

*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on August 3rd, 2020.

St. Marys River Management Committee

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

August 3, 2020

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its' noticed meeting on August 3, 2020, via a zoom meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Committee members in attendance by county:

Baker – Commissioner James Croft, Ed Barber

Camden – Johns Myer, Elizabeth King, Rick Frey

Charlton – Commissioner James Everett, Merrill Varn, Chip Campbell

Nassau – Earl K. Tindall,

Non-voting Members – Alice Vick, Geoff Sample

Others Present – Andre Desolet

A quorum was present.

Presentation

Status of Stormwater Management in City of Fernandina Beach

From Andre Desolet

Stormwater Ordinance passed in 2012 managed under the Streets and Utilities Department and worked on street sweeping drainage improvement projects. A dedicated Stormwater staff was hired in 2016. In 2017 a rate study was conducted and operates as an enterprise fund which has dedicated funding and is collected in the utility bills. They have been able to get grant funding since 2015 from several sources.

They are guided by the Stormwater Masterplan which is updated every 3-4 years. Recently they have completed a resiliency Masterplan that consolidates information concerning vulnerability, adaptation and sea level rise. They are ensuring the proposed projects achieve multiple objectives when evaluating scopes of work.

They have a municipal Conceptual Stormwater Permit that includes infrastructure improvements, evaluated land uses and runoff loading, establishes minimum water quality improvement requirements and provides options for private properties to contribute to proportional share of public improvements.

Flood protection and water quality are 2 main objectives.

Water Quality locally includes in as many projects as possible including:

*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on August 3rd, 2020.

Nutrient removing filter structure that removes nitrogen and phosphorous before it gets to the creek.

They are also working on a low impact development (LID) manual for residential building. Currently an ordinance, but not actively enforced until 2019. But they are providing available tools to help with LID techniques to meet ordinance.

There is a Municipal Concept Stormwater Program which is updating outfall to river and is geared towards redevelopment and infrastructure upgrades. It also establishes water quality minimum improvements to implement basic stormwater projects in effect for 20 years.

Rick asked Andre about illicit discharge program. Concerned about e. coli. If it makes sense to include it in thier assessment. Andre said that assessment is not usually done through stormwater treatment, but through conventional engineering for removal. Andre will do research from other communities and provide that info to Rick.

Rick also as about septic tank leakage – stormwater is what takes it there. Is there a way of discovering or pinpointing point of discharge. Merrill mentioned that a CIG currently in Charlton doing similar thing. Looking into impairments and interested in that development.

It was asked why they are being pro-active and at what point do the counties need to start something vs waiting on state. Andre said that the Commission has made it a priority. Both DEP and SJRWMD do well with their scale of projects (medium to large). However local review and local knowledge, are important for smaller scale project and not always apparent from large scale view. They stormwater staff can catch other things with enforcement and inspection which is more effective at local level. Finding source for infrastructure issues with a comprehensive activity.

Ed – Had filtration system that used for Nitrogen and phosphorous removal. Tank with baffles?? What is it and what do the inputs/outputs look like? – There is an upflow filter. Offline retention with baffle for sediment. It goes through the filter medium but it is developed at UCF. Andre will send to Shelley to send to the committee.

John – LID regs. Do you have groundwater regulations? Catch system, etc.? Andre said not currently and nothing in the Code, but there is potential is there.

Call to Order and Housekeeping

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm the August agenda was approved. The July minutes were approved with the suggested corrections. The balance in the bank account was reported

*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on August 3rd, 2020.

as \$7004.82. There is one outstanding check for the River Clean up, the committee voted to count check as lost, add money back to total and if it turns up have it destroyed.

New BUSINESS

Ed Barber asked Geoff Sample about Florida DEP taking over septic tanks from the Health Department. Geoff confirmed that that did happen and that no there is currently no oversight as to how that will evolve.

Land Use (including public access)

Commissioner Croft reported that there is no new information regarding the boat ramp.

The Nassau County purchase of property for a park along the River was not approved. The price was too high and the property is up for sale again. Rick Frey mentioned that the Riverkeeper is doing research to find a funding source to get area designated as Florida Forever, but it wouldn't qualify.

Camden County is planning to upgrade the boat ramp and parking (approx. 3 ac) at the blue bridge property. The funding is from "Go Fish". Last Sunday the structure burned.

Water Quality

Horsepen/Temple Creek 319 Septic Project- 20 systems were evaluated and replaced. There is funds for 1-2 more. The next phase to the west will begin once the funding arrives.

City of St. Marys 319 SHRIMP Project- construction at City Hall was completed this month all that remains is dissolved oxygen monitoring at the Bridge in July. City Hall will be reopening from the front.

Spanish Creek Nine Point CIG Project- No updates.

NPDES permits- Crooked River zoom meeting is on August 16th at 7pm for River Oaks. Riverkeeper has sent a letter to DNR requesting that the reissued permit include more stringent reporting. It will be reissued for 5 and not 3 years, but still in comment period.

Water Quantity (Flooding and Water Removal)

Four County Stormwater Management – John mentioned that Camden County has grant funding for LiDAR. Merrill said there is a LID ordinance that was sent to Kelly and Deirdre. If Camden is interested in LID manual, there has been a lot of work for that in coastal Georgia. Jeannie Butler worked on Green growth guidelines which is accessible online. Merrill will send links to be put on the website.

Federal, State and Local Regulations and County Comprehensive Plans

*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on August 3rd, 2020.

Update on No-Wake Zone Signage Nassau County- Keith will speak to Dean about bringing up to the Board at their next meeting.

Partner Reports

Twin Pines update- No update.

SJRWMD – no updates

EPD – No updates

Riverkeeper – the River Clean-up has been postponed and is up in the air.

Administrative

Public Comments

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2020. Via zoom meeting**