

St. Marys River Management Committee
Minutes May 2, 2022

Attendees:

Baker: none

Nassau: Dean Woehrle, Keith Tindall

Camden: John Myers, Rick Frey, Jay Smith

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

A quorum was not present so no business was conducted. Below are reports delivered at the meeting.

SMRMC has a balance of \$7893.43 in the checking account.

Old Business

Land Use (including public access)

- Baker County boat ramp and Shoals Park- no report
- Camden County Blue Bridge- the county is trying to proceed outside of eminent domain because of estate concerns and difficulties getting in touch with all hiers
- Charlton County- Building renovations at the Traders Hill County Park should begin this week

Water Quality

- Temple Horsepen Mallet Creek 319- two more systems were installed in April bringing the total to 16.
- NPDES permits- there were no new or renewed permits in the St. Marys River Basin on the Georgia side, no report Florida side
- Spanish Creek (Clay Branch Project)- 319 grant application was submitted April 28, Merrill thanked Courtney for at least 100 hours of assistance in preparing the application as part of her internship for her PhD at University of Georgia.
- Management Plan Actions- Merrill distributed the notes from the Dr. Fowler's December 2021 presentation
- Septic Think Tank- Merrill reported that the Septic Think Tank was scheduled to meet June 14 to discuss problems and opportunities for septic maintenance in the four counties. Merrill pointed out that we needed to get Baker and Nassau county members to look into the Deep Creek E. coli impairment. Chip Campbell asked that we research existing septic management utilities/groups. The committee discussed the potential for setting up another group to research the comparative state regulations on urban contaminants such as N and P. Though there are no N and P impairments on the St. Marys River, they could become problems if the counties do not have codes in place to prevent contamination by runoff from future residential communities. Chip said he thought Ed Barber was presenting that information in his July talk.

- River Corridor/ Land Use/E&S Think Tank- John Myers suggested that Conn Cole, who previously worked in Emergency Management and was E&S code enforcement officer for Camden County, now the Floodplain Manager (Florida Division of Emergency Management) would be a good person to help begin setting up parameters for a state and county spreadsheet.

Water Quantity

- Four County Stormwater Management- no report on Nassau County revision. UGA had questions about the format for the elevation layer to help with Charlton County stormwater plans. Merrill and Courtney will respond shortly. Camden Resiliency Plan has a public meeting scheduled May 3, 2022. Jay Smith will attend.
- Georgia Water Councils- no meetings currently scheduled.

Regulations/Comp Plans

- Nassau County- No Wake Zone Dean Woehrle sent Thomas Ford a text asking for a progress report. Dean will also contact the County Manager's office.
- Charlton County- Chip Campbell is on the May 21 Board of Commissioners agenda to present the need to codify the 100 ft septic setback as part of a river overlay.

Administrative

- Annual Reports- Nassau County distributed the 2021 SMRMC annual report as a point of record at their April 11, 2022 Board of Commissioners meeting. All Boards of Commissioners have now officially received the report.
- Wildlight presentation- Courtney was able to find the questions the committee had submitted to Rayonier following the last Wildlight presentation. The questions were never answered. The questions were re-submitted with an invitation to make another presentation as soon as the answers were discussed by the committee.

County Participation and Annual Dues

- New Members- Dean Woehrle will call the County Manager's Office to find out whether the two vacancies for Nassau County had been advertised. Al Manning's and Cory Black's vacancies have never been filled.
- Dues- Dean Woehrle will call the County Manager's Office for status on payment of 2022 dues.

New Business

- Location of next meeting- John Myers said that because the state of Georgia was still under a state of emergency (recovery) that virtual meetings were allowed. Under normal conditions, any member of a committee may attend up to two meetings virtually each year provided there is a physical quorum present. The current State of Emergency runs through May 14 and can be extended by the Georgia governor's office as necessary. Keith Tindall read the statement from the Florida governor's office which said that non profit organizations could continue to meet virtually through November 2022 provided doing so did not impair their ability to conduct business or continue work. John Myers remarked that we had

conducted business better and more efficiently virtually. If Georgia extended the State of Emergency, the committee could meet virtually in June.

Partner Reports

- Riverkeeper- Approximately 400 volunteers picked up 15 tons of trash, which is estimated by numbers of bags and weight of large items. 339 volunteers attended the celebration at White Oak Plantation. Last year, the Riverkeeper was successful in getting two segments of the river redesignated as swimming; one in the upper river and one in the middle river. The section between the two segments is not eligible because of the City of Folkston wastewater treatment facilities. Chip Campbell reported that the Riverkeeper is reapplying for the segment up river that was denied last year because of agricultural land use, especially on the Florida side. The Riverkeeper will include information about decrease in number of chicken houses following Tyson Products terminating relations with area farmers. Chip Campbell also reported that there was no change in the Twin Pines permit. GA EPD requested additional studies about onsite water management.
- SJRWMD/GDNR- no reports

County Reports

- None