

St. Marys River Management Committee
P.O. Box 251 Folkston, Georgia 31537

MINUTES OF MEETING
September 9, 2013

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on September 9, 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 not present; therefore no official actions were taken.

The following items were discussed:

Housekeeping Items

Treasurer John Myers presented the monthly treasurer's report: the committee's main account has a balance of \$6,187.92; the Hap Harrigan Fund has a balance of \$506.50. The committee issued the following disbursements in August: \$201.40 for the administrative assistant, and \$128.40 to Camden Printing for the festival banner. Myers confirmed that the committee had received the check from the M.K. Pentecost Ecology Fund for \$500 for the 2014 River Cleanup. He said the Fund administrator had requested an update of the project (tire mitigation project) at their annual meeting, and also that the Fund would like the committee to make acknowledgement of the grant on its website. Myers suggested that a "banner" be placed on the committee's website with a link to M.K. Pentecost website.

Catfish Festival

Karen Chisholm provided an update to the committee about the recent Catfish Festival. She said there was no cost for the booth rental. Chisholm said she distributed committee information and recruited volunteers for the 2014 River Clean Up while at the booth. Merrill Varn, Scott Pippin and Laurie Fowler also distributed information in connection with the Section 319 grant.

Administrative Assistant Search

Geoff Sample is pursuing possible assistance from the Florida Coastal School of Law through its pro bono internship program. Melinda Granlund, the committee's current assistant, suggested to John Myers that she could continue performing administrative assistant duties for approximately \$100 per month, since she wouldn't be able to attend future meetings. Options for her remote participation were discussed. Sample said he would continue discussions with the Coastal School of Law.

Meeting Location

Geoff Sample informed the committee of an alternative meeting location, at the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) training room. He said they have a room with 50-person capacity, a speakerphone, and Wi-Fi capabilities, which would allow committee members to phone in to the meetings if necessary. There is no charge to use the facility. Because the committee will be forced to relocate for the November meeting (due to use of the county's building as a voting location), committee members agreed to try the VFD location for at least the October and November meetings. Sample said he would make arrangements for the meetings and also make changes to the committee's website regarding the new meeting location.

Horsepen Creek Grant

Merrill Varn reported on the Horsepen Creek grant. The Catfish Festival booth served as the final community meeting required by the grant. They distributed 130 leaflets on care of septic systems and signed up 10 people for a free septic pump-out and inspection. The Coastal Regional Commission donated funds for five pump-outs. Scott Pippin is writing the final report for the grant and needs a total of everyone's hours spent on the grant. There will not be any additional water quality testing done because the grant confirmed that the entire community needs major septic system repair and replacement before any improvements in water quality would be possible. Varn reported that Pippin will redraft the final report, which will serve as the basis for seeking money to fund additional repair/replacement work in the Horsepen Creek area.

Regional Water Plan

Geoff Sample reported that the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) had begun work on its next regional water supply plan. A draft for the entire District is expected to be completed by December 2013, with a more detailed plan for the northeast Florida area to be completed by the end of 2015. SJRWMD, the Suwannee River Water Management District, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection are working together in an initiative known as the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership. Those agencies are working together to develop science and provide data that will be used to support both districts' plans. One example is the development of a Southeast Georgia/Northeast Florida groundwater model.

Spanish Creek Implementation Plan Grant

Al Crace reported that he would call the South Georgia Regional Commission to begin planning for a grant submission for October 2014. The next grant cycle will not fund any new implementation plans, but will instead focus on remediation (actual implementation of existing plans). There are several options for grant preparation; Crace is collecting and comparing costs.

Angela TenBroeck, October SMRMC Meeting

Al Crace reported that he had arranged for Angela TenBroeck, the Farm Manager for Traders Hill Farms, to give a presentation at the committee's October meeting. Traders Hill recently purchased The Nature Conservancy property on the St. Marys River in Charlton County.

Okefenokee Festival

The Okefenokee Festival is on October 12. Al Crace will be sure that the SMRMC has a booth and a table. Commissioner John Meyer will staff the booth from 10 to 1, and Merrill Varn will staff the booth from 1 to 4.

Oldcastle

Mike Griffis reported on the state of the Old Castle sand mining permit, which was rejected by the Baker County Commission last month. Oldcastle has made a public records request.

St. Marys River Management Committee Attendance Log – September 9, 2013

Baker County Members

Mike Griffis

Nassau County Members

Keith Tindall

Camden County Members

Karen Chisholm

John Myers

Jim Wildes

Charlton County Members

John Meyer, Commissioner

Chip Campbell

Merrill Varn

Non-voting Members

Geoff Sample, SJRWMD

Alice Vick, GEPD

Visitors

Al Crace, Charlton County

Rhonda Myers, Camden County

Steve Nance, Charlton County