

St. Marys River Management Committee
Minutes June 6, 2022

Attendees:

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

Nassau: Keith Tindall

Camden: John Myers, Jay Smith, Elizabeth King (Treasurer), Elizabeth King (Treasurer)

Charlton: Chip Campbell (GA Chair), Merrill Varn (Secretary) Other: Courtney Balling (Admin), Emily Floore (SMRK), Todd Riley (Nassau Applicant), Bill Cochran (Nassau Applicant)

Housekeeping

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm. June's agenda was approved, as were the April minutes and May meeting report. Treasurer Elizabeth King reported that SMRMC has \$8593.43 in the account, and all four counties have paid their annual dues.

Elizabeth informed the committee that she will be resigning as treasurer due to health concerns. Merrill will take over duties in the interim.

Todd Riley and Bill Cochran, two of the Nassau applicants, were in attendance and introduced themselves. Chip Campbell provided them with an overview of the SMRMC and its efforts.

Old Business

Land Use (including public access)

- o Baker County boat ramp, Shoals Park
 - A new more affordable design bid is waiting on approval with the granting agency. We are likely a number of months away from any progress
 - No news on Shoals Park
- o Camden County, Blue Bridge access
 - Waiting on a judge's order to transfer ownership of the property
- o Charlton County Traders Hill Park renovations, Camp Pinckney land
 - Traders Hill was finished last month
 - Camp Pinckney land donation is still under review by company attorneys

Water Quality

- o Temple/Horsepen/Mallet Creek 319 (Phase 3)
 - Scott is retiring at the end of July. Two more systems were replaced this month, the total is now 18 with a goal of 22 or 23.
- o NPDES permits
 - No new or renewed permits in Georgia counties
- o Spanish Creek (Clay Branch project)
 - Still waiting on a decision from GA EPD
- o Septic Think Tank
 - Meeting on June 14 at 9:30 at Callahan fire dept.
 - The committee approved paying Courtney for 6 hrs to attend and take minutes (\$90)

- o River Corridor/ Land Use/E&S Think Tank
 - No progress, Merrill will try to call Conn Cole before July 11

Water Quantity

- o Four County Stormwater Management
 - Merrill and Courtney are still working to set a meeting with Sergio to discuss the layers for the Charlton stormwater map
 - Still need final approval date for Nassau county stormwater ordinance, Merrill will call Katie Peay
- o Georgia Water Councils
 - o Coastal Georgia Regional Water Council - no news
 - o Suwanee Satilla Regional Water Council - meeting June 9 in Valdosta and can be joined by Teams from 10-2. Merrill may join by Teams if Chip cannot attend..

Regulation/Comp Plans

- o Nassau County - No Wake Zone applications
 - Still in legal.
- o Charlton County - 100ft overlay
 - County administrator is working on it and will introduce it at next Commissioners meeting this Thursday

Administrative

- o Wildlight Presentation
 - Dan Roach reached out to Chip and he will get back in touch. Committee is requesting written answers to the questions posed before inviting them to speak

County Participation and Annual Contribution

- All dues are in
- Nassau Co advertised positions and Fernandina Observer wrote article in paper. We had five applicants.

New Business

- o Review Nassau applicants
 - o Keith and Dean will follow up with Todd, Bill , and Paul as well as county commission in Nassau

Partner Reports

Riverkeeper- Twin Pines, Redesignation

- The Cumberland inlet project has been Emily's main concern. She hosted a tour of the rookery, and asked about no wake signs because of calving of wright wales, manatee, and sturgeon. She's also pushing for more greenspace around the rookery.
- Chesser Island Landfill has applied to double their waste intake per day (3000 to 6000lbs) possibly because of the closure of other unlined landfills
- Twin Pines - A 20 million dollar project for Charlton County ecotourism has been shortlisted, and Senator Ossof has also been advocating for the swamp and against the mining project.
- The Army Corps of Engineers has revoked their decision to approve the mine due to their failure to heed a request for consultation by the Muskogee (Creek) Nation. The Army Corps says that Twin Pines may reapply; Twin Pines says they intend to do so.

SJRWMD/GDNR

- None

Committee Member County Reports

- None

Public Comment
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00

DRAFT