

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

68 Kingsland Dr., Suite B ATTN: SMRMC  
Folkston, GA 31537-2872

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**January 6, 2014**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on January 6, 2014, 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. The draft agenda was reviewed and approved without revision, by consent.

- December 2, 2013 meeting minutes: approved without revision.
- Treasurer's Report: Committee Treasurer John Myers presented the committee's bank statement for December, 2013. There was no activity during December. The committee's main bank account has \$6,236.12. The Hap Harrigan Management Plan Fund has \$506.50. Myers also distributed a cash flow statement for 2013.

#### **Old Business**

- None.

#### **New business**

- Election of officers for 2014: All current officers have agreed to continue serving. There being no nominations from the floor, the slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Subcommittee in December 2013, was accepted as officers for 2014.
- Review of 2013 Annual Report: A draft version of the committee's Annual Report for 2013 was distributed and reviewed by the committee. After discussion, the committee tabled approval of the report until suggested edits could be brought back. It was noted that members who had agreed to present annual reports should change their presentations to their respective county commissions for February.
- Proposed 2014 Budget: Committee Treasurer John Myers reviewed the proposed budget for 2014. It was noted that both of the law students who assumed the administrative assistant tasks resigned in late December, citing conflicting schedules and class workload. Melinda Granlund has agreed to temporarily resume administrative duties on an interim basis, for approximately \$100 per month. She indicated this will be a short-term arrangement may and the committee should find a permanent administrative assistant as soon as possible. Merrill Varn and Geoff Sample will begin looking for a replacement immediately. After confirming that funds are available to retain administrative assistance, the budget was approved as proposed.

- North Florida Water Initiative

Geoff Sample provided an update on the St. Johns River Water Management District's water supply planning activities in north Florida. The District has completed the draft District Water Supply Plan 2013. The Plan addresses the entire District, with particular focus on four planning regions. Individual regional water supply plans are being developed for each planning region and will be incorporated into the Plan along with information from the Central Florida Water Initiative and the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership. A more detailed regional water supply plan for Region 1, which includes Nassau and Baker counties, will be completed by 2015. Over the next 20 years, it is projected that the district population will increase by 38% and the water demand by 26%. Though the district assumes that there will be some conservation due to increased cost of water, they know that it will not cover the full increase in demand.

The district is required to identify alternative sources for the additional water supply, to avoid unacceptable impacts to groundwater and other water resources. He noted that of particular interest to the committee was the list of options for alternative water supplies for Region 1. The St. Marys River is listed as an alternative water supply project, and while that has been a major concern of the committee, he pointed out that no yield is identified, much more investigation would be needed, and there are a number of more feasible alternatives on the list, but the plan must identify alternatives for consideration. There was discussion of concern about the accuracy of the data from the Macclenny river gage. The district will hold public meetings and a technical methods workshop to discuss the plan. The deadline to submit comments is February 20. Geoff will send additional information to the committee. The Committee also discussed revising and resending the comment letter sent several years ago in response to the JEA consumptive use permit application.

- Updating the St. Marys River Management Plan

2013 was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the interlocal agreement forming the committee, and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the River Management Plan. Thus, it was agreed it would be appropriate to update and revise our strategic plan. Copies of the 2003 River Management Plan were distributed and committee members were asked to review for goals that had been achieved or had been found inappropriate. Subcommittees were asked to evaluate suggested projects proposed in December against those in the 2003 Strategic Plan. The February committee meeting will be devoted to a strategic planning effort, including revising the plan. A copy of the schedule of presentations, based on topics suggested by county breakout sessions at the December meeting, was distributed (attached). Merrill asked that Nassau county representatives suggest two topics since that county was not present in December. Merrill also asked that all members suggest speakers for the topics. Finally, she suggested that the schedule, when complete, could be distributed to the various commissioners.

