

St. Marys River Management Committee Minutes
July 10, 2023

Attendees

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

Camden: Scott Brazell, Rick Frey, John Myers, Jay Smith

Charlton: Chip Campbell (GA Chair), Merrill Varn (Secretary)

Nassau: William Cochran

Other: Margo Noehring (Speaker), Quinton White (Speaker), Courtney Balling (Admin by phone)

A quorum was present.

Housekeeping

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

July agenda was approved.

June minutes were approved following typo edits.

Treasurer's Report: \$9303.03 following disbursement of \$477 to Courtney Balling for administrative assistance.

Presentation

Margo Moehring and Quinton White North Florida Regional Council/Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida

In 2016-2017, the group focused on St Marys River and produced the Water Beyond Borders Action Plan. The action plan included three recommendations: a sample Low Impact Development Ordinance, a cross state WQ monitoring database, and a commitment to help organize meetings to address perceived issues. Interested in what they can do to help SMRMC. Can share low impact development sample ordinance and contacts if SMRMC wants to get counties to adopt something like that. Their forte is organizing meetings among various governmental and non governmental groups. Committee members agreed that the major threat to the health of the river is development but no one could identify a useful meeting topic. Committee members saw the largest obstacle to a useful meeting was that most of the counties, especially the inner counties, do not see development as a problem yet. There was extended discussion of differences between states and between coastal and inner counties. A bilateral agreement between the states to work to protect the water quality of the river was also discussed. The committee agreed to continue thinking about possible useful meeting topics.

Old Business

Land Use

- Baker County
 - Boat Ramp - still waiting on retailoring of the project to the size of the grant
 - Shoals Park - no update
- Camden County
 - Blue Bridge Access - mediation in the next two months
 - Temple Creek Landing - no update

- Spaceport - no update
- Raydient Development - Bond issue passed so they can use bond funds. Courtney said that the city of St. Marys had confirmed receipt of our letter asking that they consider an ordinance protecting isolated wetlands. Camden County has given the city a copy of the ordinance. Rick Frey has given the city a copy of the Camden Ordinance. Courtney will email the City another copy of the same ordinance. Rick Frey reported that there is a new Development lead in the Planning Department and spearheading that ordinance will be her responsibility.
- Charlton County
 - Camp Pinckney Land - has been surveyed and the agreement between Alexander Land and Charlton Co has been turned over to the attorneys.
- Nassau County
 - no update on land use

Water Quality

- NPDES Permits – EPD is updating ms4 permitting for military installations which includes Kings Bay. Merrill said that the summary chart of changes mostly concerned report methods. Reports were made stricter by requiring descriptions rather than lists of BMPs.
- Spanish Creek (Clay Branch project) – no update
- Septic Think Tank Follow Up (bacteria) – no update
- E&S Spreadsheet (sediment) – Scott Brazell talked to Sarah Little, County Manager for Baker County. She has forwarded the spreadsheet to her staff to add regulatory details to several cells.
- FL TMDL Planning - Following Ed Barber’s contact with Kevin O’Donnell (WQETP Program Administrator at FDEP), he arranged a zoom meeting for June 16, 2023 to discuss the current Florida TMDL program and to allow SMRMC to share their concerns about the St. Marys River and the Deep Creek tributary in Baker County. Several BMAP, OWP, WAS, and TMDL staff members as well as Ed Barber (SMRMC) and Dana Kahlbaum (SMRK) attended. Mr. O’Donnell also sent a follow up email with links to various parts of DEP website which is excerpted below:
 - There are four statewide assessment lists created every two years: Verified, Delist, Study, and Study List Removals. Only those waterbodies placed on the Verified List are scheduled for TMDL development. The website also includes links to past lists.
[Assessment Lists | Florida Department of Environmental Protection](#)
 - The interactive map in the link below allows the user to customize a map with whatever layers are needed. The linked map has alternative restoration plans, TMDLs, Waters Not Attaining Standards, and BMAPs.
[Water Quality Assessments, TMDLs, and BMAPs \(arcgis.com\)](#).
For directions on how to use the map and add other layers:
[InteractiveMapsPrimer.pdf \(state.fl.us\)](#)
 - For information about the TMDL Prioritization 2.0, including prioritization, existing TMDLs, and maps:
[Total Maximum Daily Loads \(TMDL\) Program | Florida Department of Environmental Protection](#)
 - For background on the BMAPs adopted throughout the state:
[Basin Management Action Plans \(BMAPs\) | Florida Department of Environmental Protection](#)

- To subscribe to FDEP newsletters and updates enter email address at: [Florida Department of Environmental Protection \(govdelivery.com\)](http://govdelivery.com)
- GA EPD Comprehensive Nutrient Permitting Strategy (N,P) - Merrill Varn will call Tyler Parsons in late August for biannual update

Water Quantity

- Four County Stormwater Management
 - Charlton County Map Layer - SGRC received the new Georgia LiDAR data in December 2022 and in late June started extracting data to make 6" contours for each of the 18 counties they serve. Charlton County was completed first and the dataset was sent to UGA June 26. Sergio Bernardes added the topo information as a layer on the St. Marys River web map the same day.
 - Camden County Resiliency Plan - Scott Pippin sent an email saying that UGA was facilitating a group working with Kings Bay to develop strategies to foster the beneficial use of dredge material in the region. Also Carl Vinson Institute would love to engage more with the SMRMC and the county if there are opportunities for additional engagement around resilience planning. Ben Carswell is the UGA faculty member working directly with coastal installations.
- Georgia Regional Water Councils
 - Suwannee Satilla Water Council will meet again in late August to consider seed grant applications.
 - The Coastal Water Council met June 6. Chip Campbell attended and said that in reading the plan in preparation for the meeting he was impressed by the detail and effort that had gone into updating the plan.
- NFRWSP 30 year water plan – we need to see if /where we are on the withdrawal list and write a letter concerning the size of the watershed if we are on the list.

Regulation/Comprehensive Plans

- Nassau County
 - No Wake Zone - Chip will ask Brandy Carvalho (Director of Nassau County Managers Office and board member of SMRK) if she can figure out where the problem is with moving the ordinance/application along.
- Charlton County
 - 100 foot overlay - on the website (Chapter 130 Environment Article IV River Corridors) ! can come off the agenda!
- Administrative
 - no report

New Business

- County Appointees - need to address inactive members in Baker, Charlton and Nassau.

Partner Reports

- SJRWMD – none
- Riverkeeper – quiet month. nothing specific to report.
- GA EPD - none

County Reports

- none

Public Comment none

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm