

St. Marys River Management Committee
Minutes April 4, 2022

Attendees:

Baker: Danny Norton (FL Chair), Ed Barber

Nassau:

Camden: Commissioner Ben Casey, Elizabeth King (Treasurer), Jay Smith

Charlton: Commissioner James Everett, Merrill Varn (Secretary), Chip Campbell (GA Chair)

Other: Courtney Balling (Admin), Emily Floore (St. Marys Riverkeeper)

The meeting was called to order at 7:07

Treasurer's Report - SMRMC has \$7490.43 in checking. Annual fees from Nassau and Camden are in the mail

The April agenda was approved, as well as the March minutes

Old Business

Land Use (including public access)

- Baker County boat ramp, Shoals Park - No news on boat ramp. Ed will meet with the county manager before the next meeting and report on boat ramp and Shoals Park.
- Camden County, Blue Bridge access - Still has to go to court to finalize taking property by eminent domain. Considering a 25 year lease of Temple Creek Boat Ramp in exchange for their replacing ramp.
- Charlton County Traders Hill Park renovations, Camp Pinckney land - RV hookups for electric and septic are installed at Traders Hill. Renovations to bathrooms and pavilion will be soon. No news on Camp Pinckney land acquisition. Still talking to legal.

Water Quality

- Temple/Horsepen/Mallet Creek 319 (Phase 3) - will resume work this summer
- NPDES permits - No new or renewed permits on Georgia side
- Spanish Creek (Clay Branch project) - Going before Charlton BOCC on Thursday to request a hard match via Charlton County hauling dirt. Final meeting for grant on Friday.
- Management Plan Actions - septic think tank- have sent questionnaire to all envi health managers. Waiting for Laurie Fowler to send student reports so that we can begin other spreadsheet.

Water Quantity

- Four County Stormwater Management - Still waiting on the topo map from UGA Center for Geospatial Research to update Charlton County stormwater plan. Nassau county was supposed to have passed their new stormwater update in February, but they had to make some changes and said that now it will be May.
 - Camden Resiliency Plan (River Flooding) - No update.
- Georgia Water Councils - All councils are updating their water plan this year (as they do every five years). Merrill will send presentations and speaker info to Courtney and she will distribute it to the committee. Links to videos are on the website.
 - Coastal Georgia Regional Water Council - Elizabeth attended.
 - Suwanee Satilla Regional Water Council - Merrill attended.

Regulation/Comp Plans

- Nassau County - No Wake Zone applications - Still with legal.
- Charlton County - 100ft overlay - No news. Need Charlton to enact an ordinance for DPH to enforce it.

Administrative

- Migration of Files to Cloud Storage access - SMRMC Google Drive is now well organized and ready to share. Courtney will send a read only link to everyone in the committee and possibly add a read only link to the website.
- Annual Report - Only report left is Nassau which is slated for April 11. It's on the agenda and will be passed out.
- Co-chair signatures - got signatures from Chip and Danny. Courtney converted to PDF.

County Participation and Annual Contribution

- Procedures for soliciting new members - This is also on the April 11th agenda in Nassau. We have 2 vacancies in Nassau currently.
- Annual dues notifications - Checks are in the mail for Nassau and Baker.

New Business

- Website organization - Courtney will try to add a Google Drive link to the website.
- Wildlight Presentation - Rayonier would like to give another presentation on Wildlight in May, so we need everyone here in person. Ed Barber asked that they address the questions he submitted before their last presentation. Courtney will check minutes for Ed's questions from the last time they presented to see if we can get them answered. It was 4-7 years ago. Committee would prefer that questions get answered before another presentation is made.
- Earth Day Table - Chip will represent SMRMC with a table after the cleanup event at White Oak on Earth Day weekend.
- Water conservation proclamation - Committee decided that this would be more appropriate as a county action.
- Location of next meeting - We will meet in person in May. Committee is looking further into laws governing meetings and possibility of shifting to zoom once a quarter if nothing on the Agenda needs to be voted on.

Partner Reports

Riverkeeper- Twin Pines, Redesignation - No news. Emily looks forward to furthering the partnership with SMRMC
SJRWMD/GDNR - Not in attendance

Committee Member County Reports - Courtney will distribute a presentation given by Richard Musgrove on stormwater to committee members. Ed Barber would like to address the committee on differing environmental regulations in GA and FL. This will be added to the agenda for July or beyond.

Public Comment - None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Next Meeting – **May 2, 2022 (Callahan Firehouse)**

