

\*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on December 7, 2020

**St. Marys River Management Committee**

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**November 2, 2020**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its' noticed meeting on November 2, 2020, via a 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 Myer, Elizabeth King

**Charlton** – Commissioner James Everett, Merrill Varn, Chip Campbell

**Nassau** – Keith Tindall

**Non-voting Members** – Geoffrey Sample

**Others Present** – Richard Musgrove

A quorum was present.

**Presentation**

Stormwater by Richard Musgrove, P.E. Division of Water Resource Management, DEP

There are many sources of groundwater contamination including acid rain, septic systems, animal waste, urban runoff and boats and watercraft. Unmanaged stormwater can lead to impacts such as: changes in groundwater infiltration, watershed hydrology, water quality and the aquatic ecosystem.

Stormwater is managed both by Federal and State regulations. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is overseen by the EPA and the Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) is run by State Agencies DEP and SJRWMD.

Permitting require Best Management Practices, Total Maximum Daily Loads, reporting and pollution prevention plans. These items require compliance which includes, inspections, review of reporting, and “rebuttal presumption” (a system designed in accordance with criteria and requirements that will not cause harm to water resources).

NPDES uses several program to manage stormwater:

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) has two phases. Phase 1 is for incorporated municipalities or counties of 100,000+ in population; Phase 2 is urbanized area of over 1,000+ population or based on interconnections, discharges and population densities. These permits

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require stormwater management to reduce discharge of pollutants from the MS4 to Water of the State to maximum extent practicable through best management practices.

Construction Generic Permit and the Multi-Sector Generic Permit (MSGP) to regulate stormwater activities.

ERP regulates activities in, on, or over surface waters or wetlands...as well as activity involving the alteration of surface water flows. It covers collection through treatment with design on water quality and water quantity. DEP manages permitting for single family homes, stand alone dredging projects, port projects, beach projects, mangrove trimming and shoreline work east of the coastal construction line. Water Management Districts manage multi-residential development, roadways, commercial development, and shoreline work west of the coastal construction line. Both agencies look at erosion and sediment control (turbidity), stormwater quantity (volume control and discharge rates) and stormwater quality (annual load reduction). Typical designs for stormwater management include dry retention and wet detention.

Some major Types of surface water management systems include dry retention ponds, wet detention ponds, filtered ponds, underground exfiltration trenches, pervious pavement and underground vaults.

Examples of BMPs include: Low Impact Development (LID), pervious pavement, green roof & cistern systems, constructed wetlands and marsh systems, gross pollutant separators, trickling filters for stormwater treatment (Naples Airport)

Merrill asked Richard if there was anything small counties or rural counties should be doing? Like additional BMPs or is staying with the state and federal guidelines sufficient. Richard said Florida has very good regulations and Georgia has good BMPs in place.

Ed asked about the development of BMPs for agricultural crops regarding fertilizer application. Richard said that there will be a major review of agricultural BMPs soon.

### **Call to Order and Housekeeping**

The meeting was called to order at 7:37pm. The November Agenda and October minutes were approved with the suggested corrections. The balance in the bank account was reported as \$6540.40.

### **New Business**

Merrill reported that Laurie Fowler had redesigned the project to provide the same level of analysis to all four counties. Significant work to provide the documents and contacts for the students will now need to be done by SMRMC members. The two groups of UGA students will provide services free of charge but that some funding for the project will still be required. GIS students will develop ArcGIS maps and law practicum students will provide analysis of current protections for the river and options to improve protection by county pro bono. The link

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between the two projects is a map portal that the law students can access will need to be designed by graduate students who will need funding. The resulting map portal could be linked to both the SMRMC and SMRK websites so that the mapping portal would be available to the counties and to the general public, in addition to the law students. The cost of the portal design would be \$2000. After discussion, a motion carried to approve \$2000 funding for the design of the portal. Merrill will get in touch with committee members for help with collecting documents and contacts for their respective counties.

## **Old Business**

### ***Land Use (including public access)***

Baker County Boat Ramp – no updates.

No Wake Zone Signage - Nassau County lawyer was consulted regarding the “no wake zone” signage fee. John Myers reported that they are requiring a fee for signs at each location, but Keith will work on presenting a request to the commissioner to have one fee not three.

### ***Water Quality***

Horsepen/Temple Creek 319 Septic Project- the progress per phase is as follows:

Phase 1- 2009 319 grant that did DNA source tracking and the model system at temple creek landing, completed report accepted

Phase 2- 2017 319 grant for Horsepen Creek inspected 32 repaired replaced 23, completed, report submitted

Phase 3- 2020 319 grant for Malletts Creek (next creek west of Horsepen Creek) and part of Temple Creek upstream of Horsepen Creek confluence have money to repair/replace 21, active seeking participants

Spanish Creek Nine Point CIG Project- At the October 12 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting, GMC presented interesting *E. coli* sampling results from the summer. The committee decided that more testing was needed before the county could apply for 319 funding to tackle the impairment. Charlton County is looking into doing additional testing. The Riverkeeper is working on several small river clean-ups since the large spring event which provided significant match had to be canceled because of the pandemic. The committee members reviewed and discussed BMP suggestions from the previous meeting in June. GMC will present the first draft of the watershed plan at the December 8 meeting. The full report is attached.

City of St. Marys 319 SHRIMP Project- no updates provided.

NPDES permits- No update provided.

### ***Water Quantity (Flooding and Water Removal)***

Four County Stormwater Management – no update provided.

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***Federal, State and Local Regulations and County Comprehensive Plans***

Update on No-Wake Zone Signage Nassau County- Keith will speak to the County Commissioners at Board meeting regarding the fee.

***Partner Reports***

Twin Pines update- No update provided

SJRWMD – No update provided

EPD – No update provided

Riverkeeper – No update provided

***Administrative***

**Public Comments**

The meeting ended at 8:15pm.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2020. Via Microsoft Teams Meeting\*\*