

*Minutes approved by SMRMC on October 5, 2015.

St. Marys River Management Committee

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

August 31, 2015

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on August 31, 2015, at the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department conference center in Callahan, Florida.

In attendance, Committee members by county:

Camden – John Myers (Co-Chair), Rick Frey (Secretary), Jim Wildes

Charlton – Merrill Varn, Chip Campbell

Nassau – George Spicer, Earl K. Tindall, Dean Woehrle

Non-voting Members – Alice Vick, GADNR; Al Crace, Shelley Beville, Committee Admin., Gary Howalt, Vince Dunn, Steve Shurter

A quorum was present.

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 August 3, 2015 were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: John Myers reported \$6,886.79 cash on hand, \$506.50 in the Harrigan Fund.

Presentation

White Oak Plantation Executive Director Steve Shurter; DAI, Vince Dunn, and ESI Gary Howalt came to discuss the preliminary (in permitting stage) plans of the 18-hole golf course. The course will significantly enhance the experience of visitors at White Oak while also providing a new way to talk about conservation and construction of golf courses. It has been designed by Pete Dye as an ecofriendly course. The Plantation is currently seeking a permit from Army Corps of Engineers and St. Johns River Water management District. The Committee was complimentary of the efforts taken by White Oak Plantation to ensure measures are taken to keep the St. Marys River pristine. They asked for White Oak to come back and present a schematic of the plan and update the Committee on the timeline of course construction.

Old Business

Kinder Morgan has not responded to the Committee's letter for response to our questions.

Al Manning was appointed to fill the vacancy in Nassau County. George Spicer will have the County resend the Committee contact information.

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New Business

John Myers started a discussion regarding the role and limits of the committee to act as advocates according to the mandates of the interlocal agreement . Rick Frey has been researching the possibility of a St. Marys Riverkeeper. The Water Keeper Alliance – the Parent Organization of Riverkeepers – has begun a new program called a RiverKeeper Affiliate, which is designed for smaller communities that wish to participate in a Riverkeeper program. There was discussion about requirements of forming a Riverkeeper organization.

Subcommittee Updates

- **Government/River Issues:**
- **Outreach and Education:** Rick Frey reported that water quality testing with the Camden High School and Charleton Environmental Group will begin in September and asked the Committee if there were any areas in Charleton that would be beneficial to sample.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2015.**