

*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on February 1, 2021

St. Marys River Management Committee

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 4, 2021

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its' noticed meeting on January 4, 2021, via a Microsoft TEAMS zoom meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Committee members in attendance by county:

Baker – Commissioner James Croft, Ed Barber

Camden – Commissioner Ben Casey, John Myers, Elizabeth King

Charlton – Commissioner James Everett, Merrill Varn, Chip Campbell

Nassau – Keith Tindall

Non-voting Members – Geoffrey Sample, Alice Vick

Others Present – Shelley Beville

A quorum was present.

Call to Order and Housekeeping

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm. The January agenda and December minutes were approved with the suggested corrections. The treasurer delivered the report by email; it was taken as point of record. SMRMC has received fees from Baker, Nassau, and Camden. The check from Charlton County should be received in the next two weeks .

New Business

New Officers -The Nominating Committee proposed a slate of officers. The slate was approved with no discussion John Myers Co-Chair for Georgia and Keith Tindall Co-Chair for Florida, Merrill Varn as Secretary and Elizabeth King as Treasurer were elected as officers for 2021.

There was discussion about open spots on the committee and non-participating members. There was discussion about the inter-local agreement and By-laws including the riverfront and at-large categories of appointed members. Chip Campbell suggested adding the language "or at the behest of the County Commissions". John proposed each county should keep up with terms of their own members. John will speak with Camden county members. Ed will touch base with City of Macclenny representative for possible nominee. Keith will talk to George Spicer and others for possible nominees. The committee will review the interlocal agreement and By-laws for review of member qualifications and if changes to by-laws or interlocal agreement are needed.

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The committee also discussed archiving documents. Shelley will review the space on the website for archiving. There is also space available on google docs.

The Committee approved 2021 meeting dates as January 4, February 1, March 1, April 12, May 3, June 7, July 12, August 5, September 13, October 4, November 1, December 6.

A draft of the 2020 Annual Report was sent to committee members. Merrill had made any corrections that had been received thus far. A motion was approved to submit the report 1/11/2021 provided no major changes were received by 1/10/2021.

A motion was approved to endorse the proposed Land Conservation Clinic at the University of Georgia Odum School of Ecology and River Basin Center. The Endorsement Letter included as part of the UGA proposal is attached.

Old Business

Land Use (including public access)

Commissioner Croft reported that Baker County awaiting permit from DEP for the St. Marys Cove/Steel Bridge boat ramp.

Water Quality

Horsepen/Temple Creek 319 Septic Project (Phase 3)- no updates provided.

Spanish Creek Nine Point CIG Project- Charlton County purchased an additional 5 eDNA kits. The samples have been taken and sent for analysis. SMRK Riverkeeper has arranged a clean-up and educational canoe paddle from Traders Hill boat ramp to Camp Pinckney Landing for the weekend of Jan 23rd. Two DO sampling events and various wrap up events still need to occur. Draft of the Watershed Management Plan was delivered to the Citizen's Advisory Committee in mid-December. The next meeting of that committee will be Jan 12th.

NPDES permits- Surface water withdrawals are needed for the UGA mapping project. Alice Vick said that there are only agricultural permits, but they aren't in use. She will send the info to Merrill.

Water Quantity (Flooding and Water Removal)

Four County Stormwater Management – no update provided.

Federal, State and Local Regulations and County Comprehensive Plans

Update on No-Wake Zone Signage Nassau County- Keith said that Dean had discussed the fees with Nassau County and that they were waiting for a decision.

Mapping Project

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The UGA students and faculty advisors met 1/4/2021. They are making corrections to their fall project, collecting additional layers, and migrating the UGA website. The students work is capped at a total of 40 hours at \$18/hr (\$2000). The students will need a 1099 in January 2022. John will ask the Camden County Accountant to find out regulations and how to get Tax id number. The committee also discussed that any person paid more than \$600, including the administrator, needs a 1099.

Partner Reports

Twin Pines update- No update provided

SJRWMD – No update provided

EPD – No update provided

Riverkeeper – No update provided

Need someone to attend and stay updated on the Suwanee-Satilla Regional Water Council. In the past Chip Campbell, Merrill Varn, and John Myers have attended the meetings. Elizabeth volunteered. Merrill will help her get on the email list.

Administrative

Public Comments

The meeting ended at 8:15pm.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2021 via TEAMS meeting**