

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

P.O. Box 251 Folkston, Georgia 31537

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**October 7, 2013**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on October 7, 2013, at the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department conference center in Callahan, Florida. Committee members and visitors in attendance are listed at the end of the minutes. A quorum of members was present.

The following items were discussed:

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. During introductions, two students from the Florida Coastal School of Law, Lisa Nommenson and Lindsey Zehel, were introduced. They will be filling the roll of administrative assistants for the committee. The draft agenda was accepted without revision.

- August 5, 2013 meeting minutes: Dean Woehrle made a motion to approve, which was seconded by John Myers. Minutes were approved unanimously.
- September 9, 2013 meeting minutes: John Myers made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Chip Campbell. Minutes were approved unanimously.
- Treasurer's Report: Committee Treasurer John Myers reported that the committee's main bank account has \$6,358.12, and he noted that that the committee had received a contribution of \$500 from Baker County.

#### **Traders Hill Farms presentation**

Angela TenBroeck, representing Traders Hill Farm, gave a presentation on the company's present operations and plans. The presentation covered aquaculture processes (raising tilapia) and vegetable farm operations, using chicken-house structures converted for their sustainable hydroponic systems. She noted they use no pesticides or genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Traders Hill Farm now owns land containing several sand bars on the St. Marys River. They are proposing to build a new farmhouse in Georgia near the "Devil's Elbow," with long-term goals to maintain the wetlands, regenerate the longleaf pine community, and build a barn and community conference center similar to White Oak Plantation. They host open houses at the farm on Wednesdays and Saturdays. There were questions from committee members concerning preservation of wetlands, public access to portions of the property along the river, and future development plans. For more information, contact Traders Hill Farm on Facebook, or at [www.tradershillfarm.com](http://www.tradershillfarm.com), or Angela TenBroeck at (904) 845-2627.

#### **December Meeting or event at White Oak Plantation**

Jim Wildes was unable to attend this meeting. There was brief discussion of the possibility of having some type of committee meeting at White Oak Plantation, but any further consideration was deferred until Jim returns and is able to provide more information and clarification.

\*Minutes approved at SMRMC meeting on December 2, 2013.

**Subcommittees**

Water quality: Festivals taking place the weekend of October 12-13 were discussed. Chip Campbell noted that due to the government shutdown, the Okefenokee Refuge was closed and thus will not be a part of the Okefenokee Festival as usual. There were no other subcommittee reports.

**Committee Member Comments and Updates**

Winifred Stephenson announced that she would be leaving the committee because she is moving to Virginia. She indicated she would notify her county commissioner so they can appoint her replacement.

**Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

## **St. Marys River Management Committee Attendance – October 7, 2013**

### **Baker County Members**

James Croft, Commissioner

Mike Griffis

Kevin Shell

### **Nassau County Members**

Winifred Stephenson

Keith Tindall

Dean Woehrlé

### **Camden County Members**

John Myers

### **Charlton County Members**

John Meyer, Commissioner

Russell Barber

Chip Campbell

Merrill Varn

### **Non-voting Members**

Geoff Sample, SJRWMD

Alice Vick, GEPD

### **Committee administrative assistants**

Lindsey Zehel

Lisa Nommensen

### **Visitors**

Al Crace, Charlton County

Steve Nance, Charlton County

Angela TenBroeck

Richard Blaudow

Bridgette Blaudow