

*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on May 7, 2018.

St. Marys River Management Committee

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 9, 2018

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on April 9, 2018, at the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department conference center in Callahan, Florida.

Committee members in attendance by county:

Baker –

Camden – Commissioner Ben Casey, Co-chair John Myers, Chris Chauncey, Karen Chisholm

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

Nassau – Dean Woehrle, Al Manning, Earl Tindall

Non-voting Members –

Others Present - John E. Wojcik, Visitor

A quorum was present.

Call to Order and Housekeeping

The discussions began at 7:10 PM. The agenda for April were approved as amended. The February minutes were approved. As of March 30, 2018, the account balance for the Committee was \$7310.95. All counties are up-to-date except Nassau County, which paid \$500 rather than the new allotment of \$700. A letter was sent to the finance office and copied to Commissioner Spicer. As of March 30, no supplementary check had been received. Merrill will check the mail box April 10 and then contact the county if the \$200 has not been received.

General Discussion

Dean Woehrle presented the Annual Report to the Nassau County Board of Commissioners on March 21st. In addition, the Nassau County Board recognized April as water conservation month in Dean's name. He received a plaque commemorating the event (see photo). Dean mentioned that the City of Hilliard has also recognized April as water conservation month. John Myers presented the Annual Report to the Camden Board of Commissioners at their March 20th meeting.

Presentations slated for this year:

MS4 process – Need to schedule a meeting date for Merrill to present information (Alice Vick)
Nassau County ENCPA – Shelley has been in touch with Mr. Mullens office and is waiting to hear about potential dates for presentation

Shoals Park update – Need to coordinate with Baker County representatives

Egans Creek and E. coli – Need to coordinate with St. Marys Riverkeeper

*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on May 7, 2018.

Camden County Commissioner Casey informed the committee that the FAA will be holding public meetings for Spaceport Draft EIS on 4/11 and 4/12 at 5:30pm at the PSA Rec Center on Gilman Dr. in Kingsland, Ga. In addition, the county's Environmental Subcommittee tasked with reviewing the Draft EIS, chaired by Clay Montegue, will be meeting with FAA to ask questions at 9am on 4/12 in the Camden County Commissioner Meeting room. The public can attend the meeting, but no comments will be heard. The Draft EIS is available for review on the Camden County website.

Shelley read comments from Ed Barber (via email) regarding the research on aquifers provided at the last meeting. He had questions more about minimum flows and levels of the river than withdraws from the aquifers --He asked "Does drawdown affect the flows and water levels in the St. Marys River, and if so, to such an extent so as to adversely affect lawful use?" There was discussion about locals' knowledge of the river and locations of possible recharge and drawdown areas. Chip Campbell brought up the hydrogeology of the river, stating that there are no Floridan aquifer inputs into the River, but it is more influenced by run-off and the surficial aquifer. There is data from water management districts, DEP and other resources which can be linked to the newly input Folkston gage as well as older minimum flows and levels from Macclenny which may help answer Mr. Barber's question.

Presentation

Commission Everett presented information on Charlton Counties' Traders Hill Park. There are 32 new campsites with faucets and electrical power. Many upgrades to buildings, utilities and amenities have been accomplished in 2018. The committee asked Commissioner Everett about how much the county spends annually on the park for personnel and upkeep. Commissioner Everett did not have that information with him, but said he would bring that information back to the committee. He was also asked about the amperage and recommended that 50 vs. 30 Amps may provide better service for RVs. Keith Tindall asked about the camping fees for the park as well as if there were Host Campers which Commissioner Everett wasn't sure about. Chip Campbell mentioned that he has met campers who stay at Traders Hill for one night, but weren't sure about where or who to pay the camping fees so those fees may have gone unpaid.

Subcommittee Updates

Government/River Issues: Merrill Varn reported on the draft rules crafted by GA EPD to enforce the regulations established by HB 413, the Pipeline Bill, which was signed into law in May 2017. Public comment is open until April 13, 2018. The rules once finalized will establish procedures for companies wishing to build gas or oil pipelines including 1) notification of all property owners within 1000 ft of any proposed pipeline, additional meetings to keep the public informed of plans, and 3) a new EPD permit required even if the company does not anticipate using eminent domain to condemn property. The bill did not directly address the use

*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on May 7, 2018.

of eminent domain by private companies. The new rules will apply to the Palmetto Pipeline, proposed in 2016, should it be proposed again. The pipeline would cross Camden, Charlton and Nassau counties and would go under the St. Marys River near US 301 in Charlton County.

Outreach and Education: Chip mentioned that the Riverkeeper has an arrangement with the Fernandina Beach High School Science Program to begin water testing near Egans Creek using the Georgia Adopt-a-stream fecal coliform protocols which will be kept in the Florida STORET. Dean Woerhle brought up the River Clean-up which is scheduled for April 21st. There will be a trailer located in Hilliard for disposing of tires this year, the site captains must arrange for transporting tires from their sites to Hilliard. Keep Nassau Beautiful is funding the trailer. Chip announced that the St. Marys Riverkeeper is having a fundraising event at White Oak that is a donor and sponsorship campaign. The event will include cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. The tickets are \$100.00, if interested contact the St. Marys Riverkeeper or Chip Campbell.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2018**