### **Subcommittees**

- Water Quality – Karen Chisholm said that the demonstration drainfield had been installed at Temple Landing. Merrill Varn said the University of Georgia River Basin Center had

drafted the final report for the Horsepen 319 grant and should send us the final copy soon. Al Crace, county administrator for Charlton County, said that he was scheduling a January meeting with Southeast Georgia Regional Development Commission to discuss the next step toward funding an implementation plan for Spanish Creek, a 303d stream in Charlton County. Horsepen, Corn House and Spanish Creeks were all addressed in the same Total Maximum Daily Load Plan but it is unclear whether there is an acceptable watershed plan for Spanish Creek. Al will not be able to attend the February Committee meeting but will send an update.

- Outreach – the annual St. Marys River Cleanup and Celebration will be March 22, 2014. Dean Woehrle met with the new owner of White Oak Plantation. White Oak will once again be the site of the River Celebration following the Cleanup. Dean said that in the coming month he will send letters to previous cleanup sponsors, asking for donations for 2014. The subcommittee will meet soon to discuss how to organize the tire removal project partially supported by the Pentecost Grant.

### **Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

# St. Marys River Management Committee

## Meeting Attendance Log

### January 6, 2014

BAKER	NASSAU	CAMDEN	CHARLTON
<i>County Commissioner:</i>	<i>County Commissioner:</i>	<i>County Commissioner:</i>	<i>County Commissioner:</i>
James Croft	Walter J. Boatright	Tony Sheppard	John Meyer <i>John F. Meyer</i>
<i>Members:</i>	<i>Members:</i>	<i>Members:</i>	<i>Members:</i>
Chris Gazes <i>CG</i>	Cory Black <i>CB</i>	Karen Chisholm <i>Here</i>	Russell Barber
Mike Griffis	Winifred Stephenson	Rick Frey	Chip Campbell, (Co-Chairman) <i>Chip Campbell</i>
Kevin Shell <i>KMS</i>	Earl K. Tindall <i>ET</i>	John Myers (Treasurer) <i>ISM</i>	Ray Edwards
Greg Sheppard <i>GS</i>	Dean Woehrle <i>DW</i>	Jim Wildes	Merrill Varn, (Secretary) <i>Merrill Varn</i>

VISITORS:	VISITORS:	VISITORS:	VISITORS:
<i>Steve Nance</i>			<i>AL CRACE</i> <i>STEVE NANCE</i>
			<b>NON-VOTING MEMBERS:</b>
			Alice Vick, Georgia DNR <i>AV</i>
			Geoff Sample, SJRWMD <i>GCS</i>

Administrative assistant: *Gulberg Sample*

**Cash Flow - Last year**  
1/1/2013 through 12/31/2013

Category	1/1/2013- 12/31/2013	OVERALL TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>		
County Membership Dues	2,500.00	2,500.00
Donation	1,600.00	1,600.00
Grant Income	1,000.00	1,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5,100.00</b>	<b>5,100.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administrative Services	1,916.59	1,916.59
Office Supplies	119.40	119.40
Rent	54.00	54.00
Utilities		
Internet	128.40	128.40
<b>TOTAL Utilities</b>	<b>128.40</b>	<b>128.40</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>2,218.39</b>	<b>2,218.39</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>2,881.61</b>	<b>2,881.61</b>

# County Membership Dues - 2013

1/1/2013 through 12/31/2013

1/6/2014

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Date	Account	Num	Description	Memo	Category	Clr	Amount
3/5/2013	Main Checking	DEP	Camden County	2013	County Memb...	R	500.00
7/1/2013	Main Checking	DEP	Nassau County	2013	County Memb...	R	500.00
7/1/2013	Main Checking	DEP	Camden County	2011-2012	County Memb...	R	1,000.00
9/27/2013	Main Checking	DEP	Baker County	2013	County Memb...	R	500.00
<b>1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013</b>							<b>2,500.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>							<b>2,500.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>							<b>0.00</b>
<b>NET TOTAL</b>							<b>2,500.00</b>

