

St. Marys River Management Committee Minutes
June 5, 2023

Attendees:

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

Nassau: William Cochran

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

Camden: Jay Smith, Scott Brazell, Ben Casey

Other: Courtney Balling (admin)

Housekeeping:

Meeting was called to order at 7:03

June agenda was approved by committee

May report was approved by committee

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$9780.03

Old Business

Land Use

- Baker County
 - Boat Ramp - no update
 - Shoals Park - no update
- Camden County
 - Blue Bridge Access - still waiting on judge
 - Temple Creek Landing - deeded to dnr. work will start next year
 - Spaceport - no update
 - Raydient Development - Courtney will resend letter to St. Marys
- Charlton County
 - Camp Pinckney Land - Hampton scheduled survey last week. May be done by now. Attorneys from both sides are drawing up agreement.
- Nassau County
 - no update

Water Quality

- NPDES Permits – no new or renewing permits posted in St. Marys River basin in past month for Camden or Charlton, not tracking Florida
- Spanish Creek (Clay Branch project) – no news. EPD sent the grant to EPA in mid-March. EPD says EPA can take up to six months to return comments on awarded grants but that sometimes it is back within weeks. It just depends on the workload at EPA. I reminded Homeland that they could not count any work associated with the June 10 event as match unless the contract had been signed.
- Septic Think Tank Follow Up (bacteria) – At Septic Think Tank meeting in June 2022, EH Managers recommended presentation re care protocol and group pumpout options to any HOAs having properties with river frontage. Black River- nothing new maybe July; Deep Creek Plantation- Sabrina Robertson (Nassau Co Public Relations) called Building Department and got contact for HOA president and building contractor who has pulled all permits to date. have called HOA 3x. no reply

- E&S Spreadsheet (sediment) – Scott Brazell has been able to talk to all counties but Baker. James Croft will follow up with Sara Little at the next commission meeting and ask her to reach out
- FL TMDL Planning - Ed Barber has a meeting scheduled with EPD to find out where they are in the process of updating TMDLs and who is on the committee overseeing the process
- GA EPD Comprehensive Nutrient Permitting Strategy (N,P) - no Georgia news; will call Tyler Parsons in late August for biannual update

Water quantity

- Four County Stormwater Management
 - Charlton County Map Layer - Hampton Raulerson (Charlton Co Administrator) has received the contour layer based on the new state LiDAR dataset and has sent it to UGA Center for Geospatial Research
 - Camden County Resiliency Plan - Includes multiple projects, and two in particular may be of advantage to the river. Unclear how the county plans to fund them. Scott will follow up
- Georgia Regional Water Councils
 - Suwannee Satilla met May 24 to review comments on the plan. All accepted changes were typos and minor corrections. Several comments requesting incorporation of water use by proposed agricultural and industrial land uses were not accepted because regional water plans are based on projections from currently permitted uses and do not include proposed uses. Once permitted, land uses will be included in future projections; the next modelling cycle is 2028. The Council also heard updates from Suwannee Water Management District on their minimum flow and minimum water level program, USACE on the proposed reconstruction Lake Beatrice dam, and EPD. Suwannee Satilla will meet again in late August.
 - The Coastal Water Council will meet June 6. Scott Brazell will attend.
- NFRWSP 30 year water plan – Outreach and collection of public input will continue through the summer. Plan will go to board for approval in the fall.

Regulation/Comprehensive Plans

- Nassau County
 - No Wake Zone - no update. Chip Campbell will reach out to Hupp.
- Charlton County
 - 100 foot overlay - submitted to municode but not on website yet. Hampton checking on it.
- Administrative

New Business

- County Appointees - The committee needs to inform inactive members that they will need to be reinstated by the county if they wish to remain on the committee. Admin will refer to bylaws and send a draft email to Chip Campbell for approval. We'll need new members from Charlton County

Partner Reports

- SJRWMD – none
- Riverkeeper – No update on Twin Pines. Held a meeting to discuss revitalizing the river's sturgeon project
- GA EPD - none

County Reports

- HB 1379 and SB1632 passed in FL and Bill Cochran recommends reading it. Admin will share with committee

Public Comment none

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12