

St. Marys River Management Committee Reports
February 6, 2023

Attendees:

Baker: Ed Barber, James Croft

Nassau: Dean Woehrle, William Cochran, Paul Lore, Keith Tindall

Charlton: Merrill Varn (secretary), Chip Campbell (GA chair)

Camden: Scott Brazell, Ben Casey, Jay Smith

Other: David Downes (observer), Sandra Downes (observer), Courtney Balling (admin), Emily Floore (SMRK), Douglas Conkey (SJRWMD)

Housekeeping:

Meeting was called to order at 7:01

February agenda: approved by committee

January Report: approved by committee

Treasurer's Report: Balance is 6980.03

Old Business

Land Use

- Baker County
 - Boat Ramp, Shoals Park - Still in the process of reconciling design bids with the grant budget
- Camden County
 - Blue Bridge Access - no update
 - Temple Creek Landing - waiting on DNR
 - Spaceport - still held up in GA Supreme Court
 - Raydient Development - no update
- Charlton County
 - Camp Pinckney Land - Alexander Land has approved a 3 acre donation to the county and the county is currently drawing up a contract

Water Quality

- Temple/Horsepen/Mallet Creek 319 (Phase 3) - project is complete and a final report has been filed
- NPDES Permits– no new permits in GA
- Spanish Creek (Clay Branch project) – currently in draft 2 of the scope of work and waiting on a response from EPD
- Septic Think Tank Follow Up (bacteria) – Blackriver HOA may be willing to host us for a talk in late March
- E&S Spreadsheet (sediment) – Camden county info is complete in the spreadsheet. Scott Brazell sent it to admin who will distribute it to other members to finish populating
- GA EPD Comprehensive Nutrient Permitting Strategy (N,P) - Tyler Parsons at EPD reported that a three person team has been tasked with the project. They're beginning with assessing N, P, and chlorophyll A in large lakes and then working upstream and downstream from those. They'll then move to medium sized lakes and so forth. Eventually, estuaries will be assessed in the same way, but this will likely take years

Water quantity

- Four County Stormwater Management
 - Charlton County Map Layer - no update, waiting on UGA
 - Camden County Resiliency Plan - still in progress, more funding needed
 - Water councils
 - Coastal Georgia Regional Water Council – no update
 - Suwanee Satilla Regional Water Council – no update
 - NFRWSP 30 year water plan – William Cochran will reach out for more info
- Regulation/Comp Plans

- Nassau County
 - No Wake Zone - Paul Lore has updated the map and is ready to send to Nassau County. He is also going to make them aware of the Florida Boating Improvement grant
- Charlton County
 - 100 foot overlay - no update

Administrative

- Proposed 2023 meeting dates – approved by committee
- Election of 2023 Officers – William Cochran was elected as treasurer. Chip Campbell and Danny Norton will remain chairs. Merrill Varn remains secretary
- Annual report – Approved by committee. Admin will put on letterhead and distribute to BOCCs

New Business

- Reissuance of General NPDES Permits Nos. GAR100001 and GAR100002 – the committee will submit a comment that they “appreciate the consideration of interstate criteria”
- Twin pines comment period open – Public comment for the Trail Ridge mine opened on January 19 for a 60 day period (March 20 deadline). Two virtual public meetings will be held on 2/21 and 2/23 at 6pm. Registration should be done soon, as space is limited. The committee approved using a draft letter written by Chip Campbell and edited by Merrill Varn to address some main concerns, including issues with water level monitoring (using the Moniak gage vs. Mclhenny), aerosolized salts and timber growth, groundwater depletion in the Okefenokee and upper St Marys during drought periods, the possible need for future water discharge permits, plan alterations that could require a buffer variance from EPD, and other pertinent points from Dr. Rhett Jackson’s report.

Partner Reports

- SJRWMD – Water Conservation month is coming up
- Riverkeeper – no other news

County Report

- Nassau County - Barges carrying loads of cement will be delivering to the port of Fernandina every 6-8 weeks. There has already been an issue with bags breaking and cement dust washing into waterways. Not sure if it will directly impact the St Marys, but Paul Lore will keep the committee updated.

Public Comment None

Meeting was adjourned at 9:07

DRAFT