

\*Minutes as approved at SMRMC meeting on August 3, 2015.

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

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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**June 29, 2015**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on June 29, 2015, at the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department conference center in Callahan, Florida.

In attendance, Committee members by county:

**Baker** – Chris Gazes (Co-chair), James Croft

**Camden** – John Myers (Co-Chair), Karen Chisholm

**Charlton** – Merrill Varn, Chip Campbell

**Nassau** – George Spicer, Earl K. Tindall

**Non-voting Members** – Alice Vick, GADNR; Shelley Beville, Committee Admin.

A quorum was present the following items were discussed:

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM. The draft agenda was reviewed and approved. The minutes from June 1, 2015 were reviewed and approved. Treasurer's Report was postponed until the treasurer is in attendance.

#### **Old Business**

The sea level rise presentation by Kelly Spratt of MAREX has to be rescheduled for later in the year.

Kinder Morgan was contacted to come speak with the Committee's August meeting and they said they would consider it. George Spicer informed the committee that Kinder Morgan presented at the June Nassau County Commission meeting and there was no opposition.

John Myers relayed information regarding a USACOE Grant Program ("Silver Jacket") and confirmed Camden County has signed on for Phase I to identify potential projects.

Review of possible presentations Nassau and Baker will be working on possible ideas.

#### **New Business**

George Spicer asked the Committee to plan better for tire pick-ups in future River Cleanups. This past year Nassau County had to use their own resources to remove a large number of tires piled up in a parking lot.

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John Myers reviewed some of the meetings he attended for the committee. A Suwannee/Satilla for Georgia Water Councils met to plan for future action meetings for EPD erosion and sedimentation rulings. He also attended the NE Florida Green Builders Council meeting with panel discussion. Most notable at the meeting was the screening of the documentary "Who Owns Water," about litigation between Florida, Alabama and Georgia regarding the Chattahoochee watershed.

Alice Vick reviewed the grant application from the Coastal Resources Division that she emailed to the Committee. There would be monies available for projects that focus on habitat restoration, water quality, soil improvements, and soil restoration.

George Spicer mentioned a local land owner with property on the river, Mr. Manning, is interested in being appointed to the Committee for Nassau County. Another person, Shannon Kelly, was also pointed out as a potential member for Nassau County. Larry Porterfield is a member recently appointed by Baker County and will start attending meetings next month. Baker County has one other vacancy, and Merrill Varn mentioned a Division of Forestry person who might be interested.

#### **Subcommittee Updates**

- **Government/River Issues:** Chip Campbell informed the Committee that John Galves of USFWS and Doug Peterson of UGA are working on restoration of fish habitat and have identified sturgeon in the St. Marys River. Two short-nosed and ten juvenile Atlantic white sturgeon (which indicates a breeding population) were caught and pit tagged. In addition, they have done genetic evaluations and discovered an allele that differentiates populations in the Satilla from those in the St. Marys River.
- **Outreach and Education:** none.

#### **Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2015.\*\*