

\*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on May 2, 2016.

## St. Marys River Management Committee

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

### MINUTES OF MEETING

April 4, 2016

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

In attendance:

**Baker** –

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

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

**Nassau** - Commissioner George Spicer, Earl K. Tindall

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

A quorum was not present.

#### Call to Order and Housekeeping

Greg Nelms reviewed the bank statements: Currently \$5,897.20. The March statement has not been received as of meeting date.

#### Old Business

Geoff Sample sent an email to the Committee, informing that the new St. Marys River gage is installed and operational at Traders Hill. The data for the gage can be viewed at [http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=02231175&PARAMeter\\_cd=00065,00060,00062](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/uv/?site_no=02231175&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060,00062)

Committee wants the link to the data to be added to the website.

Shelly also reviewed River Clean-up information provided via email by Dean Woehrle; 650 volunteers collected approximately 38,950 pounds of trash. The nearby Navy submarine base has 150 volunteers that need community service hours, and will be doing a secondary river clean up soon. John Myers mentioned that 15 tires were collected in downtown St. Marys near Tanyard Creek, and two kitchen sinks. Dark Entry Creek needs more work because of access limitations, due to high tides. Merrill Varn mentioned that Old River and Camp Pinkney need more clean-up, and that the Earth Day clean up efforts could be focused there. Greg Nelms was at Browntown, and Jim Wildes had a group near Blue Bridge. Karen Chisolm was near Temple and had over 1,700 lbs. collected there. The White Oak turnout was well-attended, considering the overcast weather. Chip Campbell and Merrill both said we should put out some positive

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press regarding the progress, and better conditions of areas. In total, 52 tires were collected in Camden County and four in Charlton County. Information from Baker and Nassau regarding their tire collections was not available. Thanks to Dean for all his effort for the clean-up were expressed.

John Myers asked Merrill Varn about an update on the Spanish Creek water quality efforts. The Commission will be voting on Thursday for the background of the educational posters, number to be printed, and locations they will be placed around town. There are four option for the posters that are meant to encourage constituents around Spanish Creek to have their septic tanks serviced, to improve the quality of the creek and decrease the fecal coliform numbers.

Chip Campbell updated the committee on the St. Marys Riverkeeper. Meetings are held on the second Monday each month at 5:30 PM, but locations change. The Baker County representatives have been identified, and are needed to provide better coverage of Florida and the upper river. There have been two subcommittees formed to look at policy issues and fund raising. Merrill Varn asked that Rick Frey try to expand the water quality testing program he helped establish in Camden County, in to Charlton County.

Merrill Varn updated the committee on the Kinder Morgan pipeline suspension . The ruling by Judge Adam, and the legislation putting a moratorium on pipeline development, assisted in suspending the progress.

### **New Business**

John Myers announced to the committee that Camden County is having a fishing tournament on the Satilla River at Burnt Fort on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

**Government/River Issues:** none

**Outreach and Education:**

### **Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM

The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2016.\*\*