

\*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on December 4, 2017.

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

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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**November 6, 2017**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on November 6, 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, Chris Chauncey, John Myers (Co-chair),

**Charlton** – Commissioner James Everett, Merrill Varn

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

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

**Visitors** –

A quorum was present.

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

The discussions began at 7:06 PM. The agenda for November was reviewed and approved. The minutes from October 2, 2017 were reviewed and approved with edits. 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 and mail hard copy of information to Al Manning for possible presentation to Board on Monday Nov.13, 2017 at 6pm.

Geoff Sample was asked about information on the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) grant for Nassau and Baker counties. He said the application submission starts in January, so counties need to be developing ideas now. He has sent out information and reminders to county staff and representatives and will send to Shelley to send out to committee members. In Nassau, Thomas Creek clean-up was mentioned as a potential project. Commissioner Spicer indicated that the county representatives are already working on developing a project there and working with surrounding counties, state and federal agencies to get that area cleaned up. In Baker County, committee members are trying to develop possible projects to bring to county representatives.

Merrill reviewed the NPDES permit reissuance, saying that in her conversations with Anna Truszczynski, EPD Stormwater Unit Manager, the September 15, 2017 concerning renewal of phase 2 MS4 stormwater

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permits in public notice no 2017-16ML, Truszczynski said that no counties in the St. Marys River Basin are currently covered by NPDES phase 2 MS4 permits. Neither Camden nor Charlton had high enough populations in the 2010 census. Camden may qualify in 2022 once 2020 census data works its way through the regulatory system. In short, currently, bacteria from LAS and other sewage treatment facilities is regulated by permit but stormwater discharge is only indirectly regulated if it is determined to have caused an impairment. Merrill also mentioned that rule 391.34 for solid waste facilities was revised, but the edits did not make a substantial change to the rule. Merrill brought in the Coal Combustion Residue section of the rule for attendees to review.

John Myers asked Merrill to get information regarding the comment period for the EPD Pipeline draft rules and guidelines for the implementation of the 2017 pipeline law. Once that information is obtained the committee website will reflect the commenting period.

### **New Business**

Remaining Hurricane issues:

#### Camden County

- Spur 25 washed out (near woodbine exit)
- More water and longer at Flea Hill
- FEMA left last weekend
- Power went out in the City of Kingsland which led to lift stations without power and sewage flowed directly into neighborhoods at Catfish Creek. Approximately 50 houses affected. This is why the coliform readings were very high post hurricane. This is a City issue, but don't know if FEMA was briefed on that problem.

#### Charlton County

- Several roads were washed out, but getting some DOT money to help repair them.
- 30 homes were flooded
- FEMA is still there
- Debris is still being collected

#### Baker County

- Baker mostly had tree damage

#### Nassau County

- Thomas Creek, Scots Landing and St. Marys still flooding
- Alligator Creek backs up on the NW side of Callahan
- There were many road blowouts, mostly on the west side that are still being fixed
- Debris collection has been a challenge, started picking up debris on west side last Monday.

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- Geoff Sample reported that a storm modeler noted that water from Irma was the highest recorded since 1846. The gage readings from SJRWMD showed on 9/1/2017 there were 580 mil gallons flowing past the gage, on 10/1/2017 there was 659 mil gallons and the peak flow during the storm was 1462 mil gallons (1.4billion gallons). The hydrologic report showed 60-70" of rain as of Oct. and the avg is 51".

John Myers indicated that the hurricane related issues have highlighted weak points in the infrastructure. And these areas are places to concentrate and use special option tax funds (SPOLST) in Georgia.

Chris Chauncey was tasked with getting someone to brief the committee on the lift station issues and the City of Kingsland.

Merrill reported that EPD had taken their last set of samples on the intensive Spanish Creek sampling and would send data soon. At that point county reps should again approach Charlton county and the city of Folkston about resolving the problem. Charlton county had decided not to apply for a Coastal Incentive Grant in 2017.

#### **Public Comments**

Discussion ended at 8:11 PM.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2017\*\*