

St. Marys River Management Committee Reports

August 4, 2025

Attendees:

Baker - Danny Norton (FL Co-Chair)

Nassau - Bill Cochran, Commissioner Alyson McCullough

Camden -

Charlton - Chip Campbell (GA Co-Chair), Commissioner James Everett

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

- The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. A quorum was not present; reports were received but no business was conducted

Old Business/Reports

Land Use (including public access)

Baker -

- Boat Ramp - A Request for Proposals (RFP) was completed. No update in August
- Shoals Park - No update in August
- Development Projects - Project was not annexed into the City of Macclenny, but may become a project in unincorporated Baker County
- Maple Set Recreation Area- Improvements at John M. Bethea State Forest, the upper most access point to the river. No update in August

Nassau -

- On Island
 - Brett's Waterway Cafe and Intercoastal - No update in August
 - Boutique Hotel - No update in August
 - Bioethanol plant - No update in August
 - Beach re-nourishment - No update in August
 - Atlantic Seafood Property - No update in August
 - Port of Fernandina land - No update in August
 - Public Access - No update in August
- Mainland
 - Townhouse Development - No update in August

Camden -

- Blue Bridge - No update in August
- Raydient Development - Taylor Morrison has begun construction on *Esplanade at St. Marys*, a residential subdivision and golf course - concern remains surrounding adequate water retention on site; no update in August
- Temple Creek - Boardwalk and Trail are under construction; no update in August

Charlton -

- Charlton Camp Pinckney County Park Boat Ramp - Grant expired and will need to reapply
- Raydient - No update in August

Water Quality

- NPDES - No new or renewed permits in Camden County or Charlton County
 - Camden - A water quality certification (WQC), in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, is being sought for the construction of a new apartment complex in Kingsland
- Spanish Creek 319 - Updates are provided in odd months

- Septic Think Tank - Project is currently on hold, but there is still a need to do septic tank maintenance talks with any HOAs on both the Florida and Georgia sides of the river and its tributaries. There is a need to improve communication and education to help property owners understand septic tank maintenance needs and issues
- E&S spreadsheet
 - Florida requires a 25' buffer for wetlands, but not for surface waters. The committee continues to work towards a 25' construction buffer for Florida; No update for August
 - Georgia does not have Nitrogen and Phosphorus (N/P) regulations; No update for August
 - Tim Hiers, of White Oak Conservation, is still working on Best Management Practices (BMP) for golf courses; No update for August
 - Educational flyer for landscapers - No update for August
 - Shared with Ace Hardware for distribution in Charlton County
 - Shared with Ace Hardware and Hometown Feed & Seed for distribution in Camden County
- FL TMDL Planning - No update in August
- Georgia EPD Comprehensive Nutrient Permitting - No update in August
- Folkston Wastewater Treatment Plant - Contracts have been signed for equipment. The facility should be operational by December 2026 and complete in 2027; No update for August

Water Quantity

- Four County Stormwater
 - Baker County - Vulnerability study still in progress; No update for August
 - Nassau County - Applied for a grant to assist with resiliency planning/BLE Maps. The Vulnerability Study done by the Balmoral group will be sent to the Board of Commissioners in March; No update for August
 - Camden County - Resiliency Operations Center open and operating; No update for August
 - Charlton County- Vulnerability and Stormwater- EPD's Base Level Engineering Map is completed and is being uploaded to the online viewer. Updates are slowly being added to the St. Marys River Watershed; No update for August
- City Stormwater rehab -
 - Folkston Stormwater improvements - No update for August
 - Macclenny - No update for August
 - Updates needed for Hilliard, Kingsland, and St. Marys
- Georgia Water Councils - Meeting dates have been announced. Information shared with Georgia members

Regulatory/Comp Plans

- Nassau County No Wake Zone - One application complete and other applications are still in progress - No update in August
- Baker County Comprehensive Plan - Consultant is working on a plan; No update for August
- Charlton County Comprehensive Plan - Approved by Board of Commissioners and submitted on July 17, 2025
- Fishing Tournament/ Want Waste Regulations FL - No update in August, but lower participation noted this season

Administrative

- 2024 Annual Report
 - Presented to Baker County - February 18, 2025
 - Presented to Camden County - February 18, 2025
 - Presented to Charlton County - February 20, 2025
 - Presentation to Nassau County pending

County Projects

- Boating Safety signs at Boat Ramps
 - Approval received from both GA-DNR and FWC
 - Suggestion made to add all four county names/seals, along with SMRMC, on each sign - 2' by 4' made of metal
 - AB Signs has added all county seals and the SMRMC logo to the signage and will print the first three signs.
 - Picture of completed sign shared with Committee Members
 - Need members to submit to their counties for review before printing and installing signs
 - County Manager Sara Little is contact for Baker County
 - Chairman Ben Casey or County Administrator Shawn Boatright are the contacts for Camden County
 - Working with Committee Member Russell Barber for Charlton County sign
 - Nassau County has approved

New Business

- Discussion regarding the procedure for signing letters of support for local government partners without specific approval at a meeting. Local government partners are differentiated from third-parties of NGOs.

Partner Reports

- St. Marys Riverkeeper (SMRK) - No update in August
- St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) -
 - Currently meeting with local governments to learn about water quality and flood protection projects. SJRWMD will rank projects and will select 8-12 projects to continue developing for potential funding. They are also looking for projects relating to mosquito ditching and dredge spoil
 - SJRWMD working on a report, analyzing data sets related to water quality. Looking for trends. Hope to publish by end of summer 2025

Committee Member Reports

- No Committee Member Reports in August

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Next Meeting September 8, 2025 Callahan Fire Department