**St. Marys River Management Committee**

  68 Kingsland Dr., Suite B  ATTN: SMRMC

 Folkston, GA 31537-2872

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Feb 1, 2021**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its’ noticed meeting on February 1, 2021, via a Microsoft TEAMS due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Committee members in attendance by county:

**Baker –**  Ed Barber

**Camden** **–** Commissioner Ben Casey, John Myers,Elizabeth King, Rick Frey

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

**Nassau** **–**    Keith Tindall, Dean Woehrle

**Non-voting Members** **–** Geoffrey Sample

**Others Present** – Shelley Beville, Raquel Oliva, Grace Anne Ingham, Katherine Fredrica Christie

A quorum was present.

**Presentation**

Raquel Olivia and Grace Anne Ingham, the UGA Geography students who built the interactive GIS map,

presented a step by step instructional program on using the mapping tool.  A YouTube tutorial videoed by the students is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lRFrbLKhaA&feature=youtu.be>

The map will be used by the upcoming UGA Environmental Law Practicum Class, the Committee, the Riverkeeper, the four counties and their cities, and the public.

**Call to Order and Housekeeping**

The meeting was called to order at 7:39pm.  The February agenda and January minutes were approved as amended.   The treasurer delivered the report and said that a refund from a 2010 room rental deposit had brought to light that checks 201-250 had been duplicated but that all of the old check books had been discarded in 2015 and only the new books were currently in use. It was taken as a point of record. The application for an EIN for the committee is underway and will be followed up on by the treasurer.

**Old Business**

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

No update.

***Water Quality***

**Horsepen/Temple Creek 319** Septic Project (Phase 3)- The phase 3 grant project is in the inspection phase.

**Spanish Creek Nine Point CIG Project**- At a January 12th meeting, Rob Brown presented the Draft Watershed Management Plan.  Additional eDNA kits were ordered and samples taken at the five branches. The results showed little to no human contamination and no contamination from other species.The advisory committee will recommend another CIG with more intensive eDNA sampling to try to narrow in on the source of bacteria.

**NPDES permits**- There were no permit renewals or applications in the St. Marys river basin.

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

**Four County Stormwater Management** –    Nassau County has begun studying the revision of their  Ordinance 99-17 (Roadway and Drainage Standards) to quantify the “no adverse impacts” to downstream properties statement. Merrill asked them to consider adding metrics for water quality, including bacteria.

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

Update on No-Wake Zone Signage Nassau County- Keith is still working on this.

**New Business**

***Annual Reports to Boards of Commissioners****-* The Annual Report needs to be presented to the County Board of Commissioners for each county.  Merrill and Chip will present Charlton County on February 4. John will get it on the Camden County agenda for February 16th . Dean will look into the Nassau County Board dates and will present.  Ed will get it on the agenda for Baker County once it is safe for him to present given current COVID restrictions.

***Governing Documents****-* Charlton County Administrator, Hampton Raulerson, sent a letter requesting a change in the interlocal agreement to remove the sentence stating that employees of the committee are employees of Charlton County. The committee decided that other housekeeping changes were also in order and that all changes should be made at the same time.  Members were asked to review the interlocal agreement and By-laws and bring suggested changes to the next meeting. Revisions to the Interlocal Agreement must be approved by the four Boards of Commissioners of all four counties.  The By-laws are an internal document and require a two thirds rather than simple majority.

***Letter to Georgia Water Councils***- The committee reviewed a draft letter from Chip Campbell to the Georgia Water Council.  The letter was approved and Merrill will send to Suwanee-Satilla and Coastal Regional Councils.

***Interactive Map***- A motion was passed to allow the four counties to add the mapping tool to their websites. The Committee agreed that letters of appreciation should be sent to the UGA students and their advisers and organizers. Merrill will send the letters.

**Partner Reports**

***Riverkeeper***– Chip reviewed the status of the Twin Pines Mining Project and said that the Riverkeeper was awaiting EPDs review of permit applications.  He reminded the committee that because of redefinition of waters of the US last summer that a USACE permit was no longer necessary. He also said that the Riverkeeper participated in the GRN outing on the river this past weekend and incorporated river cleanup and sampling for matching hours for the Spanish Creek Project.  Rick Frey added that the Riverkeeper is also working with the Ritz Carlton on Amelia Island to get signage for the Living Shoreline.

***UGA***- The students have completed the project.  Merrill will send them the location of the Prospect Landing Rd boat ramp. A link to the map is on the webpage.

***SJRWMD*** – No update provided.

***EPD*** – No update provided.

**Administrative**

There was discussion about open spots on the committee and non-participating members. John proposed that an email be sent out to members who don’t attend regularly.  Each county should keep up with terms of their own members.

**Public Comments**

none

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

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