

St. Marys River Management Committee
Minutes February 7, 2022

Attendees:

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

Camden- Commissioner Ben Casey, Elizabeth King (Treasurer), Rick Frey, John Myers

Charlton- Commissioner James Everett, Merrill Varn (Secretary)

Other- Courtney Balling (joined following vote to hire her as admin)

The Meeting was called to order at 705pm.

Danny Norton reported that he and Chip had interviewed Courtney Balling and recommended her for the admin job. Before he asked her to join the meeting, the committee moved and approved paying her \$15/hr for 12 hours each month with the possibility to rollover unused hours but with total expenditure not to exceed \$2520, including a \$30 travel allowance if meetings are held in person. Shelley will train Courtney this week.

The February agenda was approved with the addition to New Business of changing the Dotster contact person.

The January minutes were approved.

The treasurer reported that the bank balance remains unchanged at \$6540.43.

Courtney joined the meeting at 715pm.

Old Business

Land Use (including Public Access)

Baker- The county continues to work with the state to design an affordable boat ramp at St. Marys Cove. Baker County is revising the rules and signage for Shoals Park; the current draft is attached.

Nassau- no report

Camden- Spaceport is consuming all of the Camden County Attorney's time but he will begin the eminent domain proceedings on the land surrounding the blue bridge access as soon as possible.

Charlton- The bids for the restroom building at Traders Hill are due February 11, 2022. The electric and septic renovations will begin as soon as supplies arrive; the county hopes by March.

Water Quality

Temple/Horsepen Creek 319 Grant (Phase 3)- Two more systems were replaced for a total of nine to date.

NPDES (GA)- There were no new or renewed discharge permits on the Georgia side of the watershed.

Spanish Creek (Clay Branch) 319 Grant- After meeting with Scott Brazell (Camden E&S) and Zach Crews (Charlton Environmental Health Manager), the Homeland City Council decided to

apply for a 319 grant to repair and replace failed septic systems. They decided not to do additional mapping since systems did not need to be permitted to be repaired or replaced and because new systems would be mapped as they were installed. The next meeting is set for February 17, 2022. Courtney Balling is helping write the grant as part of the internship for her PhD in Integrative Conservation at UGA.

Management Plan Actions

Septic Think Tank- The spreadsheet was circulated to the Environmental Health Managers for updates.

Water Quantity

Four County Stormwater

Camden County Resiliency Plan- Chuck White reported that the consultant was about 60% finished with the design of the Resiliency Operations Center.

Georgia Water Councils- Coastal Georgia Regional Water Council is meeting February 24.

Elizabeth King will attend virtually. Suwanee Satilla Regional Water Council is meeting March 9;

Chip Campbell may attend.

Regulation/ Comprehensive Plans

Nassau County No Wake Zone- no report

Overlays- Baker County sent a copy of their St. Marys Overlay Ordinance 2005-55 passed August 15, 2005. It was very similar to the one passed by Nassau County. On December 7, 2002, Chip Campbell and Ken Hase presented a draft resolution supporting the Mountain and Rivers Corridor Act and the subsequent EPD ruling to the Charlton County Board of Commissioners. Charlton County passed the resolution but it may not have been signed and recorded. The clerk is continuing to search.

Administrative

Migration of Files- Shelley has completed the file migration and will resolve the access issues before she turns everything over to Courtney this week.

Annual Report- Charlton Board of Commissioners received the Annual Report February 3. It is scheduled for delivery to Camden County on February 11. It will be presented to Baker County in February also. Merrill will work with Keith Tindall to get the report on the Nassau County agenda.

New Business

County Participation and Annual Contribution- Merrill will ask Amy Bell, Nassau County, about the procedures for soliciting new members. Elizabeth King will send out annual dues notifications.

Partner Reports

SMRK- Twin Pines- EPD has requested additional information from Twin Pines and is awaiting their response.

SJRWMD- no report

GDNR- no report

UGA- Merrill will check with Laurie Fowler again about getting copies of the final reports for the 2021 Law Clinic students. Omicron quarantines delayed completion of the topo layer for the interactive map. The Center for Geospatial Research now estimates it will be loaded by the end of February.

County Reports

Charlton- Okefenokee Adventures is hosting a camping/trash pick up event at Traders Hill the weekend of February 26.

In light of AV constraints at the Callahan Fire Department and COVID uncertainty, the March 7, 2022 meeting will be via Zoom. Shelley or Courtney will advise the Assistant Fire Chief.

The meeting was adjourned at 745pm.