

## **St. Marys River Management Committee**

P.O. Box 251 Folkston, Georgia 31537

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**February 4, 2013**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on February 4, 2013, at the Nassau County Building in Callahan, Florida. Committee members and visitors in attendance are listed at the end of the minutes. A quorum of members was present.

#### **Call to Order and Housekeeping Items**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Kevin Shell at 7:06 p.m. Members and visitors introduced themselves. The draft agenda was reviewed and approved. Previous meeting minutes from January 7, 2013, were reviewed and approved. John Myers, committee Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report for January. The committee's main account has a balance of \$3,171.12. A motion was offered, and approved, granting Myers permission to draft a letter to the bank, explaining Kevin Shell's new role as Co-Chairman. Myers said the bank will need signatures and copies of photo identification of all the signatories.

#### **Government in the Sunshine**

Co-Chairman Kevin Shell reminded the committee that, because of its quasi-governmental nature, members cannot meet to discuss any committee business without the meeting being formally noticed. He explained that this scenario came up recently when he participated in the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) teleconference regarding staff gauges along the river.

#### **River Gauge Update**

Co-Chairman Kevin Shell informed the committee that he participated in a recent teleconference with officials from NOAA regarding the placement of staff gauges along the river. Shell said there are some staffing transitions happening within NOAA (including the person who actually installs river gauges), so it is unlikely any gauge activity will happen in the next few months. NOAA has scheduled another conference call on April 17 address the issue. Shell suggested SMRMC also notice the meeting to allow more SMRMC members to participate in the call.

#### **2013 River Cleanup & Celebration**

Dean Woehrle said that there are enough t-shirts left from the previous cleanups that he does not plan to order any for this year. He said he will bring the site captain books to the next meeting for distribution. Russell Barber confirmed that the shelter at Trader's Hill has been reserved for the celebration event. Melinda Granlund informed the committee that she had spoken to Recovered Materials regarding trailer rental and confirmed the price would be \$1500. There was general discussion among the members about how many tires would be found/collected, and whether there would be enough to justify the cost of the trailer rental. Suggestions were made to open the collection process to the public, and also to pay the landfill disposal fee (in lieu of the trailer rental). Woehrle asked for volunteers, with trucks, to help with the tire collection process.

It was ultimately decided that the committee would not request the tire-collection trailer, but rather would pay the landfill disposal fee (assuming that only several hundred tires would be collected).

If a greater number of tires are collected, then Melinda Granlund will call Recovered Materials to have the trailer delivered afterward. The members also agreed to find locations for the tire collection spots within their respective counties.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

#### Water Quality Subcommittee

Merrill Varn said the subcommittee has presented their proposals to Scott Pippen (University of Georgia River Basin Center) for the next steps regarding the Section 319 grant, and are awaiting his response.

Varn said she has been in contact with Jeff Cowan at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR), regarding the use of EZBase road material. There was discussion about the committee's role in evaluating the use of the product. EarthKeepers is also monitoring the issue. A motion was made, and approved, that Varn should keep track of updates from GDNR about the EZBase product.

### **Committee Member Reports or Comments**

Merrill Varn distributed a copy of the conservation easement for the Devil's Elbow property. There was discussion about what types of activities are allowed on the property.

Phil Jones informed the committee that he will be stepping down from the SMRMC, due to conflicting schedules with work and school. Jones also informed the committee that the City of St. Marys has contracted with a company to assist with the removal of the derelict vessels.

There was discussion among members about presentations of the committee's annual report to the local county commissions. Kevin Shell had already presented to Baker County; John Myers will go before the Camden County BOCC on February 12. Dean has not yet had a chance to present to Nassau County. There was discussion about whether Al Crace had presented the report to the Charlton County BOCC.

John Myers said he had received an email from frequent visitor Rick Frey (with EarthKeepers) regarding the sand mining application from E.R. Jhana. Baker County Commissioner James Croft confirmed that there have been no application changes of which he is aware.

Melinda Granlund reminded members that the St. Johns River Water Management District is looking for historic photographs of the St. Marys River.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

## **St. Marys River Management Committee Attendance Log – February 4, 2013**

### **Baker County Members**

James Croft, Commissioner

Chris Gazes

Mike Griffis

Kevin Shell

Greg Sheppard

### **Nassau County Members**

Cory Black

Keith Tindall

Dean Woehrle

### **Camden County Members**

Karen Chisholm

Philip Jones

John Myers

### **Charlton County Members**

Russell Barber

Chip Campbell

Merrill Varn

### **Non-voting Members**

Alice Vick, Georgia Environmental Protection Division

**Administrative Assistant** – Melinda Granlund