be determined) where we hope to have our request on the agenda. It would also be good if you could attend that FWC meeting.

Your support for the Ichetucknee is critically important. Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sample Letters of Support for the Ichetucknee Springs Protection Zone (SPZ)

These are only samples to get you going – pick and choose any parts – add your own words as they will have much more impact. “Lower river” refers to the southern approximately 2 miles of the river as it crosses Highway 27.

Please ADDRESS your letters to Captain Rachel Bryant, FWC, Division of Law Enforcement, Boating and Waterways BUT SEND to ichetuckneealliance@gmail.com.

1. I would like to express my support for the non-motorized SPZ for the Lower Ichetucknee River pursuant to FL Statute 327.45. I have seen the harm done to the river and its ecosystem from motorized vessels including_____.

(Destruction of vegetation, harm to river bottom and manatees from anchors/propellers, poor water turbidity after boats pass, oil and gas in water, anchors pulling up vegetation, erosion, etc.)

2. I strongly support the non-motorized SPZ for the Lower Ichetucknee River. The FWC Commissioners have been granted authority by the Florida Legislature to establish such zones and I hope you do the right thing and take steps to save this precious natural resource. (Give personal experiences with the river and/or harm from motorized vessels.)

3. I am writing to let you know that I am in full support of the SPZ for the Lower Ichetucknee River. The Upper River has been protected as part of the State Park for many years so it makes sense the lower river should also be protected. The Upper river has placed even further restrictions on human use and the results have been outstanding. Please do all you can to prevent further destruction to this delicate spring.

4. I am writing to express my full support for the Lower Ichetucknee SPZ. I have seen large craft with outrageous horsepower engines that have no business on this spring run. (List harm to river you have seen.)

5. I am a boater and I am writing to let you know I support the non-motorized vessel SPZ for the Lower Ichetucknee. (See #4).

Amy Rozelle is the resident of Three Rivers on the Suwanee side who requested the maximum protections for the lower Ichetucknee (to ban motorized vessels). She requests that we ask the board to take a vote on whether you support the SPZ requested, and document the results in the minutes.

J. Crane clarifies that the requested ban does not include kayaks and canoes, it only bans MOTORIZED vessels. He also notes that if we go to change.org, there are 3500-40000 petitions, many of which include a comment, story about conflict with boats, or letter. He plans to present these to FWC at a future meeting.

Chairman notes that when he goes scalloping and a boat gets near folks in the water, they get scolded and the boats stay away; but that here, boaters here act in wreckless abandon. These folks seem to feel

that since there's nothing to keep people in line, they can get away with it. They know FWC is not around to enforce rules.

V. Imm mentioned she has tried swimming with a diver's flag, since boats are supposed to keep 75' from them, but they don't.

Several in the audience and the board mentioned they would vote against supporting the SPZ if those on the river are allowed to use their boats because we/they can use a boat ramp like every one else.

R. Palm raised motion to support adopting the SPZ requested which specifically bans motorized boats from the lower Ichetucknee Spring Run. Seconded by C. Rieker

A lengthy discussion took place:

T. Trammel notes that FDEP could turn it over to the State Parks, and they could regulate not just boats, but also tubes. This could get out of hand. We should take baby steps such as going to the two county commissions and get a no wake zone passed that FWC can enforce. I would support efforts related to safety and the behavior of those people driving the boats. There are many boaters who do what they are supposed to do, and the last thing we want is to have them restrict tubing.

It was noted that this had been attempted prior to the state statute, and had not gotten support from the County Comm. chairman who is a boat owner.

H. Gilchrist notes that this is a new state law, Florida Statute 327.45, approved by Gov. Ron DeSantis, that specifically grants FWC the power to "restrict the speed or operation of vessels or prohibit anchoring, mooring, and beaching. There is nothing in the statute that addresses the tubers; they are not the problem.

T. Trammel continued that he supports focusing on safety.... I'm not opposed to boats being banned, but there are things that can be done. Maybe we want to ban boats on weekends and holidays?

Chairman notes that the attitude boaters seem to have is there are no rules.

It's not they FWC doesn't want to help, it's that they don't have the personnel.

Over two years ago, I submitted photo survey of all the old No Wake signs along the Ichetucknee that need to be restored because they are barely readable. I heard from the FWC that they would have their sign shop provide new signs, and then I never heard back from them.

Board members vote count: 6 in favor; 3 opposed.

General members and the (4) officers were unanimously in favor.

14. Communications Committee Report:

Camera Security Update, Charlee Thompson: All good

Membership update: V. Ackerson

Columbia County: 649

Suwanee County: 221

Total: 870

The next upcoming event is the Christmas Extravaganza December 3rd, and info will be out on the web site. Santa Clause will be bringing presents to the kids, parade with lighting of the tree, hay ride, and decorations.

15. New Business:

*R. Palm moves that the following resolution be adopted by applause, seconded by C. Rieker; Motion passes.

RESOLUTION:

**Whereas, Joan Nano has served TREPO with distinction for over 15 years,
Whereas Ms. Nano has provided leadership, perspective and insight into the board meeting
legislative processes.**

**Whereas Joan has tended her resignation after a lengthy record of service.
Now, therefore, be it resolved, the officers and board offer their sincere, thanks and appreciation
for all of her contributions, and wish her the best into the future.**

Unanimous applause was heard

*Happy Birthday was sung to to Terri Hester who attended although not feeling well.

16. Old Business: None

17. Open Property Comments to the Board Time (limit of 2 minutes per person). None

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 13th.

Motion to Adjourn C. Thompson, 2nd C. Rieker, 8:22.