Donation - 2013

1/1/2013 through 12/31/2013

1/6/2014

Account	Num	Memo	Category	Tag	Clr	Amount
Main Checking	DEP	S Baptist Medical Center Nassau	Donation		R	500.00
		Nassau Sanitation & Waste	Donation		R	500.00
		Keep Nassau Beautiful	Donation		R	500.00
Main Checking	DEP	River Cleanup	Donation		R	100.00
<b>1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013</b>						<b>1,600.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>						<b>1,600.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>						<b>0.00</b>
<b>NET TOTAL</b>						<b>1,600.00</b>

# Grant Income - 2013

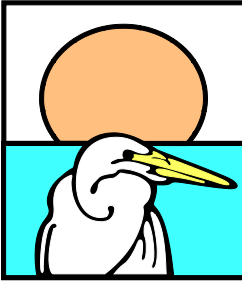
1/1/2013 through 12/31/2013

1/6/2014

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Date	Account	Num	Description	Memo	Category	Amount
7/1/2013	Main Checking	DEP Rayonier Foundation, Inc.	2013		Grant Income	500.00
8/28/2013	Main Checking	DEP M.K. Pentecost Fund	Tire Mitigation		Grant Income	500.00
<b>1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013</b>						<b>1,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>						<b>1,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>						<b>0.00</b>
<b>NET TOTAL</b>						<b>1,000.00</b>





# St. Marys River Management Committee

Post Office Box 251 • Folkston, GA 31537

## 2013 Annual Report

To the County Commissioners:

Please accept this document as the Committee's required Annual Report.

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or Committee) is a quasi-governmental advisory panel established by interlocal agreement between Baker and Nassau counties in Florida and Camden and Charlton counties in Georgia. The Committee is comprised of five voting representatives from each county: one county commissioner and four appointed members (two riverfront landowners or representatives of corporations with riverfront property and two at-large members). One representative from the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and one representative from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) serve as non-voting members. All meetings are open to the general public with notice provided on the Committee's website: [www.saintmarysriver.org](http://www.saintmarysriver.org).

### **Summary of 2013 Committee Activity**

Activity in 2013 focused on four major areas: land use and planning, public outreach, water quality, and water quantity (including many state and federal permits and regulations). Each of these focus areas has a subcommittee of three to four appointed members who track the issues between monthly meetings.

#### **PUBLIC OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE**

Almost 800 volunteers picked up an estimated 19 tons of trash during the Annual River Clean Up and Celebration on March 24, 2013. Keep Nassau Beautiful donated the use of dumpsters. Charlton County disposed of 250 tires collected in Charlton and Nassau counties. Camden County volunteers disposed of 170 tires. Baker County residents had a county-wide tire collection earlier in the month. Following the Clean Up, volunteers were rewarded with t-shirts, hotdogs, and a big thank you at the River Celebration at Trader's Hill Campground. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (G-EPD) brought a septic tank demonstration, which both adults and children enjoyed. Committee members distributed septic tank maintenance information. The Flea Hill area in Camden County was added as a site in 2013. In 2014, SMRMC hopes to expand the Clean Up to include some of the tributaries. Grants received from Rayonier and the M. K. Pentecost Ecological Fund will help defray the \$1,500 cost of expanding the tire pick up in 2014.

In September and October, SMRMC members staffed booths at the Catfish and Okefenokee Festivals to distribute information about the Committee, the River Clean Up, and septic system maintenance. At each festival, the committee awarded free septic pumpouts and inspections funded by a section 319 grant to the University of Georgia River Basin Center (UGA-RBC) and Department of Community Affairs.

*The St. Marys River Management Committee is an intergovernmental entity of elected and appointed members from the four counties framing the river: Charlton and Camden, GA, and Nassau and Baker, FL.  
The committee advises the four county commissions and provides a public forum on issues concerning the St. Marys River.*

The Public Outreach Subcommittee also began researching the advantages of joining the Georgia River Network and the criteria for being designated a Blueway. The Blueway designation would further the SMRMC goal of expanding river access and extending awareness and appreciation of the river.

#### WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE

The Water Quality Subcommittee focused on assisting with the final year of the Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant awarded to UGA-RBC to address the problems outlined in the Implementation Plan for Horsepen Creek (Camden County). At a barbeque held in November 2012, residents of the Horsepen Creek watershed were given the opportunity to sign up for free septic tank pumpouts and system inspections. Of the 12 tanks pumped, all but two had maintenance problems. Three were repairable; the remaining seven required either major repairs or replacement. At least one property had no suitable site for a traditional system and needed an advanced technology unit. Since the funds for the grant were limited, UGA-RBC elected to repair three rather than replace one unit. G-EPD gave the grantees permission to channel all remaining monies to inspection and repair rather than follow-up water quality testing of the creek. UGA-RBC has applied for additional funding to conduct additional repairs and inspections in Horsepen Creek and assess, repair and/or replace septic systems in other similarly situated communities in Camden County. This is a continuation of the effort to develop a long-term septic management strategy for the county.

The grant also funded a demonstration system at Temple Landing, a nearby public access to the St. Marys River. The restrooms at the facility had long been plagued with drainfield problems. Though the soils on most of the park were problematic, the county soil scientist did find a suitable site. The 319 grant funded \$7,700 of the cost and Camden County will pay the remaining \$1,000 as part of a county park upgrade program.

Other concurrent 319 grants aimed at improving the water quality of the St. Marys River are one addressing the historically low dissolved oxygen levels in the Catfish Creek to Miller Branch segment near the U. S. 17 bridge (Camden County), and another grant providing for mapping and visual inspection of all septic systems in Charlton, Brantley and Ware counties.

Charlton County has begun the application process for requesting funding for an implementation plan for Spanish Creek. The 2013 grant cycle did not fund new implementation plans but instead focused on remediation plans for implementation plans already approved. Charlton County is approaching Southeast Georgia Regional Commission for assistance with grant preparation for the 2014 cycle.

In 2012, the Florida Legislature rescinded a 2010 law, which would have required the Florida Department of Health to create and administer a statewide septic tank inspection program. Florida Department of Environmental Protection currently tests sites on the mainstem of the river where the main problem is high mercury levels. They have begun testing tributaries; the Little St. Marys River and Deep Creek, both in Nassau County, show high levels of fecal coliform. Other impairments will likely be identified as testing sites are added.

#### LAND USE SUBCOMMITTEE

The City of St. Marys (Camden County) applied for and received a grant to address the derelict vessel problem in their harbor.

There continues to be great concern in Charlton County over the EZBase trials by JEA on Rayonier property in the county. In March, Scott Schultz, Director of By-Product Services with JEA, gave a presentation to the Committee about the production and use of EZBase by-product material. A copy of

the presentation can be found on the Committee's website, [www.saintmarysriver.org](http://www.saintmarysriver.org), under Meeting Documents for March 4.

SMRMC is periodically in touch with G-EPD concerning the permit and their findings. Earthkeepers St. Marys Riverwatch group is also monitoring the EZBase issue. In June, Earthkeepers St. Marys informed SMRMC that JEA had submitted their EZ base test results but that G-EPD had not publicly released their interpretation. Earthkeepers has submitted a public records request for the results and interpretation when they are available. As of December they had not received any information and G-EPD had provided SMRMC with no updates.

In January, SMRMC found that Richard Blaudow, Advanced Technology Services, Inc., had purchased the Devil's Elbow property (Charlton County) from The Nature Conservancy (December 5, 2012). The subcommittee reviewed the conservation easement and remained concerned about potential development of the property. Al Crace, Charlton County Administrator felt that SMRMC should speak with the new owners since private investors would purchase more and more of the river property as long-time landowners and timber companies began to sell their tracts, and SMRMC should monitor the land use of each purchase.

In October, Angela Ten Broeck, the property manager for Traders Hill Farms in Nassau and Charlton Counties and the current overseer of the Devil's Elbow Tract made a presentation to the Committee. Richard and Bridgette Blaudow, owners of Trader's Hill Farms, also attended to answer questions. Ten Broeck's major involvement is with the Nassau County landholding where she oversees a sustainable tilapia and hydroponic vegetable farm. Ten Broeck said that at the Devil's Elbow property plans are to build a farmhouse and conference center for use by Blaudow's clients and associates at Advance Technologies Inc. The owners intend to maintain the wetlands and regenerate the upland longleaf pine community. There are also tentative plans to install a second access to the river.

