

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

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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**October 6, 2014**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on October 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 7:07 PM. The draft agenda was reviewed and approved.

- The minutes from July 7, 2014 and September 8, 2014, were reviewed and approved unanimously.
- Treasurer's Report: John Myers emailed the statement to the committee.  
Main Acct. = \$5,388.43; Two expenditures: 9/10 # 247 \$119.40 to John Myers reimburse annual website payment and 9/10 #248 \$530.64 to Shelley Beville for 3 invoices administrative services. No income. Hap Harrigan Fund = \$506.50

#### **Presentation**

Zircon Mining in Southeast Georgia by Jim Renner Manager of Environmental Stewardship for Southern Ionics Incorporated.

This company was founded in 1980 and provides aluminum, sulfur, ammonia, magnesium, zirconium, and other chemicals used for water and wastewater treatment, pulp and paper, cement, catalysts and pollution control industries. Zirconium silicate is a heavy mineral found in beach sand and is being used in cartridges for diabetic materials. Southern Ionics is mining zirconium from old barrier islands, beaches from thousands of years ago. Currently the penhalloway terrace which is found very far inland in Southeast Georgia. The only keep 2% of sand mined and 98% goes back into the mined area. The have followed all permitting procedures for their wet and dry mining operations. The wet mining started in July 2014 and the dry mining operation is still under construction.

### **Old Business**

HR was a \$40,000 account with \$39,000 earmarked for the management plan. It was a combination of funds from the 4 counties, Whiteoak and a match from SJRWMD. \$500 was to staff and people assisting with the plan and \$500 is there for reprinting or revisions to the plan.

Review of facts in the Erosion and Sedimentation Act and aquifer legislation.

Okeefenokee Festival is October 11, 2014, who from the committee will be able to man the table – Merrill will be taking 1-4 shift.

### **New Business**

Whiteoak is building an 18 hole golf course around the original 9 holes. It will be an Audubon society course.

Georgia DNR had money to pave the Traders Hill boat ramp.

Jessica Warren was at the Crooked River cleanup and offered to partner with the SMRMC on our future clean-ups.

Horsepen Creek: The 2012/13 remediation grant was completed last year but there are still many failing systems in the area. An additional grant of \$100,000 would repair the systems that were inspected during the 2012/13 grant. Once all failed systems are repaired the post-remediation DNA-based fecal testing still needs to be done. The Spanish Creek implementation plan needs to be updated by Charlton County before moving forward on that clean-up. There is an implementation plan that expired in 2012.

John Myers updated the committee on upcoming events: Saturday 11/1/14 – Rivers Alive clean up on the Satilla River, 11/8 Satilla River Clean-up woodbine at the waterfront, 11/15 paddle trip called “Hidden Gems” put in at Burnt Fort and \$50 to include rental, lunch, and insurance.

Discussion of the Camden Co. Kingsland Adventure Waterpark, Al Crace said he would bring filed documents to the next meeting.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

No committee updates

### **Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.