

Saint Marys River Management Committee Minutes  
December 4, 2023

Attendees:

Baker- James Croft (Commissioner, by phone), Danny Norton (FL Chair)

Nassau- Bill Cochran (Treasurer), Earl Tindall

Camden- Ben Casey (Commissioner), John Myers, Rick Frey, Jay Smith

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

Other-

A quorum was present.

The Agenda was approved with the addition of Kingsland Stormwater to New Business.

The Minutes from the November meeting were approved pending the addition of edits from Paul Lore to the Land Use section.

The Treasurer reported that the statement had not been received but since there was no activity, the balance should be \$8291.04.

**Land Use**

Baker-

- Boat Ramp - no news
- Shoals Park- Is reopened when not flooded.

Camden-

- Blue Bridge- no news
- Temple Creek- no news
- Raydient- no news

Charlton-

- Camp Pinckney land- Alexander Land requested minor changes in corner post locations and land reversion language. The requests have been passed along to the Charlton County Attorney and Surveyor.

Nassau- The development off Kings Ferry Rd is under construction. The City of Hilliard received a \$874,000 grant to extend the water main to the subdivision.

**Water Quality**

- NPDES permits- City of Folkston continues to negotiate terms of gap loan.
- Spanish Creek (Clay Branch 319 Grant)- The Y1Q1 Report was filed and accepted by EPD. The Project Steering Committee and Citizens Action Team volunteers are working on recruiting more pumpout volunteers in the target zone, drafting a pre-pumpout questionnaire, circulating a holiday postcard, preparing the bid package for pumpout contractors, and checking legal ownership records for pumpout signups. A pumpout demonstration event is planned for February 24.
- Septic Think Tank- no report

- E&S spreadsheet- Florida lacks a minimum 25' land disturbing activity buffer. Georgia lacks any regulation of N/P. The committee will discuss when both Scott Brazzell and Ed Barber are present.
- FL TMDL Planning- no discussion
- Georgia EPD Comprehensive Nutrient Permitting-  
The revised Phosphorus permitting strategy is nearing completion and will likely be available for comment in early 2024. EPD did not make substantial progress on the numeric nutrient criteria development plan in 2023. Criteria for the plan are derived after evaluating the results from multi-year hydrodynamic water quality models to allow for a wide range of climatic conditions. The criteria can't be used for assessment and 303d listing process until the [Board of Natural Resources](#) officially adopts modifications into our rules, the GA Sec. of State and GA Attorney General's office certifies the rule change, EPA approves the changes, and data has been collected and assessed as part of the biennial (every even year) [water quality assessment](#) process. If changes are made in 2024, they won't be assessed until 2026 at the earliest.

EPD works on water quality criteria and other additions/edits to GA Rule [391-3-6-.03](#) on a three year cycle that is outlined in the Clean Water Act and Federal Regulations ([40 CFR 131](#)) in a process commonly referred to as the Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards. The current Triennial Review period began in 2022 with plans to bring the changes to the Board of Natural Resources later in 2024 for their adoption. Once the WQS amendments are approved at the state level, they are submitted to EPA for approval. EPA must approve standards within 60 days or disapprove them within 90 days.

## **Water Quantity**

### Stormwater Management/Resiliency-

- Baker- no news
- Camden- no news
- Charlton- Still waiting for SGRC to add environmental layers (groundwater recharge and river corridor)
- Nassau- No update
- City Stormwater rehab-
  - Hilliard has received a \$10.6 million grant to upgrade their WWTF to accommodate the new subdivision off Kings Ferry Rd. The total cost of the project is approximately \$12 million.
  - Kingsland- Scott Brazzell sent an email saying that Lee Spell had said that no improvements have been made since the purchase of generators for lift stations. Lee had suggested several grant applications but the City Council had not been able to find an adequate cash match for the projects.
  - Rick Frey is waiting for the final report from the City of St. Marys.

Georgia Water Councils- not scheduled to meet for several months

NFRWSP- The approval of the plan is on the agenda for both Boards of SJRWMD and SRWMD for December 12.

### **Regulatory/Comp Plans**

Nassau County No Wake Zone- Paul Lore sent an email saying that he had met with the county and was working to complete the application.

### **Administrative**

- Inactive County Appointees- Russell Barber indicated that he would renew involvement.
- New Admin- all members will advertise verbally.

### **New Business**

Fishing Tournament Want and Waste Regulations- Sam Williams called to say that Georgia does not have want and waste laws for any game animals. He had always observed fisherman being careful with their catch. He asked Bill Cochran to call him with any questions and said that he could only speak for Georgia. Bill is trying to get in contact with Florida Fish and Wildlife.

### **Partner Reports**

- SJRWMD- None
- Riverkeeper- Sampling has begun for the Clay Branch project. A local volunteer, Ashley Raulerson, will take on the sampling duties beginning in January.

### **Committee Member Reports**

The dates for 2024 meetings were announced and approved. January 8, February 5, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 8, August 5, September 9, October 7, November 4, December 2.

A Nominating Committee for 2024 Officers was approved. Ricky Frey, Keith Tindall, John Myers.

Merrill will send a draft of the annual report before Christmas and asked that all counties return edits so that the report can be approved at the January Meeting.

### **Public Comment**

- None

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm

Next Meeting January 8, 2024 Callahan Fire Department