

St. Marys River Management Committee  
Minutes August 1, 2022

Attendees:

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

Nassau:

Camden: Ben Casey, Rick Frey, John Myers, Jay Smith

Charlton: Merrill Varn (secretary), Chip Campbell (GA chair), Russell Barber, James Everett

Other: Paul Lore (Nassau applicant), Emily Floore (SMRK)

Housekeeping:

Meeting was called to order at 7:19 pm. The August agenda and July minutes were approved as amended. The treasurer delivered the report via email and it was taken as a point of information.

Old Business

Land Use (including public access)

- Baker County boat ramp, Shoals Park
  - no update, the county is pouring pads and doing utility hook up in hopes of attracting two camp hosts for either side of Shoals Park.
- Camden County, Blue Bridge access
  - no update
- Camp Pinckney land
  - Charlton County has met in person with Alexander Land to request donation of 3 acres surrounding Camp Pinckney boat ramp.
- Trader's Hill
  - Traders Hill restrooms still closed waiting for septic tank permit. The permit for the back bathrooms was written for twice the area required so Hampton is having to have it rewritten. There are four septic tanks. The one between the store and the boat ramp has been filled as has the one near the monuments. The only operational tanks are those at the store.

Water Quality

- Temple/Horsepen/Mallet Creek 319 (Phase 3)
  - Scott Brazell said that 20 tanks have been repaired or replaced. The county is evaluating how to maximize the impact of the remaining funds. Scott retired July 29, 2022. The contact for the grant going forward will be Sarah Long. Jay Smith will continue to be the SMRMC liaison. Several of the E coli tests on the upper reaches of Temple Creek were high (1300 and five days later 200). The Riverkeeper is looking into possible sources.
- NPDES permits
  - The Folkston Pond permit is up for renewal. The committee reviewed the application and noticed that the new FC impairment was not included.

Pender Lloyd, City Manager, is checking into the omission. Because there was not time to confirm corrections to the application before the comment period closed August 29, the committee voted to send a comment to EPD regarding the omission.

- Spanish Creek (Clay Branch project)
  - no update
- Septic Think Tank
  - The committee has contacted Black River HOA in Charlton County to see if they would like a septic tank presentation.
- River Corridor/ Land Use/E&S Think Tank
  - no update
- GA EPD Comprehensive Nutrient Permitting Strategy (N,P)
  - Chip Campbell and Rick Frey will attend the August 17, 2022 meeting and report to the committee in September.

#### Water Quantity

- Four County Stormwater Management
  - The Corp of Engineers has completed their study of the flooding issues along Thomas Creek. They will do a presentation August 5, 2022. Paul Lore will attend on behalf of the committee and report back.
  - Charlton topo layer- no update. .
- Georgia Water Councils
  - Coastal Georgia Regional Water Council
    - Coastal Georgia Water Council met July 11, 2022 in conjunction with the Savannah-Upper Ogeechee Water Council. Tonya Bonitatibus gave a presentation on the Savannah Riverkeepers ArcGIS project. There were separate afternoon sessions during which the Coastal Council began discussing any edits to the vision and goals section. The next meeting will be this fall.
  - Suwanee Satilla Regional Water Council
    - no update
- SJRWMD water use estimates
  - Chip will update the letter approved in July.

#### Regulation/Comp Plans

- Nassau County - No Wake Zone applications
  - Merrill Varn will send Paul Lore the information about the No Wake Zones so that he can takeover the follow up.
- Charlton County - 100ft overlay

The Charlton County Commission will begin discussion of codification of the rules associated with the Mountain and River Corridors Act August 4, 2022. Chip has been invited to attend the meeting to answer any question the commissioners might have.

#### Administrative

- Wildlight Presentation
  - Ed Barber said the questions he wrote could be sent without revision.

- Nassau Applicants
  - no updates. Merrill will check with Nassau County. Chip will follow up with Keith Tindall to see if the approval of Bill Cochran and Paul Lore is on the next BOCC agenda.
- Digitizing Files
  - three of the five boxes of records have been sorted and Courtney has a box of files to begin digitizing so that she can provide a cost estimate for the project.

### New Business

- Withdrawal of water from Black Creek
  - Ed Barber reminded members that Black Creek and the St. Marys were both listed on the last revision of the 30 year water plan for SJRWMD and though the St. Marys was not listed this time, Black Creek was again on the list with specific plans to pump up to 10 MGD during rain events to recharge Lake Brooklyn, one of the sandhill lakes in the Etonia Creek chain. Ed said he would speak with the project managers to collect more information and report under SJRWMD water use estimates.

### Partner Reports

#### Riverkeeper- Twin Pines, Redesignation

- Emily reported that the riverkeeper had not been awarded the grant for which they had asked us to write a letter of support last December. She was scheduling a meeting to get advice on how to improve the grant for next year's round. The riverkeeper will apply for redesignation of several segments of the upper river. Emily is particularly interested in the Shoals Park to St. Marys Cove section that she had canoed recently. The riverkeeper is also looking into another grant to remove derelict boats in the lower river. The riverkeeper continues to monitor the proposed Twin Pines mine. Emily invited SMRMC members to participate in upcoming events including the gala in October which will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act.

#### SJRWMD/GDNR

- no update

### Committee Member County Reports

- no updates

Public Comment none

Adjournment 8:44 pm

Next Meeting – **September 5, 2022**