The Land Use Subcommittee also maintained contact with the Camden County Board of Commissioners throughout the two years of the 319 grant for Horsepen Creek and will continue to support UGA-RBC, as needed, for future grant projects.

#### WATER QUANTITY SUBCOMMITTEE

The Water Quantity Subcommittee continued to monitor NOAA's ongoing discussions about the necessity of and funding for additional river gauges along the St. Marys River. Federal sequestration reduced funding levels to the point that gauges will be impossible for the foreseeable future.

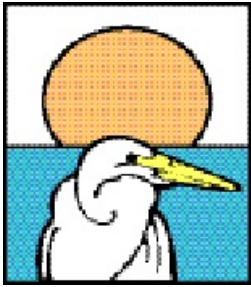
SMRMC looked into the possibility of producing and installing county monitored gauges at St. George Bridge (SR2), Reynolds Bridge, U.S. 1 in Boulogne, and the boat ramp in King's Ferry. SJRWMD can provide benchmark and elevation data to help calibrate the gauges. SMRMC will continue to work on river gauges to provide serial data about rate of river rise during flood events.

In 2014, the subcommittee will also look into monitoring in place and needed for stormwater runoff at county landfills within the St. Marys River basin.

#### PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

SMRMC continued to attend meetings of the Southeastern Fisheries Restoration Project. After finding relict populations of Atlantic white sturgeon in the St. Marys River, the project shifted attention to striped bass and American shad.

Ashby Nix was hired as Satilla Riverkeeper in June. In July, she attended the SMRMC meeting to discuss her goals for her tenure as Riverkeeper. Though SMRMC and the Satilla Riverkeeper face very different problems with very different tools and approaches, the rivers themselves are similar and we agreed to stay in touch and exchange pertinent information.



**St. Marys River Management Committee**  
Post Office Box 251 • Folkston, GA 31537

**2014 BUDGET**

**ANTICIPATED COUNTY REVENUE:**

Baker County, FL \$	500.00
Camden County, GA	\$500.00
Charlton County, GA	\$500.00
Nassau County, FL	\$1,000.00 (2012 delinquent)

**TOTAL \$2,500.00**

**DEDICATED REVENUE:**

Grant – Pentecost Fund	\$500.00 (received in 2013)
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**TOTAL \$500.00**

**TOTAL REVENUE \$3,000.00**

**ALLOCATED EXPENSES:**

Administrative Assistant	\$1,200.00
Office Expenses	\$ 100.00
Water Quality Luncheon	\$ 150.00
Community Outreach	\$ 500.00

**TOTAL \$1,950.00**

**ANTICIPATED EXPENSES:**

River Celebration	\$1,500.00
Tire Cleanup Expenses	\$1,500.00

**TOTAL \$3,000.00**

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$4,950.00**

**12/02/13 CASH OH HAND: \$6,236.12**

**HARRIGAN FUND \$ 506.50**

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*Charlton and Camden, GA, and Nassau and Baker, FL.*

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## Meeting topics for 2014

January – District water supply plan update/SJRWMD. Election of officers, annual report.

February – update ten goals in river management plan and assign to subcommittees

- need to reassign subcommittees, trying to get one person from each county
- need to clearly spell out responsibility/purview of each subcomm; may want to do this prior to meeting, update what is in minutes and annual report from 2012
- ask for new clean-up sites, also need to do site map for river clean up

March – Blueway designation (Mark Middlebrook)

April – onsite septic disposal options (Baker County/Katie Sheehan)

May – Adopt-a-stream program (Camden County)

June – Cheeser Island landfill stream protection protocol (Charlton County/Al Crace has suggested speaker)

July – Nassau County (interest #1)

August – Municipal waste spray fields and sludge management (Baker County)

September – sea level rise (Camden County)

October – Southern Ionics (Charlton County)

November – Nassau County (interest #2)

December – plan for 2015 subcommittees and speaker topics