

\*Minutes were approved at SMRMC meeting on July 1, 2013.

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

P.O. Box 251 Folkston, Georgia 31537

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**June 3, 2013**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on June 3, 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 7:02 p.m. Members and visitors introduced themselves. The draft agenda was reviewed and approved. Previous meeting minutes from May 6, 2013, were reviewed and approved. John Myers, committee Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report for May: the committee's main account had a balance of \$4,566.92. Myers said the committee had received a \$500 grant from Rayonier, and also a \$500 grant from the M.K. Pentecost Ecology Fund for tire mitigation. Myers also confirmed with Chip Campbell that Nassau and Charlton Counties had submitted their annual dues (\$500) for 2013. Merrill Varn confirmed that Camden County still owes funding for 2011 and 2012, and Nassau County still owes funding for 2012.

#### **Sand Mining Update**

Kevin Shell distributed documentation about the sand mining proposals in Baker County. He informed the committee that Oldcastle Southern Group has submitted an application to Baker County for a Special Exception to allow a sand mine. They are also proposing to construct a pipeline from the city of Macclenny to deliver the city's reclaimed wastewater for the mining operations. The pipeline would allow the city to stop discharging its reclaimed water into Turkey Creek. Shell said that if the city approves the pipeline, then Oldcastle will withdraw their CUP application from the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). There was discussion about the benefits of the proposed reuse of the city's treated wastewater. There was discussion about how deep the lakes were going to be and would the reclaimed water (coming from Macclenny) be filtered and whether the reclaimed water would end up in the aquifer, due to the possible lack of a confining layer.

Shell said he would like to present this information to the Baker County Commission and the City of Macclenny and to express support, on behalf of the SMRMC, for the proposed strategy of reusing the wastewater, rather than discharging it into Turkey Creek (a tributary of the St. Marys River). Dean Woehrle offered a motion for Kevin Shell to speak on behalf of the committee; Jim Wildes seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

#### **Specifications for River Gauges**

Greg Sheppard told the committee that he has a friend who owns a sign shop and had agreed to help make some gauges for placement along the St. Marys River. Sheppard said he had spoken to the North Florida Boy Scout Council and several local Boy Scout troops about the possibility of installing the river gauges. The scouts agreed that they would consider assisting with the installation, based on what locations might be suggested. There was discussion about what type of markings/measurements would be appropriate for the gauges. There was also discussion about

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which locations would be the most appropriate for gauge placement, and the members agreed on the following tentative locations: St. George Bridge (State Road 2), Reynolds Bridge, US 1 in Boulogne, and at the boat ramp at King's Ferry. John Myers suggested contacting Mark Crews (Camden County EOC) to determine the best location for Camden County. Geoff Sample said the SJRWMD staff may be able to assist with benchmark and elevation data. Chip Campbell reminded members that gauges cannot be attached to bridges and said it might be necessary to place the gauges on public right-of-way.

### **EZBASE Update**

In Rick Frey's absence, John Myers shared the following EZBase update: JEA has sent in their EZBase test results but the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' interpretation of the results has yet to be publicly released. The St. Marys EarthKeepers have requested a copy of the data and analysis.

### **Focus for Upcoming Meetings**

John Myers said the Satilla Waterkeeper Alliance has appointed a new Riverkeeper, Ashby Nix. Nix has agreed to come speak to the SMRMC at the upcoming July meeting.

Melinda Granlund asked the members if they had any additional agenda ideas for upcoming meetings. No specific suggestions were given.

### **Water Quality Subcommittee Update**

Merrill Varn informed the committee that three of the septic tanks identified as failing in the Browntown area have been repaired. She was unsure if any 319 funding remained to address the other repairs needed. John Myers and Scott Pippin will attend an upcoming Camden County Commission meeting to discuss the progress of the Section 319 grant.

Kevin Shell shared that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has conducted some recent testing of the St. Marys River, and results show fecal coliform contamination. Varn confirmed that these results are not unexpected.

John Myers asked Commissioner Tony Sheppard about the proposed theme park in Camden County. Commissioner Sheppard said he felt the project was unlikely to happen any time soon.

Chip Campbell said the St. Marys Fisheries Restoration Committee released recent findings that show that there is a relic population of Atlantic white sturgeon in the St. Marys River. The fish are juvenile and too small to be fish that have come in from the ocean. The Restoration Committee's attention is now shifting to striped bass and American shad.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

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## **St. Marys River Management Committee Attendance Log – June 3, 2013**

### **Baker County Members**

Chris Gazes  
Kevin Shell  
Greg Sheppard

### **Nassau County Members**

Cory Black  
Winifred Stephenson  
Keith Tindall  
Dean Woehrl

### **Camden County Members**

Tony Sheppard, Commissioner  
John Myers  
Jim Wildes

### **Charlton County Members**

John Meyer, Commissioner  
Russell Barber  
Chip Campbell  
Merrill Varn

### **Non-voting Members**

Geoff Sample, St. Johns River Water Management District

**Administrative Assistant** – Melinda Granlund

### **Visitors**

Al Crace, Charlton County