

\*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on January 4, 2021

**St. Marys River Management Committee**

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**December 7, 2020**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its' noticed meeting on December 7, 2020, via a MicrosoftTEAMS zoom meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Committee members in attendance by county:

**Baker** – Commissioner James Croft, Ed Barber

**Camden** – John Myer, Elizabeth King, Rick Frey

**Charlton** – Merrill Varn

**Nassau** – Dean Woehrle

**Non-voting Members** – Geoffrey Sample, Alice Vick

**Others Present** – John Blanchard, Baker County Sheriffs Office, Scott Brazell, Camden County

A quorum was not present.

**Presentation**

Shoals Annual Event by John Blanchard

The Rotary Club and the Sherriff's Office are raising money for capital projects with a Fun Run/Walk/Bike Ride event on February 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> 2021 at The Shoals. He p[rovided information about the event so far and hope it to be an annual thing. He was asking the committee if they had any suggestions for trails or volunteers to help with the event. Merrill asked about the trails being marked and Mr. Blanchard said they are planning on 3 trails, but nothing has been officially marked yet. Merrill told him to reach out to Florida Trails as they help with layout and other aspects of trail making. Commissioner Croft thanked Mr. Blanchard for the presentation and hopes that this would help make the Shoal a place to visit.

Camden County Community Planning Tool by Scott Brazell, Camden Co CRS and E&S coordinator

Scott had provided information regarding the background on why the Tool was deemed a need. Basically, they thought creating a mapping tool with insight to the risks and advantages to development and life on the coast would be important. They assembled data that was already available and overlaid it on county data which allows the user to navigate several categories including:

Critical Infrastructure, FEMA flood zones and Base Flood Elevations (BFE), Future Land Use, Flood and Sea Level Rise Layers, Ecological Information and Zoning Information

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This tool can have multiple layers turned on or off to provide the user with a lot of information to educate themselves on current and future variable affecting living in Camden County.

The tool can be found at [map.coastalresilience.org/Georgia](http://map.coastalresilience.org/Georgia) or through links at UGA, The Nature Conservancy, and City of St. Marys.

Rick Frey asked who assembled all the layers and the Tool was built by The Nature Conservancy for the County.

### **Other items discussed include:**

The budget request to the counties needs to be considered for 2021. Merrill asked for a representative from each county to double check the addresses and make sure she had the correct contact information for each county. The treasurer brought up that the salary for Shelley should be increased to accommodate the website work. It was also brought up that the virtual meetings may be better. Dean brought up that we may have to revise the by-laws if that is the case. This discussion will be put on hold until a quorum is present.

### **New Business**

UGA Environmental Law Practicum Mapping Project:

Merrill reported that the class did presentations for the mapping tool modelled after the Tool that Scott presented on at this meeting. Merrill asked for volunteers from each county to help answer questions and clarify items within each county. She said they need all the information to Laurie Fowler by the end of the week. Elizabeth, Ed and Dean said they would help.

### **Old Business**

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

Baker County Boat Ramp – no updates.

#### ***Water Quality***

Horsepen/Temple Creek 319 Septic Project- no updates

Spanish Creek Nine Point CIG Project- A recent eDNA test at the 121 bridge suggested that the source of fecal coliform was largely pig and to a lesser extent human. Charlton County has purchased and received five additional DNA Source kits to test the five branches supplying the mainstem of Spanish Creek so that the county can narrow in on the location of the source of the impairment. The tests will be done following a major rain event when the bacterial load will be at its maximum. The county hopes to have the samples collected within the next two weeks. Three sets of DO tests still need to be taken at the original five locations.

GMC will submit a draft of the watershed management plan to the citizens advisory committee by the middle of next week. The committee will discuss edits at the January 12 meeting.

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NPDES permits- No update provided. Alice Vick addressed some questions regarding the EPD's Indirect Potable Reuse Guidelines and inter-basin transfer of water. She said it would be worthwhile to ask for additional information. However, with no quorum present a letter could not be drafted.

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

Four County Stormwater Management – no update provided.

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

No Wake Zone Signage - Dean will talk to Keith about any updates and will reach out to the commissioners regarding the fees.

***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 January 4, 2021. Via Microsoft Teams Meeting\*\*