

St. Marys River Management Committee

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 2, 2015

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on March 2, 2015, at the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department conference center in Callahan, Florida.

In attendance: Committee Members by County - [Camden] Rick Frey (Secretary), Karen Chisholm, Jim Wildes; [Charlton] Russell Barber, Chip Campbell, Merrill Varn; [Baker] none; [Nassau] County Commissioner George Spicer, Cory Black, Dean Woerhle; Non-voting Members - Alice Vick, GA DNR; Geoff Sample, SJRWMD; Shelley Beville, Committee Admin.

A quorum was present and the following items were discussed amongst the attendees:

Call to Order and Housekeeping

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM. The draft agenda was reviewed and approved.

The minutes from February 2, 2015 were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Josh Howard was not present. The statements will be reviewed at the April 6th meeting.

Old Business

Discussions about the presentations for 2015 took place.

Charlton County (Chip and Merrill) will attempt to get a pipeline representative to present in April. There was discussion about the location and procedures for installation of the pipeline. The public meetings regarding the gas pipeline will be held this month; Merrill has a map which is attached to the minutes. However, the Committee has many questions regarding the location, monitoring, installation process, procedures if there is a leak, and what kind of pipe will be used.

Camden County (Rick Frey) mentioned a sea level rise presentation by Sea Grant. Many members were interested and thought it might be beneficial to invite St. Marys and Fernandina Beach city commissioners, and staff. This presentation is proposed for June and may need to be held at a larger venue to include additional invitees. Jim Wilde offered White Oak as a possibility.

Jim Wilde addressed the public meeting announcement regarding the White Oak Plantation golf course construction. Acknowledgement of the sound BMPs and Audubon Sanctuary based golf course design were made. The Committee had many

questions and wanted to be knowledgeable about the BMPs. Jim will check into inviting a golf course designer to a meeting to answer questions.

Shelley Beville reviewed the contact list sheet sent out by email and asked for Committee members to review the list especially the term dates.

River Clean-up and Celebration will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2015 from 8 AM-12 PM. Entry into White Oak will begin at 11:30 AM. Dean Woehrle asked if there were any donations for this year. If so, make the checks payable to the Committee. He will be hand delivering the books to the site captains this week. Next year we will have new t-shirts and suggestions were made regarding the new design. The press release will be sent out this week. Dean will have dumpsters available. If you need a dumpster contact him to let him know where and how many. If you have tires, Karen Chisholm stated that Coastal Auto is still available to take them. Jim Wildes reiterated the availability for booths at White Oak and asked about the sturgeon booth. Alice Vick will have a booth as will the Committee. If there are others who would like to have a booth just contact Jim so he can assure their entry into White Oak.

New Business

Rick Frey discussed the developments of the Adopt-a-Stream program at Camden County High School. The school administration, teacher and students all seem to be on board. They have opted to do the bacteria testing portion of the program. This requires a four-hour training only offered by Adopt-a-Stream during after-school hours. The training of students is the only obstacle so far. There were many suggestions from the Committee on ways to address the obstacle. Jim Wildes also mentioned that White Oak has a school program and may be interested in expanding to include high school students and they could work on incorporating the Adopt-a-Stream into their curriculum for next year.

Geoff Sample updated the committee regarding the river gauge in Nassau County. This would be at the Traders Hill location. The gauge will be owned by USGS, but they will need money to keep it running. Several counties and agencies are working cooperatively to obtain funding.

Subcommittee Updates

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2015.**



Pipeline proposed path – provided by Merrill Varn

St. Marys River



CELEBRATION

March 28, 2015



River and Tributary Cleanup Sites

1. Boy Scout Camp	9. Kings Ferry	16. Mills Creek Landing
2. St. George Bridge	10. Temple Landing	17. St. Marys, Ga.
4. Traders Hill	11. White Oak	18. Edwards Road
5. U.S. 301 Bridge (4X4 only)	12. U.S. 17 Bridge	19. Dark Entry Creek
6. Scotts Landing	13. Egans Creek	20. I-95 Bridge (not pictured)
7. Camp Pickney	14. A1A Bridge at ICW	
8. Prospect Landing	15. Lofton Creek	

For information, call Dean Woehrle at (904) 845-2806
Or Todd Dunkin (Keep Nassau Beautiful 1-800-977-0162)

The 2015 St. Marys River Celebration



Fast Facts

WHEN: The Celebration is **March 28, 2015**, from 8 a.m. to noon.

WHO: Hundreds of volunteers from Baker and Nassau counties in Florida and Camden and Charlton counties in Georgia will spend a Saturday morning removing debris and trash from the St. Marys River.

You can be a part of the St. Marys River Celebration. Individuals and teams are welcome.

HOW: Bring a rake, dip net or trash stick, sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat, work gloves, and your boat or canoe, and protective footwear. We will supply trash bags.

Volunteers under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

What is the St. Marys River Celebration?

The St. Marys River Celebration is a one-day volunteer cleanup of the St. Marys River. All along the St. Marys River, people work at cleanup sites and help raise awareness about river issues to foster year-round appreciation of this precious resource.

The Celebration is cosponsored by the St. Marys River Management Committee and Keep Nassau Beautiful.

What is the history of the Celebration?

The St. Johns River Celebration began on March 2, 1996, when more than 5,000 volunteers gathered along north and east-central Florida waterways to pick up trash. The following year, the cleanup was expanded to include the St. Marys River.

The St. Marys Celebration includes Camden and Charlton counties in Georgia and Baker and Nassau counties in Florida. Over the past 19 years, thousands of volunteers have removed more than a half million pounds of trash from the St. Marys River and its tributaries.

Why is a cleanup needed?

The St. Marys River contributes to a thriving economy and provides a source of recreation for the residents of south Georgia and north Florida. It also provides natural habitats for several endangered and threatened species.

While other rivers have been polluted by years of stormwater runoff carrying trash and pollutants into the waterways, the St. Marys River has remained in relatively good health. People who appreciate the river join the annual cleanup to ensure we each do our part to remove trash from the river and to keep new pollution sources from entering the river.

How do we all have a river connection?

Just because you don't live on the banks of the St. Marys River or one of its tributaries doesn't mean you are not connected to the river. Each of us is connected to the river, but not always in obvious ways. The St. Marys River is the dividing line between Florida and Georgia. Waterways in the area include the Nassau River and numerous small creeks.