

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**September 13, 2021**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its noticed meeting on September 13, 2021, via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Committee members in attendance by county:

**Baker** – Danny Norton

**Camden** – Commissioner Ben Casey, John Myers, Elizabeth King, Jay Smith

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

**Nassau** – Keith Tindall, Dean Woerhle

**Non-voting Members** –

**Others Present** – Mike Griffis

A quorum was present.

**Presentation**

**City of Macclenny Sewer Rehab Project- Mike Griffis and Danny Norton**

Prior to the recent project, the Macclenny Water Treatment Facility processed 700,000 gallons per day. Following heavy rain events, the flow was 1.3 million gallons meaning that the city was unnecessarily treating 600,000 gallons of rainwater that infiltrated the system. Through a series of loans from Florida Department of Environmental Protection's State Revolving Fund, the city has now repaired much of the system.

The rehab project was composed of planning, design, and construction phases. During the \$466,320 planning phase, the city evaluated all lines, laterals, and entry points via visual inspection, remote video, and smoke tests to identify the most decayed areas of the clay, iron, and PVC system. Some lines were over 70 years old. With a map of the lines and manholes most in need of replacement and repair, the city began the design phase (\$437,260). Midtower Engineering of Orange Park FL proposed a menu of different repair options from full replacement to relining and pipe bursting (a trenchless replacement technology) based on the data and map from the planning phase.

During the year-long 1A construction phase, which began in August 2020, 130 manholes and 80,000 feet of lines were repaired or replaced. The city was able to stretch the \$4,011,460 budget to repair more than originally planned because more of the system was repairable using relining as opposed to the more expensive pipe bursting or most costly remove and replace. Well over half of the system has been repaired and Macclenny has applied for funding for phase 1B to complete the project. If funded, the start date for the final phase would begin in the fall of 2022.

At a total cost to date of over \$5 million, the project was well beyond the grasp of a small rural city such as Macclenny. Florida's Rural Economic Development Initiative, funds loan forgiveness based on population, average income, and economic need. Because of liberal state support, the city paid 36% of the cost of the planning phase and 20% of the cost of the design and planning phases so that the \$5 million project cost the city under \$1.1 million. Griffis said that the repairs thus far have made a

difference with the most notable improvement being how fast the system clears the facility load following rain events.

#### **Call to Order and Housekeeping**

Following the presentation, the meeting was called to order. The September agenda and August minutes were approved as amended. The treasurer reported a checkbook balance of \$6540.43.

#### **Old Business**

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

**Baker County Boat Ramp** – No update

**Camden County Access at the Blue Bridge** – no update

**Charlton County Access Points**- Hampton Raulerson is meeting with the Charlton County Health Department concerning the septic tank permit for Traders Hill on Wednesday. No updates on other access points.

##### ***Water Quality***

**Horsepen/Temple Creek 319** – The continued wet weather has not allowed the repair or installation of additional septic systems.

**NPDES permits**- no new or renewed permits in Georgia, no update for Florida

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

**Nassau and Charlton County Stormwater**- no updates

**Georgia Water Council** – no update

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

**Update on No-Wake Zone Nassau County**- Dean will call Mike Mullins regarding the BOCC approval of No Wake Zones that SMRMC suggested and will ask about the expanded idle speed/no wake zone between the 301 bridge and Scott's Landing.

**Camden Co. Resiliency Plan**- Jay Smith spoke with Chuck White and they decided on a quarterly report. The next report will be in October.

**Governing Documents**- Camden and Charlton County BOCC have both approved the revision of the interlocal agreement. Dean will ask Mike Mullins about the status in Nassau County. Danny Norton will check on Baker County. John, Merrill, and James Everett will coordinate getting the revised document signed by the Georgia counties and delivered to the Nassau County Attorney's office.

#### **New Business**

none

#### **Partner Reports**

**Riverkeeper**- Chip reported that Anna Laws had resigned as Riverkeeper to take a position with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Service where she will be working on the rehabilitation of the Crystal River. The annual Gala at White Oak is sold out. There have been no substantive changes in the Twin Pines permit status. EPD sent a letter saying they had tentatively approved the limited swimming segment from a point ten miles east of the mouth of Spanish Creek (Folkston Water Treatment Facility) to a point ten

miles west of the mouth of Catfish Creek (Kingsland Water Treatment Facility). A long trail of formal agency approval remains. There were no updates on Twin Pines or the dock being built through the recently installed living shoreline.

**SJRWMD** – no update

**EPD** – no update

**County Reports**

*Baker-* No update

*Nassau*-No update

*Camden*- Spaceport approval is anticipated by the end of September.

*Charlton*- Merrill said that Courtney Balling (recent WELStrom speaker) was interested in helping investigate the water quality impairment on Clay Branch of Spanish Creek. The Citizens Advisory Committee for the Nine Point Plan had decided to tackle Clay Branch first. The only conclusive DNA test indicated hog and human E. coli in the water but no work was done to identify the source or decide what mitigation strategies to pursue. Chip said to be sure to involve SMRK with any water testing needs. Merrill said she would be sure Chip attended any meetings. They hope to meet this week to begin planning.

**Administrative**

***Covid response***

Due to resurgence of Covid cases in all counties the SMRMC is reviewing the meeting schedule and will be using zoom at least until October. Jay Smith said that he had tentatively penciled us in at White Oak December 6 for a joint meeting with SMRK. That joint meeting will be a follow-up discussion for the UGA presentation and will outline who does what to move the two states and four counties toward consistent regulations affecting the water quality of the St. Marys River.

***File Storage***

Shelley was unable to attend the meeting but will provide her written report on file storage needs before the next meeting.

**Public Comments**

None

Merrill said that Laurie Fowler is tentatively scheduled to deliver the final report for the UGA project on October 4, 2021. The presentation will be to a joint zoom meeting of SMRMC and SMRK.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2021 via zoom\*\*