

Water Quality Subcommittee (St. Marys River Management Committee)

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 10, 2011

6 p.m.

The Water Quality Subcommittee (of the St. Marys River Management Committee/SMRMC) held a meeting on January 10, 2011, at the Cedar River Seafood restaurant in Callahan, Florida.

Members in attendance:

Merrill Varn, Winifred Stephenson, Kevin Shell; Ken Hase has resigned from the committee because of a new job

Horsepen Creek project

Merrill Varn, Charlton County, reported that the Coastal Georgia Water Council had been given \$100,000 to spend on restoring water quality of an impaired creek with a TMDL completed. Laurie Fowler would like to resubmit the grant from several years ago and narrow it to Horsepen Creek only. The SMRMC would need to agree to host and organize several meetings and a field day for a total of 400 hours of volunteer time. The three committee members present agreed that they could each donate an average of 10 hours of time per month for the 13 month period of the grant January 1, 2012- January 31, 2013. All agreed that if the grant was awarded that we would not make any other commitments for that year (e.g., we would not hold a Water Quality Technical Meeting). Varn said that Laurie still needed to get commitments from MAREX and from Camden County Environmental Health Department before proceeding. She also needed to be sure that UGA could be the grant applicant. Varn said that since it seemed that we had most of the time commitment required, she would ask the committee for a support letter at the full committee (SMRMC) meeting tonight.

Winifred Stephenson, Nassau County, said that she had sent an email to Julie Espy regarding a summary of the St. Marys River Water Quality data but had not heard anything back. Merrill Varn said that she had gotten a copy of the SJRWMD impaired waters document from Kraig Mc Lane (with the SJRWMD). He had also said that he could order a summary if SMRMC discovered that one had not been done. She also reported that Kraig had suggested DO, fecal coliform/e-coli, N, P, and pH as basic water quality tests that the subcommittee should follow on the river. Again he said that Julie Espy would be the best person to ask.

Kevin Shell, Baker County, said that he would be able to filter the SJRWMD data for fecal coliform data. There may be several different tests for bacteria over the life of the study. Merrill Varn said that it would be essential to have this data by the March 3 WQ technical meeting because it could highlight some of the problems with the data set. She also reported that Hollie Hall from UF Conservation Clinic had sent an initial email to

last year's participants and that she and Hollie would send out detailed information by January 20, 2011. They still needed to finalize the location.

Merrill Varn reported that Coastal Regional Council had received 319 funding to address water quality on two streams in the five-county region. They were considering the DO segment on the St. Marys. Varn said that most of the planning meetings will be in Savannah because of technical capabilities of E. F. Hutton, one of the cooperators. The group said they will try to hold some local stakeholder meetings and will keep us informed of their progress.

Winifred Stephenson agreed to make the February Dissolved Oxygen presentation to the committee. Merrill Varn said that her fecal coliform presentation was on tonight's agenda.