

*Minutes were reviewed and approved by SMRMC on February 1, 2016.

St. Marys River Management Committee

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 4, 2016

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on January 4, 2016, at the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department conference center in Callahan, Florida.

Committee members in attendance by County:

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

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

Charlton - Merrill Varn, Russell Barber, Chip Campbell, Greg Nelms (Treasurer)

Nassau - Commissioner George Spicer, Dean Woehrle, Earl K. Tindall, Al Manning

Non-voting Members - Geoff Sample, SJRWMD; Al Crace; Shelley Beville, Committee Admin.

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. The minutes from December 7, 2015 were reviewed and approved. The Treasurers report was deferred until February as the bank statements had not come in.

Old Business

One day workshop on “Effect of Vegetative Buffer on Level of Coliform Leakage into Blackwater Rivers” is planned to be held on January 14, 2016 from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM. The location is still to be determined. There is a space limit of 20 people, with RSVP needed by January 11, 2016.

Chip Campbell presented the slate of committee officers selected by the Nominating Committee:

John Myers – Georgia Co-Chairman

Chris Gazes – Florida Co-Chairman

Greg Nelms – Treasurer

Rick Frey – Secretary

The floor was opened to nominations. Hearing none, the nominees were unanimously approved by the committee.

New Business

Rick Frey sent the Annual Report out for review. Shelley Beville will send to the whole committee for review by the committee. It is in the final stages of editing and the financial data

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will be added. Requests were made for a representative from each county to present the Annual Report to their county commissions. Volunteers included Dean Wohrle (Nassau County on 2/17 at 9:00 AM), John Myer (Camden on 2/16 at 6:00 PM), Chris Gazes (Baker on 2/16 at 6:00 PM), Merrill Varn (Charlton on 3/3 at 6:00 PM).

Commissioner Spicer informed the committee that he is setting up a meeting with Kinder Morgan and will let us know the date. Shelley will send out questions the committee has for Kinder Morgan regarding the pipeline. Commissioner Spicer also mentioned a group from Ft. White presented to the Nassau Board of County Commissioners requesting a resolution from Nassau County against fracking. He mentioned that 24 counties and 39 cities in Florida have resolutions against fracking. Commissioner James Croft relayed the same group came before the Baker County Board. Neither county's board of commissioners were ready to make resolutions.

Baker County still has an interim county manager, but is actively interviewing this month. Several questions were asked about the state of the Shoals Park. There is a request for proposals out for timber. John Myers asked Commissioner Croft if Baker County could get someone to present to the committee regarding the history and state of Shoals Park. Commissioner Croft said he would ask Mike Sweat.

John Myers reported that on December 7, 2015 there was a FAA scoping meeting regarding the application for an operational license for a Spaceport. There were over 400 in attendance with 57 public comments. An Environmental Subcommittee chaired by Dr. Clay Montegue prepared questions regarding environmental concerns. If there are any questions about this from the committee, please contact John.

Dean Worhle was asked about the River Clean Up. He said everything is the same as last year. We will be giving away the same t-shirts, though orders for more child sizes may be necessary. He is contacting those who donated t-shirts in the past. Dean also mentioned that we aren't collecting tires. Some ideas were mentioned for assistance with tires which he might pursue.

Subcommittee Updates

Water Quality and Water Quantity – Rick Frey informed the committee that Camden County students are still doing the water quality sampling at Temple Landing. The data is accessible on the Adopt-a-stream website. The e. coli is elevated in that area.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2016.