

*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on April 2, 2018.

St. Marys River Management Committee

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 5, 2018

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on February 5, 2018, at the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department conference center in Callahan, Florida.

Committee members in attendance by county:

Baker – Commissioner James Croft, Co-chair Chris Gazes, Ed Barber

Camden – Commissioner Ben Casey, Co-chair John Myers, Chris Chauncey, Jim Wildes

Charlton – Commissioner James Everett, Secretary/Treasurer Merrill Varn, Chip Campbell

Nassau – Commissioner George Spicer, Dean Woehrle, Al Manning

Non-voting Members –

Others Present - Katherine Woodby, State Representative Cord Byrd's Office

A quorum was present.

Call to Order and Housekeeping

The discussions began at 7:15 PM.

The December minutes and January discussion were approved as amended.

As of December 31, 2017, the account balance for the Committee was \$4415.08. Nassau County did send the check for \$500.00, but Commissioner Spicer said we should send a letter and invoice to the county manager and the director of the Nassau OMB. It was also mentioned that we had not received the 2017 contributions from Camden or Baker Counties.

General Discussion

Draft Annual Report was discussed, minimal changes were made and the finalized version will be completed this week. There was discussion regarding changes Land Use section, but the revisions were approved. The proposed 2018 budget was reviewed and adopted by unanimous vote. The Annual Report will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for each county by April 2018.

Nominating committee nominated the current slate of officers Merrill (Mary Elizabeth) Varn Treasurer and Secretary; and John Myers and Chris Gazes as Co-Chairs. The nominations were seconded and approved.

Presentations slated for this year:

MS4 process (Alice Vick)

Update on Traders Hill (Commissioner Everett)

Nassau County and the ENCPA (Mike Mullen Nassau County Lawyer)

Shoals Park update (TBD)

*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on April 2, 2018.

Egans Creek and E. coli (Commissioner Spicer will contact District 1 commissioner and invite to the Committee meeting and will coordinate with Shelley).

Discussions regarding the Rayonier Wildlight Village – East Nassau Community Planning Area and the remaining questions we have regarding the development. Al Manning brought up questions about the withdrawal from the aquifer. He mentioned information on National Geographic regarding the condition of the aquifer, Shelley will research zones of depression and Nassau County aquifer information as well as coordinating with SJRWMD and JEA to answer regional questions and provide it to the committee in March. John Myers wanted clarification regarding the Steward Special Taxing District and how that affect permitting and jurisdiction over natural resources. Shelley will contact the Nassau County lawyer (Mike Mullen) to present information regarding the development and answer questions of the committee with respect to the county's coordination with the development. There was also a question of the role of the Committee in getting more answers as the development has been approved by the State. It was decided that being informed and understanding this type of development can only help the committee moving forward.

Katharine Woodby of Florida Representative Cord Byrd's office, was happy to answer questions about Thomas Creek project. The flooding from Hurricane Irma was extremely bad and Representative Cord's office is working with Nassau County and USACE to fix the issues with the creek to prevent flooding in the future. USACE has conducted a flow study to ensure that the creek meets the flow requirements for a dredging project to be possible and has contributed \$100,000 towards development of the project. The project would dredge 6.5 miles of Thomas Creek. The next step is for the County to write the letter of assistance to USACE which will be then presented to Congress for approval by June 1. This project is a 60/40 split so Representative Daniels office of Duval County was contacted as Duval would benefit from the project to assist with meeting the 40% contributions for this 10-12 million dollar project. Once the assistance is approved USACE will present their plan to the County.

Chip Campbell brought up questions about spending that amount of money for something that may not ultimately fix the problem. These homes are in the floodplain and the flow rate and capacity may not be meaningfully affected to mitigate for the volume of water in the floodplain. Commissioner Spicer pointed out that there will be public meetings on the plan once the USACE gets that far in the process which requires no funds from the County. John Myers brought up an alternative option for removing homes from floodplains. In Camden, a home which has been flooded three times in three years has recently been purchased with in-kind matching funds from FEMA. This area will be turned into a green space and has already reduced flood insurance levels for the whole county. The committee was encouraged to attend the public meetings where the USACE representative Jim Suggs will present the plan.

County Updates:

*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on April 2, 2018.

Baker – No new updates

Nassau – Commissioner Spicer asked about signage and enforcement for no wake zones near King's Ferry and the requirements from the State of Georgia.

Camden – 319 Grant moving forward and meeting.

Charlton – New county administrator, Hampton Raulerson Jr. starts on 2/12.

Subcommittee Updates

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

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2018**