

**JOINT Meeting of the
Water Quality Subcommittee and Land Use & Planning
Subcommittee
(St. Marys River Management Committee)**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
May 6, 2013
6 p.m.**

There was a joint meeting of the Water Quality Subcommittee and the Land Use & Planning Subcommittee (both of the St. Marys River Management Committee/SMRMC) on May 6, 2013, at Cedar River Seafood restaurant in Callahan, Florida.

Members in attendance:

Merrill Varn, Chip Campbell, John Myers, Rick Frey, Karen Chisholm

Agenda:

The agenda was revised to include discussion of a letter of support for grant application for the University of Georgia River Basin Center (UGARBC) to Sea Grant program operated by MAREX (University of Georgia Marine Extension Service).

Discussion

Section 319 Horsepen Creek Grant

Merrill Varn said she had spoken with Scott Pippin of UGARBC, who had informed her that he had received the reports from all but one of the septic tank inspections in the Browntown area. Of the 12 inspections, three (possibly four) were repairable, but the remaining eight or nine would need to be replaced. In order to have the maximum number of systems working correctly, Varn said that Pippin had decided to start with repairs and then go to replacements. As part of the current 319 grant, UGARBC will list additional potential funding sources for the replacement of the remaining systems and for financial assistance with replacement.

Camden County has issued a permit for the demonstration system at the county park at Temple Creek Landing. The system is going to be part of extensive park renovations including a new shelter. Camden County is going to share some of the cost of the septic tank replacement as part of the park renovation. The remainder will be paid by the 319 grant. Pippin thought that both renovations and repairs will be completed by fall 2013 and would like to postpone the Poop-Stock festival to coincide with park re-opening. John Myers suggested that we aim for Labor Day weekend to attract Catfish Festival attendees to our event.

Finally, Varn reported that Pippin had said that he was going to report to Camden County Board of County Commissioners on the general inspection results at their June meeting. No names would be released. Myers said that he would coordinate with Pippin and would copy Commissioner Sheppard on the communication.

Letter of Support

Merrill Varn informed the subcommittee members that the UGARBC is applying for a Section 319 grant for 2014-15, concerning regional wastewater planning. The UGARBC has asked the SMRMC for a letter of support, which they will include with their grant application. Varn said this potential grant would dovetail nicely with the committee's current efforts to reduce the fecal coliform contamination of Horsepen Creek. The subcommittee decided to recommend to the full committee that the letter of support should be sent.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.