

REVISED STRATEGIES – SMRMC Management Plan

1. Evaluate each County's land use pattern as reflected in their Comprehensive Plans and encourage consistency with river protection, using Best Management Practices (BMPs) and similar measures
2. Encourage bank-to-bank legislation to unify land use, recreation, and wildlife management laws
3. Facilitate introduction of shoreline development guidelines/incentives, e.g. river corridor vegetative buffers and setbacks
4. Hire cost-effective Committee administrative assistance
5. Establish a digital St. Marys River library linked to the committee's website for use by Committee, citizens, local government agencies
6. Encourage development of, and maintain contact with, a watershed association which would assume outreach and educational initiatives and be able to accept charitable donations.
7. Sponsor workshop(s) for county/state planning agencies to coordinate consistent river corridor planning (hold more frequent meeting with BOCC representatives to SMRMC to keep them apprised of current events)
8. Monitor Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) programs in both states and assist with programs targeting impaired segments
9. Investigate "Special Waters" designations in Florida and Georgia
10. Promote public agency coordination for surface water quality monitoring and request reports on water quality for non-technical audiences (SENSA)
11. Establish consistent septic system setbacks on both Florida and Georgia sides of the river (including tributaries)
12. Encourage proper maintenance of septic systems within the river corridor and along the tributaries of the river
13. Investigate protecting floodplain storage by encouraging local governments to adopt model shoreline ordinance
14. Encourage local governments to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating Service in which reduced flood insurance premiums act as an incentive to improve ordinances on floodplain protection (consider installing flood gauges as one of projects to reduce insurance premiums)
15. Integrate the St. Marys River Management Plan into other natural resource management plans, comprehensive plans (natural resource sections in addition to land use mentioned in strategy 1) , and conservation programs on an on-going basis

16. When private land that has important resource value becomes available for purchase, advise interested parties of nonprofit and governmental conservation easement and land acquisition programs, work to find buyer compatible with river management goals
17. Continue to encourage, enhance, and support stewardship opportunities on private lands (eg BMP's, WHIP, mitigation banks, conservation easements)
18. Create a corridor recreation plan to enhance recreational opportunities and businesses (Greenway/Blueway)
19. Continue and expand annual river cleanups to include tributaries
20. Continue and expand publications programs: River Guide, website, e-newsletter, and social media (facebook)
21. Solicit assistance to design a media effort to increase local knowledge of river issues, enforcement, and protection activities
22. Solicit assistance to develop a St. Marys River ecology/stewardship curriculum for local schools in cooperation with existing state and SJRWMD education programs
23. Host a river conference periodically to foster intergovernmental coordination and provide a forum for public river awareness (integrate with river cleanup and celebration)
24. Encourage initiation of a "river- neighborhoods" program
25. Continue stakeholder consensus-building activities with periodic workshops to review plan accomplishments and generate additional public support (integrate with river cleanup and celebration)
26. Hold a periodic public water quality conference (integrate with river clean up and celebration)
27. Promote conservation easements and/or less-than-fee acquisitions that maintain a forest-based economy and protect river resources by continuing compatible agricultural uses, such as tree farming (perhaps combine with strategy 17 above)
28. Designate an Economic Development Subcommittee to explore establishment of incentives for businesses compatible with river management goals