**St. Marys River Management Committee** 68 Kingsland Dr., Suite B ATTN: SMRMC Folkston, GA 31537-2872

# MINUTES OF MEETING June 1, 2020

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its’ noticed meeting on June 1, 2020, via a zoom meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Committee members in attendance by county: **Baker –** Commissioner James Croft, Ed Barber **Camden –**

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

**Nassau –** Earl K. Tindall, Dean Woehrle

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

**Others Present** – A quorum was present.

# Call to Order and Housekeeping

The meeting was called to order at 7:09m the March agenda was approved. The minutes were approved with the suggested corrections. The balance in the bank account was reported as

$7456.37.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

Eb Barber reported that the work at the Boyscout camp has no news to report as the plans are under review by the engineers. He will get more information and bring it back to the committee.

Nassau County has proposed to purchase some property for a park along the River. The committee discussed the importance of river access that may be in high demand in the future and what types of park would be beneficial. Merrill made a motion for the committee to write a letter to Nassau County in support of the purchase since it does have access to the river and is part of our River Management Plan. The motion was seconded with discussion of the content of the letter and unanimously approved.

***Water Quality***

Horsepen/Temple Creek 319 Septic Project- no update. City of St. Marys 319 SHRIMP Project- No.

Spanish Creek Nine Point CIG Project- Please see page four of the minutes. There was no April meeting. The survey results have come in. Next meeting on June 12th.

NPDES permits- No report this month.

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

Four County Stormwater Management – Speaker moved to August. ***Federal, State and Local Regulations and County Comprehensive Plans*** Update on No-Wake Zone Signage Nassau County- No report this month. ***Partner Reports***

Twin Pines update- Chip Campbell reported the comment period has closed on the 2nd submittal. A decision should dbe made in July and will get a report then.

SJRWMD – no updates EPD – no updates

Riverkeeper – the River Clean-up has been postponed and is up in the air.

***Administrative***

**Public Comments**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for July 6, 2020. Via zoom meeting\*\*

Fourth Bi-Monthly Report on Spanish Creek CIG June 16, 2020

FINALIZE GOALS AND IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS

As discussed in the last report, GMC designed a survey which asked respondents to rank the importance of various pollutant sources discussed at previous meetings and to determine whether management measures enumerated in other plans including the 2002 TMDL Implementation Plan for Spanish Creek, the 2017 Suwanee-Satilla regional water plan, 2014 St. Marys Watershed Plan, and the 2003 St. Marys River Management Plan would be relevant for correcting the impairments on Spanish Creek. The online survey counted as Meeting #3.

The Citizen’s Advisory Committee met June 9 to discuss the results of the survey. The top sources of

impairment and suggestions for management measures were as follows:

**Improper Disposal of Waste-** education about effects of illegal dumping, advertise dump sites, no dumping signage, method to report illegal dumping

**Urban Stormwater Runoff-** education, increase retention detention capacity, enforce current fed/state regulations, maintain Local Issuing Authority (LIA) to locally enforce erosion control regulations, create county position to handle LIA, NPDES, stormwater etc

**Livestock&Domestic /Wild Animal Management**- education (pet waste and best management plan for agriculture, require exclusion from and buffer for wetlands/creeks

The following impairments need to be studied further by using chemical or microbial source tracking to determine whether they are of concern:

**Septic Systems**- maintenance education and reminders if human pollutant source identified

**Overflowing Sanitary Sewers and Leaking Lines-** check system for leaks and overflow if human pollutant source identified

The Committee asked GMC to create a short public survey to assess awareness of the problems and support for solutions.

SAMPLING

Charlton County High School was able to complete both winter stream fecal coliform sampling events before the end of March. The first sample was taken in late February after a rain event and showed high

E. coli levels at three locations Clay Branch at Gibson Post Rd., woods road at “the hook” and at the 121 bridge. The committee discussed possible sources. The sample just downstream of the Folkston Pond had low numbers both sampling dates. The second sample was taken in late March during a dry period and showed no high numbers.

August sampling events will add a location to further elucidate the problem at the Hook. The next Committee meeting will be delayed until September 8th, after the next sampling date.

Charlton County High School was able to complete both winter stream fecal coliform sampling events by the end of March. The data will be presented to the full Advisory Committee at the June Meeting. Both dissolved oxygen and fecal coliform will be sampled during the summer.