

*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on March 6, 2017.

St. Marys River Management Committee

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Folkston, GA 31537-2872

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 6, 2017

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on March 6, 2017, at the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department conference center in Callahan, Florida.

Committee members in attendance by county:

Baker – Ed Barber

Camden – Commissioner Ben Casey, , Karen Chisholm, Jim Wildes, Chris Chauncey

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

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

Non-voting Members – Others Present - Shelley Beville, Admin Assistant; Rick Frey, St. Marys Riverkeeper; Michael Powell

A quorum was present.

Call to Order and Housekeeping

The discussions began at 7:14 PM. The agenda for March was reviewed and approved. The minutes from February 6, 2017 were reviewed and approved.

As of February 28, 2017 there was \$5,377.84 in the account.

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. Discussion of who will present the Annual Report at the next Board of Commissioner meetings. Sam Williams volunteered to present at the Charlton County meeting, Dean Woehrle may present at Nassau County, Camden and Baker County are still to be decided.

Merrill updated the committee via email that Charlton did not apply for the CIG due to getting all the sampling per EPD standards. In the meanwhile, EPD has agreed to do intensive sampling of Spanish Creek at five sites during their 2017 sampling season. They can only sample along public roads.

Ed Barber wanted to discuss the Rayonier presentation last month and whether they addressed all of the committee's questions. The committee went through the questions they had submitted to Rayonier beforehand. It was decided the committee would resend the questions for more clarification on several of the questions regarding Phases of the project, stormwater runoff, water quality, and how a stewardship district operates.

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New Business

Shelley Beville brought up a grant opportunity from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for projects regarding improvement of water quality and quantity. Rick Frey, St. Marys Riverkeeper, said he is working on proposals with other agencies in both states regarding projects for the St. Marys River.

Rick also brought up information regarding a FEMA project reported by Karen Chisolm cleaning up Hurricane Matthew debris from the Nassau River on the Florida side in Nassau County. There were many questions regarding who was conducting the project and why they were cutting live trees. Both Commissioner Spicer of Nassau County and Rick were going to look further into what was happening.

Subcommittee Updates

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

Public Comments

Mr. Michael Powell attended the meeting and requested information about stocking striper fish into the St. Marys River. He had talked to State biologist in both Florida and Georgia and was told there would no longer be any stocking in the River. Chip Campbell mentioned that cost effectiveness and genetic/biological issues are reasons for not stocking.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2017**