

*minutes were approved by SMRMC on March 7, 2016

St. Marys River Management Committee

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 1, 2016

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on February 1, 2016, 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), Rick Frey (Secretary)

Charlton – Commissioner James E. Everett, 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, SJRWD; Alice Vick, GaDNR; Al Crace; Shelley Beville, Committee Admin.

A quorum was present.

Call to Order and Housekeeping

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM. The draft agenda was reviewed and approved.

The minutes from January 4, 2016 were reviewed and approved.

John Myers reviewed the bank statements, 2015 Cash Flow document and proposed 2016 Budget (see attached). The proposed budget was reviewed and approved.

Old Business

In discussion of the budget a proposed educational opportunity with the Camden/Charlton high school preseason game was brought up. No additional funds will be needed but some coordination with the Athletic Directors of Charlton County and Camden Counties. Chris Gazes also asked about the St. Marys River Guide water resistant maps printed in 2002. In view of the expense of these maps, Merrill Varn suggested making an addendum document to accompany the downloadable map online.

Baker County is pursuing a possible presentation by Mike Sweat regarding Shoals Park. However, there is no date for presentation set yet.

The one-day workshop held at White Oak Plantation on January 14th was attended by several committee members. The minutes from the workshop are attached.

The draft annual report was sent to the whole committee, revisions were received and added. The final draft will be sent to the Co-Chairs for signatures and then provided to the whole

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committee this week. The Commissioner Board meetings are as follows: (Nassau County on 2/17 at 9:00am), (Camden on 2/9[revised date] at 6pm), (Baker on 2/16 at 6pm), (Charlton on 3/3 at 6pm).

Commissioner Spicer was contacted by Kinder Morgan, but no meeting has been scheduled.

Dean Worhle was asked about the River Clean Up. He said everything is the same as last year. He is contacting site captains this week. Shelley will work on pamphlets and flyers and have them sent out to local news agencies.

Rick Frey announced that there is now a St. Marys Riverkeeper. The first board meeting will be held on 2/2/2016. They are currently in application for 501c3 status. Rick will be the Riverkeeper. There was discussion about keeping the committee and the Riverkeeper separate. Florida and Georgia laws will be reviewed to see if the Riverkeeper and/or Board members of the Riverkeeper can also be members of the committee. This will be revisited next month.

New Business

The committee approved a Resolution (2016-01) to add John Myers, Greg Nelms and James E. Everett as signators to the Southeastern Bank account with the removal of John Meyer.

Merrill and Jim Wilde both attended a viewing of the documentary on the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline. It was noted that the St. Marys River was not included.

Geoff Sample mentioned a former member inquiring into a consumptive use permit for his microbrewery, utilizing St. Marys River water as an ingredient. He noted that the amount of water proposed to be withdrawn is extremely small, below any permitting threshold. Geoff also asked to have 15 minutes in a future meeting to present information on the District Regional Water Supply Plan.

John Myers provided some Georgia legislative updates. First he reported that the Georgia Senate passed the Aquifer Protection and Restoration Act last year and it is currently in review by the House. Second, the upland buffer restoration is currently being reviewed. Georgia Riverkeepers are urging legislators to protect the wetlands; if you would like additional information on the issue, he suggested going to Gordon Rogers website and viewing the YouTube video (<http://www.flintriverkeeper.org/>). There were many questions regarding these two bills and it was suggested that we could have presentations to inform the committee more about these bills. John also mentioned that the Capital Conservation Day is on February 17th and you have to register to attend, and to lobby at the Capital.

Commissioner Spicer informed the committee that Nassau County passed a resolution to ban fracking in Nassau County. There was discussion among the committee and it was proposed to pursue a possible presentation about fracking in Florida.

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Subcommittee Updates

Government/River Issues: none

Outreach and Education: none

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2016**