

**Water Quality Subcommittee  
(St. Marys River Management Committee)**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**July 9, 2012**

**6 p.m.**

The Water Quality Subcommittee (of the St. Marys River Management Committee/SMRMC) held a meeting on July 9, 2012, at the Cedar River Seafood restaurant in Callahan, Florida.

**Members in attendance:**

Merrill Varn, Kevin Shell

**Horsepen Creek Section 319 Grant Project**

Varn provided an update on the Horsepen Creek Project (that was granted through the Georgia Water Council by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Section 319 funds). She said the University of Georgia had sampled numerous locations along Temple Creek, one pool along the creek bed of Horsepen Creek that had water in it, and the one county drainage ditch that flows into Temple Creek that had water in it. The ditch was sampled because the fecal coliform Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Horsepen/Temple Creek stated that septic system effluent reaching the ditches could be the source of the problem. All of the creek samples had little or no fecal coliform. However, the ditch sample indicated extremely high fecal coliform levels and it was identified as human fecal coliform. There are only two houses that drain to this ditch, and there is money in the grant to replace both systems if need be. Camden County has indicated that they will not propose a countywide septic pumping ordinance based on one or two malfunctioning units.

There is a meeting between University of Georgia and Camden County officials scheduled for July 19 to discuss the options. They will also discuss the possibility of absorbing Conn Cole's unfunded proposal for delisting the Horsepen segment of the Horsepen/Temple TMDL based on the fact that the creek no longer contains water. (Mr. Cole is an employee of Camden County.)

Additionally, there is also a meeting in Savannah on July 19 to discuss ways for the various 319 grant projects (between GEPD and the Department of Community Affairs) to work together.

**Spanish Creek – Possible Future Section 319 Grant Project**

The Water Quality Subcommittee is hoping to apply for a future Section 319 grant for Spanish Creek in Charlton County. There is a meeting scheduled for July 19 with Charlton County members of the committee and the University of Georgia to discuss writing a grant for Spanish Creek.