

*Minutes approved by SMRMC on March 6, 2017.

St. Marys River Management Committee

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 6, 2017

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on February 6, 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 – Commissioner Ben Casey, John Myers (Co-Chair), Chris Chauncey

Charlton – Commissioner James E. Everett, Sam Williams (Treasurer)

Nassau – Commissioner George Spicer, Earl K. Tindall, Dean Woehrle, Cory Black

Non-voting Members – Geoff Sample, SJRWMD

Others Present - Mike Griffis, Baker County; Kennie Downing, Baker County Manager; Chris Milton, Baker Community Development Manager; Mike Bell; VP Public Affairs Rayonier, Charles Adams, VP Community Development Rayonier; Rick Frey, St. Marys Riverkeeper

A quorum was present.

Call to Order and Housekeeping

The discussions began at 7:00 PM. The agenda for February was reviewed and approved. The minutes from January 9, 2017 were reviewed and approved.

As of January 31, 2016 there was \$5,608.31 in the account.

Presentation

Mike Bell, VP Public Affairs and Charles Adams, VP Community Development from Rayonier spoke to the committee about Wildlight, the first phase of the East Nassau County Sector Plan (ENCP). Rayonier had presented on this development to the committee in 2012.

The ENCP is a 24,000-acre area with 9 miles of I-95 frontage, 6.5 miles of St. Mary River frontage, extending south to A1A/State Road 200 and eastward to Chester Road. This development incorporates many of the suggestions of Nassau County residents that came from the County visioning process, Vision 2032, and through the county evaluation and appraisal report process. There is a black water creek system that is part of the Loftin Creek watershed, which drains into the Nassau River. Most of the Loftin Creek watershed has been put into conservation habitat network. In addition, 12,000 of the 24,000 acres will be put into a conservation easement. This master-planned development is going to be a series of “villages” with parks, hiking and biking trails. Rayonier is currently working on the first village and the other villages will be developed as the market dictates. The first village is an entitled area plan

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that includes a northern, southern and central parcel and is called the Wildlight Village. It will include roughly 3,300 residential units and 6.9 million ft.² of commercial, parks and trails, shopping, restaurants, and schools. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes. They also addressed the questions of the committee, including the intentions of Rayonier with respect to the riverfront. Rayonier studied the river frontage, but has no plans for development in that area for several years.

Dean Woerhle asked if there will be public boat access. Rayonier has committed to improve existing boat ramps in the area, but there are no plans for additional access points at this time. Rick Frey asked about infrastructure. Currently, Wildlight Village is being served by JEA for water and sewer

Ed Barber ask how much water runoff is going to the St. Marys. Rayonier responded that most of the stormwater drains south into the Nassau River through the Loftin Creek watershed. The JEA wastewater treatment plant that serves the area currently is designed for 2 million gallons, but it is only operating at 1 million.

Old Business

Sam Williams is working on the budget portion of the annual report budget, and will have it available by the end of the week, to be reviewed by the secretary.

The St. Marys Riverkeeper, Rick Frey, reported on the 319 Grant for Horsepen Creek for replacement of 30 septic tanks. They should know by mid-spring which ones will be replaced and the funding cycle begins in the summer. The Riverkeeper will have a role in water quality testing and has trained 12 volunteers. These volunteers will be conducting bacterial testing starting March 1; six on the Georgia side of six on the Florida and all the findings will be published.

Nassau County Commissioner George Spicer asked about the increase for the annual fee from \$500 to \$700. The change will take place going forward in the next request from the counties.

New Business

Baker County Commissioner James Croft introduced new county manager Kennie Downing and the new Community Development Manager, Chris Milton, for Baker County. John Myer introduced Ben Casey, the new Camden County Commissioner, from District 5 which has the most river frontage. Commissioner Spicer also mentioned there is a new Nassau County Manager Shanea Jones.

Rick Frey reported that at the request of White Oak, the River Clean-Up Celebration will be moved from the third weekend in March to April 22, Earth Day. The Riverkeeper is coordinating all the cleanup effort with other clean-up events, so there will be a large celebration at White Oak to incorporate all the cleanups on both sides of the river. The Committee thanked Dean for his years of committed service to the cleanups as well as all the previous sponsors.

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Rick Frey also informed the Committee that on March 25th there will be an oyster roast at Mike and Barbara Adams house, on the north end of Chester Road, for Nassau county and local concerns about the river.

Commissioner Spicer thanked St. Johns River Water Management District for the cost-share project that provided \$500,000 to Nassau County.

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 March 6, 2017**