

# St. Marys River Management Committee Minutes

## February 3, 2025

### Attendees:

Baker - Commissioner Ronald Mann, Danny Norton (FL Chair)

Nassau - Paul Lore, Keith Tindall (virtual), Dean Woehrle (virtual)

Camden - Commissioner Ben Casey, Rick Frey (virtual), Jay Smith

Charlton - Russell Barber, Merrill Varn (Secretary)

Other - Doug Conkey (SJWMD) Claire Feazel (SMRMC Admin), Cori Hermle (SJWMD, virtual)

- Meeting was called to order at 7:24 p.m. A quorum was present.
- The February Agenda was approved.
- Minutes from the January Meeting were approved.
- Treasurer's Report: \$10,269.73

### Old Business/Reports

#### Land Use (including public access)

Baker -

- Boat Ramp - Waiting on FEMA for next steps.
- Shoals Park - No update.
- Development Project - Continued progress and additional meetings are taking place regarding this project. Need to monitor sewer capacity. Possibility of a 2,000 acre and 2,500 home subdivision in Macclenny. This development would be north of I-10 to the Baker County/Nassau County line.

Nassau -

- Brett's Waterway Cafe - Lease coming up in December 2025 for Brett's Waterway Cafe, located directly on the river.
- Bioethanol plant - still pending with the City of Fernandina Beach.
- Townhouse Development - Eight homes/acre - located near Hilliard.

Camden -

- Blue Bridge - Still awaiting decision on property finalization. This is tentatively scheduled for March.
- Temple Creek - Continued closure for construction. GA-DNR anticipates it will open in Spring 2025. The Board of Commissioners accepted a grant for boardwalk repairs.
- Raydient - Concern remains surrounding adequate water retention on site.

Charlton -

- Charlton Camp Pinckney County Park Boat Ramp - No update.
- Raydient - possible sales activity for two large lots on the St. Marys River, south of St. George. Reviewed records with the Tax Assessor's office.

#### Water Quality

- NPDES- no update.
- Spanish Creek 319- Completed the final two septic system pump outs. Six septic systems have been identified as needing repair. Charlton County donated 20 loads of septic sand. The first of five septic systems that need to be replaced has been completed. The next replacements will be in April 2025. SMRK continues with sampling.
- Septic Think Tank- Currently on hold.
- E&S spreadsheet

- Florida does not have a 25' buffer to surface waters only to wetlands. Nassau County requires grading permits for all land disturbance activities, but they will not match the Georgia requirements.
- N/P- Waiting on White Oak to finish their Best Management Practice (BMP) manual. Will need to design educational flyers for landscapers.
- FL TMDL Planning- No update.
- Georgia EPD Comprehensive Nutrient Permitting- No update.
- Folkston WasteWater Treatment Plant- No update.

### **Water Quantity**

- Four County Stormwater
  - Baker County - Drainage concerns in multiple locations throughout the county. Difficulty in maintaining ditches. Vulnerability study should be available later this spring.
  - Nassau County - Applied for a grant to assist with resiliency planning/BLE Maps.
  - Camden County - Stormwater grant for unincorporated Camden County
    - St. Marys - Raydient Development - concern with water retention on site
  - Charlton County- Vulnerability and Stormwater- EPD's Base Level Engineering Map is completed and is being uploaded to the online viewer. It will be available online within a month. A link to the data has been sent to Charlton County. Committee Secretary Merrill Varn waiting to discuss with new County Administrator, Glenn Hull.
- City Stormwater rehab -
  - Folkston Stormwater improvements- no update.
  - Macclenny - no update.
  - Updates needed for Hilliard, Kingsland, and St. Marys
- Georgia Water Councils - No update.

### **Regulatory/Comp Plans**

- Nassau County No Wake Zone- Progress continues. Working with Nassau County staff to make it through the application process. Meeting scheduled at the end of February to review.
- Charlton County Comprehensive Plan - Charlton County continues in the planning process with the final small group meeting completed.
- Fishing Tournament/ Want Waste Regulations FL- no update.

### **Administrative**

- Nassau Annual Report 2024 - no update.

### **County Projects**

- Boating Safety/Water Quality signs at Boat Ramps- No update.

### **Review/Revise Bylaws**

- Committee discussed changes to revise bylaws. Motion made by Dean Woehrle and seconded by Rick Frey to approve changes to bylaws.

### ***Partner Reports***

- St. Marys Riverkeeper (SMRK) -
  - SMRK is facing uncertainty regarding the status of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant funding.

- River Cleanup scheduled for April 19, 2025, in partnership with Keep Nassau Beautiful.
- Twin Pines - no update.
- SMRK released a 7-minute “sneak peak” video about sturgeon in the St. Marys River.
- Working with Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay on a planning project.
- St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) -
  - SJRWD expanded water conservation efforts.
  - SMRMC received an update on the Black Creek Water Resource Project as it nears completion.

### ***Committee Member Reports***

- Nassau County and the City of Fernandina Beach are holding a collaborative meeting on February 6, 2025.

### ***Public Comments***

None

### ***Adjournment***

Meeting Adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

**Next Meeting March 3, 2025 Callahan Fire Department.**