

\*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on September 10, 2017.

## **St. Marys River Management Committee**

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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**August 7, 2017**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on August 7, 2017, 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** – Commissioner Ben Casey, Jim Wildes

**Charlton** – Commissioner James Everett, Merrill Varn (Secretary), Chip Campbell

**Nassau** – Commissioner George Spicer, Dean Woehrle, Al Manning

**Non-voting Members** – Geoff Sample, SJRWMD; Shelley Beville, Admin Asst.

**Visitors** – Austin Nicklas, Se, Bean's office

A quorum was present.

#### **Call to Order and Housekeeping**

The discussions began at 7:08 PM. The agenda for June, July and August were reviewed and approved. The minutes from June 5, 2017 and discussion for July 10, 2017 were reviewed and approved. The Treasurers Report was postponed until the next meeting as Treasurer was not present.

#### **Old Business**

St. Marys Riverkeeper, Rick Frey, met with representatives from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the contractors and sub-contractors regarding the felling of healthy trees on the banks of the Nassau River, a FEMA project, in late July. An overview of the tour of Nassau river and the decision of DEP's analysis was provided by Chip Campbell. Ultimately, DEP concluded there was no evidence present of wrong doing by Tetra tech or their sub-contractor. However, Austin Nicklas (a representative from Senator Bean's office, invited by Commissioner Spicer) expressed to the committee that the outcry from the local residence, the Committee's fast action and involvement from the St. Marys Riverkeeper were noticed by the Senator's office and will hopefully bring more awareness to hiring of sub-contractors in future projects. Commissioner Spicer also mentioned that he reached out the Senator Rutherford's office and Representative Burt's office and both were interested and very helpful.

The Annual Report has been presented to the counties Board of Commissioners except Nassau County, Dean Woehrle said he would present. Shelley will send him the final report to present at the next Nassau County Board meeting.

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The Regional Community Institute held the Regional Water Plan in Jacksonville on Wednesday July 12, 2017 from 2-4pm. Several committee members were in attendance. Chip Campbell gave a review. The meeting was reaching across state lines into the Satilla River basin. There were many state agencies were also in attendance to talk about the strategic-plan for long-term options for water-supplies in Florida. They are working on recommendations to amend the Regional Plan for the Regional Council in September. There will be another meeting on August 9, 2017.

Merrill Varn will bring information regarding water quality for Nitrogen levels on Spanish Creek when she gets them at the end of the quarter. The EPD data showed two spikes of fecal coliform, but the mean was okay. The winter spike was after a rain event.

### **New Business**

Geoff Sample asked the Committee members to think about projects for Nassau and Baker Counties. Those two counties have Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) cities which means the match for the projects will be waived. St. Johns River Water Management District will be accepting applications for their Cost Share Projects on water quality, water supply and flood protection. Projects of any size will all be considered.

### **Public Comments**

No comments

Discussion ended at 8:05 PM.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2017\*\*