

*minutes were reviewed and approved by SMRMC on November 7, 2016

St. Marys River Management Committee

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 3, 2016

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on October 3, 2016, at the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department conference center in Callahan, Florida.

Committee members in attendance by County:

Baker – Chris Gazes (Co-chair), Ed Barber

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

Charlton – Commissioner James E. Everett, Chip Campbell, Merrill Varn

Nassau – Dean Woehrle, Al Manning

Non-voting Members –

Others Present - Rick Frey, St. Marys Riverkeeper; Shelley Beville Committee Admin.; Pender Lloyd, Folkston City Planner; Marcus Sack, Folkston City Engineer

A quorum was present.

Call to Order and Housekeeping

The discussions began at 7:00 PM. The agenda for August was reviewed and approved. The minutes from August 1, 2016 were reviewed and approved.

The bank statements were reviewed: Currently there is \$5,492.54 in main account. \$506.50 earmarked for the management plan and the entire history of the funds are attached. There was one disbursement this month to the Administrative Assistant for \$242.54 .

Presentation

Mr. Sacks the City Engineer spoke about the Waste Water Treatment permit renewal process and the steps being taken by the City of Folkston. In 1994 there was a complete overhaul of the wastewater treatment facility however, much of the infrastructure now needs repair and the population has almost doubled since the overhaul. In 2014 the city started working with USDA for a loan/grant to make improvements \$8million loan/\$11million grant. This year is the permit renewal process. The new permit will have more strict restrictions on phosphorous loads.

Many questions were asked:

What is the footprint of the facility and is there potential contamination? The facility does flow into Spanish Creek and Clay Branch. There are one point-source (pond directly to Clay Branch) and two non-point source (lagoon to wetlands and land application system- surface water to Spanish Creek) for the facility.

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What will the peak gallon amounts be? Currently, permitted for .95mgd but only .80mgd. The new permit will be for 1.08mgd to meet needs projected for 2030.

Could we incorporate the Folkston information into Charlton Watershed Plan? Yes, by the summer 2017 of the monitoring plan City of Folkston will have more information from the 3 sampling points on DO, fecal, fish, macroinvertebrates, and pH. The monitoring points are on Clay Branch, Spanish Creek and Cooner Branch. All the data will be sent to EPD as a requirement for the Treatment Plant permit. There are 2 seasons of data reporting required in warm and cold seasons based on temperature and rainfall.

What are the benefits to Spanish Creek and the St. Marys River? BOD in now 30, new plant will be required to have BOD of 5, the DO of 6, Chlorine .012, pH 6-8, suspended solids down to 20 from 90 and fecal coliform levels will remain at 200.

How will you treat for phosphorous? A mechanical plant proposing a batch reactor. There will not be a lagoon system anymore and they need to find the next system.

Old Business

Merrill pointed out that the committee has not received the annual funds from Baker or Camden counties.

Rick Frey, the St. Marys Riverkeeper, reported the 319 pre-proposal was submitted and went to the EPD on Friday 9/30. On 10/4 they worked with the submission committee and will submit the final proposal on 10/31/2016. The grant is for \$375,775.00 it is a 60/40 grant application where the local match of 40% will be closer to 45% based on the County providing the fill services. Chip Campbell asked how the 30 sites were identified and if the property owners were notified. They looked at high risk properties and developed a 100ft buffer with mapping techniques. 38 properties were identified and 30 were self-reported. The extent to which 100% could be fixed is unknown. Merrill updated the committee on the Charlton county watershed management plan. On 10/11 the plan will be presented at the Brunswick meeting, 12/2 the grant application is due and on 12/6 there is a meeting to assist people with their plans. If Charlton is to get the grant, it wouldn't start on the plan until 10/2017 and won't be implemented until 09/2018.

New Business

Al Manning received the letter from the St. Marys Riverkeeper and wanted to voice his concerns to the Riverkeeper about the effluent from West Rock and the importance monitoring at Chesser Island. Rick Frey pointed out that he is contact with Chesser Island and monitoring their results. In addition, University of South Carolina's is providing free heavy metal testing

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through the Riverkeeper and providing everything. It was suggested by committee members that testing at Cornhouse Creek on the downhill side of Chesser Island would be good.

John Myers brought to the attention of the committee that there was a legislative subcommittee meeting with the Georgia House and Senate Science Committee on 9/12 and on 9/13 there was a public hearing on the Spaceport. There were several points of view at the public meeting, but mostly pushback from the landowners on Little Cumberland trying to stop development of the port. There 2/3 the way through the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The FAA application for the spaceport will start after the EIS. The environmental concerns include solid rocket propulsion, habitat destruction and noise pollution. There will be relative little marsh of riverine impacts and there is a huge buffer. Looking at Canaveral as an example.

Shelley informed the Committee of an email from Geoff Samples regarding an article from the Baker County Press on the South Prong conservation easement. She will forward the email to the whole committee.

Subcommittee Updates

- **Government/River Issues**
- **Outreach and Education:** We will work with the St. Marys Riverkeeper booth for the Okefenokee Festival.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

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