

St. Marys River Management Committee Minutes  
August 7, 2023

Attendees

Baker: Danny Norton (FL chair), Ed Barber, James Croft (Commissioner)

Camden: Rick Frey, John Myers, Jay Smith

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

Nassau:

Other: Jennifer Hogan (guest Charlton County), Courtney Balling (admin by phone).

A quorum was present.

Housekeeping

Meeting was called to order at 7:07pm.

August agenda was approved by committee .

July minutes were approved by committee with spelling correction.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer not present. Admin reached out for a report.

Old Business

Land Use

- Baker County
  - Boat Ramp - No update
  - Shoals Park - closed until further notice due to excessive rainfall and flood damage
- Camden County
  - Blue Bridge Access - No update
  - Temple Creek Landing - nature trail will be temporarily closed for trail maintenance
  - Spaceport - No update
  - Raydient Development - No update
  - City of St Marys Ordinance in agreement with County E&S Ordinance - City Manager responded. Says the agreement with Raydient complies with county ordinance. Admin will reach out to Rick Frey for copy of letter from City Manager. Scott Brazell should review it.
- Charlton County
  - Camp Pinckney - After some discussion, Hampton has asked the Charlton County attorney to draw up the contract.
- Nassau County
  - No update

Water Quality

- NPDES Permits – no new or renewing permits in Camden or Charlton Counties. Folkston will begin updating water treatment facility this winter.
- Spanish Creek (Clay Branch project) – GEPD has asked for a status update from EPA
- Septic Think Tank Follow Up (bacteria) – Spoke to a Deep Creek Plantation contractor but he wasn't any help. Spoke with Farmer Septic Service who said they needed a link for powerpoint or video for facebook page so customers could get answers about septic

maintenance without having to call. Things they especially needed help with were more detailed pumping/inspection guidelines (depending on design, occupants, usage patterns, soil type etc), what can and can't go into septic tanks, and whether you can drive across the tank or drainfield with vehicles weighing certain amounts. Courtney said she had seen something for Georgia and would try to locate it. Merrill will call Michael Godwin to see if Florida has anything like that. Spoke with Terry Ferrell about Temple Creek flyers. They could not use 319 funding for the mailings because Browntown was a subset of solid waste service and the county had promised recipients they wouldn't be targeted in future. He will check with county solid waste since septic maintenance linked to solid waste service to see if flyers can be included periodically with all monthly bills. Black River- no contact. Sent two texts. Committee made a motion and approved a newspaper article in Charlton County Herald on septic maintenance based on the flyer generated by the committee for circulation in Camden County.

- E&S Spreadsheet (sediment) – Baker members will check with Sara Little to see if she has heard anything from staff to whom she sent the spreadsheet.
- FL TMDL Planning - Ed will continue to follow. He said his concern was that Florida didnt have any programs in place to keep clean waterbodies clean.
- GA EPD Comprehensive Nutrient Permitting Strategy (N,P) - no news. Merrill Varn called Tyler and left message.

#### Water Quantity

- Four County Stormwater Management
  - Charlton County Map Layer - Merrill Varn said she misreported at the last meeting. The topo layer is on the webmap and was before the July meeting. SGRC started on the LiDAR based topo maps in late June. Charlton was the first county since they had voiced a need. The topo layer was completed, sent to UGA, and installed on the webmap June 26. The county is having SGRC build a webmap for their internal use so they will not be using SMRMC webmap for county business. That item can come off future agendas though we will follow up periodically to see what progress the county makes with using the map when issuing building permits.
  - Camden County Resiliency Plan - Flea Hill area is #2 on resiliency plan project priority list after White Oak Creek on the Satilla River. We may want to contact Camden every so often to see if Flea Hill grant is in the works since they will need match.
- Georgia Regional Water Councils
  - next meetings are to consider seed grants to implement the 2023 water plans. No meeting notices yet.
- NFRWSP 30 year water plan – No update. John checked online and said that the St. Marys is a low priority project. He will send Merrill a copy of the reference.
- Stormwater Rehab - Macclenny, St. Marys, Kingsland, Folkston, Fernandina - Merrill needs both county and city updates for annual report.

Danny Norton reported that Maclenny had received an 80/20 FDEP grant/loan to complete phase 1B of their sewer rehab project. The \$4.89 million award will repair/replace 29150 LF of sewer pipe and 150 manholes in the downtown core north of US90 and in certain other critical areas including Turkey Creek. They have not yet awarded bids.

## Regulation/Comprehensive Plans

- Nassau County
  - No Wake Zone - FWC unraveled the “the applicant” issue so we are now proceeding with the citizens application. Paul Lore will complete the map and submit the citizens application when he returns. In the meanwhile, Merrill is requesting 1) copies of citations for Georgia 100 ft law at Traders Hill and Camp Pinckney, 2) documentation of designated swimming areas from Charlton, 3) documentation for notification of Charlton County, and 4) information from USACE and USCG about what else we can do to help with Nassau USACE/USCG applications. We may also need a permit from FDEP as owners of submerged land.
- Administrative
  - County appointees/inactive members - Chip will make calls and then send Courtney a draft letter.
  - Admin submitted leave notice to committee

## New Business

- None

## Partner Reports

- SJRWMD – none
- Riverkeeper – nothing happening with redesignation and Twin Pines at the moment.
- GA EPD - none

## County Reports

- none

## Public Comment none

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Next meeting is September 11, 2023 7pm at the Callahan Fire Department.