

*Minutes will be reviewed by SMRMC on June 1, 2020.

St. Marys River Management Committee

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 2, 2020

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on March 2, 2020, at the Callahan Volunteer Fire Department conference center in Callahan, Florida.

Committee members in attendance by county:

Baker – Ed Barber

Camden – Commissioner Ben Casey, John Myers, Chris Chauncey, Karen Chisholm

Charlton – Commissioner James Everett, Merrill Varn, Chip Campbell

Nassau – Earl K. Tindall, Dean Woehrle

Non-voting Members –

Others Present – Rick Frey

A quorum was present.

Call to Order and Housekeeping

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm the March agenda was approved. The minutes were approved with the suggested corrections. The balance in the bank account was reported as \$7851.31.

OLD BUSINESS

Land Use (including public access)

Ed Barber reported that there will be work at the Boyscout camp including revisions to the stabilization tiles. He will get more information and bring it back to the committee.

Water Quality

Horsepen/Temple Creek 319 Septic Project- Ben Casey reported that 24 systems had been completed and there were 2 remaining, as three additional were added last month. There was an article in a Savannah Paper reporting on the work. The steering committee will meet to discuss next Phase and prioritizing next tanks.

City of St. Marys 319 SHRIMP Project- The City is waiting on ADA change order. No work has started.

Spanish Creek Nine Point CIG Project- Place holder for Merrill

NPDES permits- No report this month.

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Water Quantity (Flooding and Water Removal)

Four County Stormwater Management

Merrill reported that the workshop “Cross Boundary River Systems: Working together to Incorporate Natural Infrastructure into Flood Management” funded by a joint grant to The Nature Conservancy and NOAA was moved to April 21st and will be held at the Fernandina Beach Golf Club. She asked SMRMC county representatives to encourage their county and city governments to send at least one person to the conference. The focus rivers for the conference are the St. Marys (GA/FL) and the Waccamaw/Lumber (NC/SC). Merrill and Anna are on the organizing committee for the conference.

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 said that the application was withdrawn, but another application is expected. There is also a GA-EPD permit required.

Joint Meeting SMRMC and SMRK- Chip Campbell said the two organizations should still work toward periodic joint meetings once SMRK completes their strategic plan.

Dean Woerhle proposed that the committee should be a sponsor and put on the T-shirt at a cost of \$250.00 Chip put in a motion to donate to the Riverkeeper Advertising outreach and was approved by committee.

Administrative

County Participation and Annual Contribution- All counties have paid their annual dues.

Chris Chauncey had to resign from the committee and the vacancies were discussed. Vacant seats include Chris Chauncey, Al Manning, Karen Chisholm, Cory Black. The committee tasked members to address their Board of Commissioners regarding the vacancies. It was discussed it would be nice to have Macclenny represented.

The Annual Report will be delivered to the counties only the following schedule:

Baker- 2/4

Camden- 2/18

Charlton- 2/6

Nassau- Dean will report to the commission at their next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm.

Public Comments

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Rick Frey announced that Jim Jacoby the Wharf and Marina Developer on the Gillman Property in Collaboration with RICE University and Georgia Tech will be presenting to DEP in Palatka on March 3, 2020 regarding geoplasma use in neutralizing coal ash.

Rick also mentioned that the River Clean-up needs more volunteers in Baker County and they can contact the Riverkeeper.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2020. Via zoom meeting**

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Second Bi-Monthly Report on Spanish Creek CIG

March 4, 2020

The Advisory Committee discussed the water quality monitoring program and made slight changes to the original sites based on information from EPD. The Charlton County High School team will do their winter samples at the end of February and again in late March. Four students will do the D.O. testing and collect the water samples for the fecal coliform testing. Up to 40 students will participate in the laboratory analysis to culture the samples and count bacteria colonies.

The Steering Committee discussed participation in the April 25 River Clean-Up. SMRK will provide the site captains, all materials, and a lunch at White Oak Plantation for participants. The county and cities need only provide participants. Members of the Advisory Committee will post notices on County school and County social media webpages to advertise the event.

GMC presented information about amount of rainfall that occurred in the same time period as previous sampling events. There was some coincidence of large rainfall events with spikes in fecal coliform counts but not all bacteria spikes aligned with runoff after heavy rain. The committee discussed other activities that might contribute to the fecal coliform spikes.

A list of potential non-point sources of fecal coliform contamination and low dissolved oxygen in the watershed that were identified by the committee include:

- Wildlife and domestic animals, including confined location near Long Branch and Spanish Creek
- Beaver dams, especially along Long Branch
- Debris and trash in ditches flushed during rain events
- Runoff from developed and urban areas
- Dumping at bridges
- Failing septic tanks
- Cattle where they have access to creek, but most have buffers between grazing area and creeks

GMC also reviewed pollutant sources from the 2002 TMDL Implementation Plan. One of the primary point sources was the discharge from the wastewater treatment plant in Folkston. This plant began disinfecting the wastewater with a UV system in 2005, so it is now likely a smaller contributor to the overall pollutant load as it was in the previous TMDL Plan.

GMC presented land use zoning, soils, and a number of other characteristics of the Spanish Creek watershed. The largest land use is agricultural/forestry at 91%; followed by residential at 3.5%. About 20% of the watershed is wetlands, with most being classified as "Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetlands." About 15% of the watershed is in the 100-year floodplain of Spanish Creek, and 3% is in a groundwater recharge zone. The soils in this watershed are generally poorly drained and most of the area has a water table depth within 12" of the surface.

The first two stream sample events should be completed and analyzed by the next meeting in April, in order to present those preliminary results. GMC will also begin reviewing and discussing goals and management measures at the April meeting.