

*minutes were reviewed and approved by SMRMC on December 5, 2016

St. Marys River Management Committee

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

November 2, 2016

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on November 2, 2016, at the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department conference center in Callahan, Florida.

Committee members in attendance by County:

Baker –Ed Barber

Camden – John Myers (Co-Chair), Jim Wildes

Charlton – Commissioner James E. Everett, Sam Williams (Interim Treasurer), Merrill Varn (Interim Secretary), Russell Barber

Nassau – Commissioner George Spicer, Earl K. Tindall, Al Manning

Non-voting Members –

Others Present - Rick Frey, St. Marys Riverkeeper; Shelley Beville Committee Admin

A quorum was present.

Call to Order and Housekeeping

The discussions began at 7:00 PM. The agenda for October was reviewed and approved. The minutes from October 3, 2016 were reviewed and approved.

The bank statements were reviewed: Currently there is \$5,772.72 in main account. \$506.50 earmarked for the management plan. There was one disbursement this month to the Administrative Assistant for \$223.78 .

Old Business

Merrill pointed out that the committee has received the annual funds from Camden County and Baker County funds are still outstanding.

Rick Frey, the St. Marys Riverkeeper, reported the 319 pre-proposal was submitted for \$375,775.00 for 30 septic systems replacement. The St. Marys Riverkeeper grand opening is sold out and will be held at White Oak on November 19.

New Business

Merrill had provided the draft letter of support for the 319 grant application from the committee to be reviewed by members before the meeting. Jim Wildes will attend the stakeholder meetings on behalf of the Committee. The motion to approve the letter of support was unanimously carried.

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There was discussion regarding the inclusion of bank statements in the minutes posted on the website. The minutes will include the main page of the bank statements with any vital account number information removed/blacked out.

Sam Williams, a Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Ranger, has joined the committee for Charlton County and was unanimously approved by Committee to be interim treasurer for the committee until January 2017.

Merrill informed the committee that Charlton County is applying for Coastal Incentive Grant to update the implementation plan and include 18 sites for water quality testing. She was asking for committee approval to be stakeholders in support the Grant. The motion was made and unanimously approved.

Al manning brought up issues about contamination of wells surrounding the Chesser Island landfill and potential contamination of the river by runoff from paper mills in Fernandina. Rick Frey, St. Marys Riverkeeper said he would look into the issue and talk to other concerned citizens. Al also mentioned his concerns about hurricane preparedness by Rayonier and WestRock for their lime stores. The committee recommended that the Nassau Board of Commissioners may want to request the storm readiness plans from the companies to review.

The committee reviewed the timeline for the annual report and set the date for the January 2017 meeting at 1/9/2017 at 7:30pm.

Subcommittee Updates

- **Government/River Issues :**
- **Outreach and Education:** Rick Frey reported that Charlton County High School teachers & principal have been trained on bacterial and chemical water testing protocols. The field trips will start soon by both Georgia county high schools. The Riverkeeper is working to include two Florida high schools in the testing in 2017.
- **Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2016**