

*Minutes were approved by SMRMC on November 6, 2017.

St. Marys River Management Committee

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 2, 2017

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on October 2, 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 – Chris Chauncey, John Myers (Co-chair), Karen Chisholm

Charlton – Commissioner James Everett, Chip Campbell

Nassau – Commissioner George Spicer, Earl K. Tindall, 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 October was reviewed and approved. The minutes from August 7, 2017 were reviewed and approved. The Treasurer's Report was postponed until the next meeting as Treasurer was not present.

Old Business

Annual Report has not been presented to the Nassau Board of Commissioners. Shelley will send reminders and a copy of the report to Dean and Keith. Shelley will contact Geoff Sample regarding more information on the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) grant for Nassau and Baker counties. The committee will revisit possible ideas for grant at the November meeting. John Myers asked about Thomas Creek clean up as a possible grant idea. In addition, could Hurricane recovery efforts or clean up be funded by the grant?

New Business

The NPDES Permit Reissuance was reviewed, but will wait for Merrill to give more information at the November meeting. EPD Pipeline rules were reviewed: land owner notification when property is within 1000 feet of proposed pipeline route. There is also a new appeal process for use of eminent domain. The proposed rules will be addressed during the upcoming session based on House Bill 413. The committee is reviewing if they should make a statement.

Al Manning mentioned that residents in Charlton County have brought up their concerns about coal ash being taken to land fill. Other members pointed out that the landfill has been

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accepting the coal ash for years and has a permit for it. The regulatory guidelines are being followed.

John Myers made a motion for a resolution to pay the administrative assistant for the previously unpaid months (April through October) with a one time direct withdrawal from the committee's account for \$1502.07. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Hurricane issues:

Camden County

- Near City of St. Marys – Saturday thru Wednesday flooded, water rose 9ft in one day. Had a 20-hour lag and flooded again. It took 6 days before the water left.
- Disabled and capsized vessels: 37 boats in City of St. Marys at Langs east and west all from storm surge and winds. Nassau River Marina okay. Cumberland Queen original boat lost.
- Browntown also had a lot of rushing water especially on Horsepen Creek. Poor water quality testing over the weekend.
- Kingsland also having water quality issues since the storm.
- Riverkeeper sponsored a clean-up on Thursday after the storm, about 80 people attended.

Charlton County

- St. Marys – Major flooding at Traders Hill. Gages helped predict, but it depended on the way the water was coming in (tide, rain, etc.).
- Trader's Hill flood gage got to 22.32.ft. according to NOAA's river gage.
- Lake Hampton dam break – valve was not entirely open.
- Back-up at 301 where it widens at floodplain
- Folkston no problems were reported

Baker County

- Baker/Macclenny no problems were reported

Public Comments

Rick Frey, the St. Marys Riverkeeper, updated the committee on Riverkeeper issues and events. The 319 grant starts in November with the water quality testing ramping up at Horsepen Creek. The public outreach to homeowners will also begin in November. Rick mentioned that there will be an oyster restoration project beginning this year on the northern end of Fernandina. The Riverkeeper fundraising event in November was cancelled and moved to January.

Discussion ended at 8:15 PM.

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

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