

St. Marys River Management Committee

P.O. Box 251 Folkston, Georgia 31537

MINUTES OF MEETING

November 4, 2013

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on November 4, 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 7:06 PM by Chip Campbell. The draft agenda was accepted without revision.

- October 7, 2013 meeting minutes: tabled until the December meeting to allow members additional time to review (motion by Chris Gazes, seconded by John Myers).
- Treasurer's Report: Committee Treasurer John Myers reported that the committee's main bank account has \$6,358.12. The only expense paid out was \$95 to Melinda Granlund for administrative assistance.
- Meeting dates for 2014: the calendar of proposed meeting dates for 2014 was unanimously approved by the committee (motion by Rick Frey, seconded by John Meyers).
- Annual report and annual budget reminders: There was brief discussion of the need to begin work on the committee's annual report, and annual budget. Merrill will complete a draft of the annual report, to be circulated in December and approved at the January meeting. John Myers will prepare the annual budget.
- A nominating subcommittee was formed to propose a slate of committee officers, which will be voted on at the January meeting. Russell Barber, Chris Gazes, and Karen Chisholm volunteered to form the subcommittee.

Old business

December meeting or event at White Oak Plantation

- Jim Wildes reported that White Oak was willing to hold the December meeting for \$40.00 per person, with an estimate of 40-50 attendees. There was brief discussion. Due to budget concerns, the committee consensus was to have the December meeting at the regular meeting location (Callahan VFD). A future meeting, or workshop may take place at White Oak to maintain a positive working relationship with the new owners. It was noted that for any future meeting at the White Oak location, public notice requirements and accommodations must be considered.

Subcommittees

- Water Quality – the University of Georgia folks have reapplied for the section 319 grant addressing septic system functionality and maintenance in the Horsepen Creek watershed in Camden County. SMRMC sent out a letter of support for the grant (copy attached to minutes). Merrill Varn also mentioned a potential water quality meeting coming up at the University of North Florida (date, uncertain). There was brief discussion about whether the committee should attend, or rely on individuals with a personal interest to attend. It was agreed that a notice should be posted on the committee website in case two or more committee members decide to attend the workshop.
- Water Quantity – nothing to report.
- Public Outreach – SMRMC is not currently listed as a contact among parties interested in the St. Marys River on the Georgia River Network website. John Myers circulated a copy of an email that had raised the topic (copy attached). There was conversation about the water trail designation. The group’s intent seems to be expanding river access to the public and extending awareness and appreciation for the river. There was discussion of similar issues in the past, liability issues, and the complexity of property rights related to the river being different in Florida and Georgia. Rick Frey indicated he would research the network’s criteria for a trail.

Committee Member Comments and Updates

- For the December meeting, committee members agreed to bring snacks to share, and “toys for tots” to be donated through the fire department.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

St. Marys River Management Committee Attendance – November 4, 2013

Baker County Members

Chris Gazes

Nassau County Members

Cory Black

Dean Woehrle

Camden County Members

Karen Chisholm

Rick Frey

John Myers

Jim Wildes

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