

*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on July 9, 2018.

St. Marys River Management Committee

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 4, 2018

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on June 4, 2018, at the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department conference center in Callahan, Florida.

Committee members in attendance by county:

Baker – Commissioner James Croft, Ed Barber

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

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

Nassau – Earl K. Tindall, Al Manning

Non-voting Members – Geoff Sample, SJRWMD

Others Present - Rick Frey, St. Marys Riverkeeper; Danny Notton, visitor

A quorum was present.

Call to Order and Housekeeping

The discussions began at 7:20 PM. The agenda for June was approved as amended. The May minutes were approved. As of May 31, 2018, the account balance for the Committee was \$6605.77. All counties are up-to-date in dues.

Old Business

Presentations slated for this year:

MS4 Phase II, requirements and implications – Merrill to present in July

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 – Ed Barber will talk to Commissioner Croft

Egans Creek and E. coli – St. Marys Riverkeeper will present in August

Camden County Commissioner Casey updated the committee on the Spaceport draft EIS in Camden Co. . The draft public comment period for the draft EIS has been extended an additional 45 days to June 14th for comment period and written objections. If the project is approved, then it means the county can go ahead with applying for the site operator licenses.

Riverkeeper Rick Frey updates the committee on the 319 Grant for Browntown. Now 30 inspections have been completed. Of those inspection 20 septic systems will need full replacements. In addition, it appears that there are many more systems that will need repairs

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or replacement so Commissioner Casey mentioned they have started working on new grant submission for additional funding. The grants are for any tank or drainfield within a 100 foot buffer of the creek.

New Business

John Myers brought the City of St. Marys zoning ordinance to the attention of the committee. The new ordinance increases density of houses within the City. A motion was approved to send a letter to the City Planning Department, City Council and EPD regarding the stormwater management plan for the changes in zoning.

Al Manning brought an article regarding coal ash dumping in Georgia and brought up again the concerns his neighbors have regarding the coal ash at the Chesser Island Landfill. Rick Frey mentioned that there will be testing of tributaries near the site. The committee asked Al if his neighbors and other concerned citizens would be interested in attending a meeting, if they could get a presentation from a coal ash expert.

Chip Campbell informed the committee that FWC has begun sampling for sturgeon in the lower St. Marys River again. They have found juveniles Atlantic white sturgeon in the river.

Subcommittee Updates

Government/River Issues:

Merrill Varn informed the committee that the Spanish Creek task force will be working on the matching budget for the Coastal Incentive Grant at their next meeting.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2018**