

\*Minutes were approved on May 2, 2016.

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

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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**March 7, 2016**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on March 7, 2016, at the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department conference center in Callahan, Florida.

In attendance: Committee members by County –

**Baker** – James Croft, Ed Barber

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

**Charlton** – Commissioner James E. Everett, Merrill Varn, Chip Campbell, Greg Nelms (Treasurer)

**Nassau** - Dean Woehrle, Earl K. Tindall, Al Manning

**Non-voting Members** - Geoff Sample, SJRWMD; Alice Vick, GaDNR; Chris Hutching interim Charleton County Manager; Shelley Beville, Committee Admin.

A quorum was present.

#### **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 February 1, 2016 were reviewed and approved.

Greg Nelms reviewed the bank statements: Currently \$7,188.39 in account. He also mentioned that the bank needs all signatories to sign new documents.

#### **Old Business**

The annual reports were presented to the Camden and Charlton counties Board of Commissioners in February. John Myers noted the Camden the report was well received; in Charlton, Merrill Varn mentioned the report was well received and the preliminary water quality report was also submitted and would be discussed at the future meetings of the commissioners. The Nassau County board will hear the annual report on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Baker County will let us know when the report is given to the Commissioners.

John Myers asked Merrill Varn whether the water quality report was for a 319 grant. Merrill said that Spanish Creek is not eligible for a 319 grant at this time. The report is just a summary of the status of waters in Charleton County based on public information. Both Geoff Sample and Alice Vick provided possible sources of public information that could be used: Georgia's Coastal Resources Division for mapping, the South Georgia Valdosta Regional Commission in Valdosta, and <http://www.floridaswater.com/hydrologicdata/waterquality/>

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James Everett asked what maps are needed for the county. Merrill Varn explained the categories of impaired creeks and what we are trying to do and why focusing on Spanish Creek would be the best strategy. This creek is mostly affected by leaky septic tanks and we can help with education while focusing on limiting the source problems.

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

Dean Woerhle was asked about the River Clean Up. He informed that 360 t-shirts will be ordered. He needs a site captain for the Boy Scout camp. Todd Duncan is no longer with Keep Nassau Beautiful. Dean is delivering the site captain books which contain the tickets for White Oak. Tickets will be needed to enter White Oak and the celebration will be from 12-2 pm. Merrill Varn may take the septic tank booth to have at the White Oak celebration. Jim Wildes noted that if anyone is coming to White Oak by boat, they need to bring their own lines and bumpers. Dean also mentioned it was time to begin turnover of clean-up coordinator duties and responsibilities and Merrill suggested it might be something for the Riverkeeper.

Rick Frey reviewed the first and second meetings of the St. Marys Riverkeeper. The meetings are held on the second Monday of month at 5:30 pm, but locations change. The articles of incorporation were approved this month, so they are moving forward with the 501c3 status. They need representation from Baker County on the board. The webpage should be up and running in the next few weeks.

### **New Business**

Geoff Sample informed the committee that the SJRWMD Governing Board now streams their meeting live on the second Tuesday of the month at around 11 AM; go to [floridaswater.com](http://floridaswater.com). He mentioned April is the Water Conservation Month. He also told the committee that the SJRWMD has 6-7 water quality sondes deployed within the St. Marys River basin that will be pulled on October 1, 2016. It is possible the sondes could be taken over by another entity. Several years of data are accessible on the SJRWMD website. Lastly, he discussed the SJRWMD North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan process. He will be presenting more information to the Committee at an upcoming meeting.

James Croft brought up some information regarding sand mining; a Tampa area senator brought legislation to affect DOT appropriation in counties restricting sand mining. The legislation was not approved, but it may be an issue that returns to the Senate.

Merrill Varn told the committee the Georgia judge denied the Kinder Morgan eminent domain appeal. John Myers provided some Georgia legislative updates.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

**Government/River Issues:** none

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**Outreach and Education:** Charlton and Camden high schools are still doing monthly water quality testing.

**Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 (???)

The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2016\*\*