

*Minutes were approved by SMRMC on February 9, 2017.

St. Marys River Management Committee

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 9, 2017

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on January 9, 2017, at the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department conference center in Callahan, Florida.

Committee members in attendance by county:

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

Camden – John Myers (Co-Chair)

Charlton – Commissioner James E. Everett, Merrill Varn (Interim Secretary), Chip Campbell

Nassau – Earl K. Tindall, Dean Woehrle, Al Manning

Non-voting Members –

Others Present - Shelley Beville, Committee Admin Asst.

A quorum was present.

Call to Order and Housekeeping

The discussions began at 7:08 PM. The agenda for January was reviewed and approved. The minutes from December 5, 2016 were reviewed and approved.

The bank statements were not reviewed as the treasurer was not present.

Old Business

Ed Barber submitted a letter with his questions for Rayonier Advanced Materials (RAM) regarding the Terra Point development, which were added to by the committee, to present to RAM for their 30-minute presentation at the February meeting.

Rick Frey, St. Marys Riverkeeper, invited the board members to a presentation from Southern Environmental Law Center on January 23 at 2 PM at the Callahan fire department. The session will provide training on the Clean Water Act, and its relation to development as well as local regulations in Georgia and Florida.

Merrill reported that the pre-application for a CIG (Coastal Incentive Grant) for Charlton County was submitted at the end of November and the requests for application will be sent this week, but Charlton has not heard anything yet.

The annual report was presented by Merrill and it was approved. The financial section will be presented by the treasurer at the next meeting.

Nominating committee nominated the current slate of officers (Sam Williams, Treasurer; Merrill Varn, Secretary; and John Myers and Chris Gazes as Co-Chairs. The nominations were seconded and approved.

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New Business

Merrill informed the committee that without the revenue from the river clean-up, which will be managed by the St. Marys Riverkeeper, the monthly salary of the admin. assistant will deplete the account. A motion to increase dues from the counties from \$500 per year to \$700 per year was proposed. The dues have been \$500 since 1994. The motion was approved, but both commissioners abstained from the vote. Ed Barber volunteered to present the request to the Baker County Board of Commissioners next meeting.

John Myers informed the committee that there is a new Satilla River Keeper and asked Rick if he would invite her to the meetings. John also mentioned that Mark Rossi from SeaGrant Marine Extension is advertising for a part-time employee to digitize the septic tank records, starting at Triple Creek. In addition, Clay Montague shared with John that there is a group out of University of Florida; the Northeast Estuarine Restoration Team for northeast Florida and southeast Georgia is looking to rotate meetings. It sounds like an expansion of our group but they are self-appointed and we will send an invite them to one of our next meetings.

Camden County is expected to name Rick Frey's replacement on the committee this month.

Baker County informed the committee about a class B a permit for biosolids at Cedar Creek area. They are requesting to haul dried solid waste sludge from Gainesville. The DEP inspection was scheduled for January 11th. Also on January 17th, the commission will hear from the EPA regarding the permit. A motion was made to send a letter to DEP expressing the committees concern about any effects this project may have on the river. The motion was approved.

Subcommittee Updates

- **Government/River Issues :**
- **Outreach and Education: Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2017**