

Saint Marys River Management Committee Minutes  
February 5, 2024

**Attendees:**

Baker- James Croft (Commissioner, by phone), Danny Norton (FL Chair)

Nassau- Bill Cochran (Treasurer), Paul Lore (by phone)

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

Charlton- Chip Campbell (GA Chair, by phone), Merrill Varn (Secretary), Russell Barber

Other- Jennifer Hogan (visitor)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05PM. A quorum was present.

The Agenda was approved.

The Minutes from the January meeting were approved.

The Treasurer reported that there had been no change in the balance of \$8291.04. He said that all dues notices had been sent.

**Land Use**

Baker-

- Boat Ramp - no news
- Shoals Park- closed due to flooding.

Nassau-

- Paul Lore is closely following the controversial sale of two parcels owned by the port and the development within the CRA, specifically the reconstruction of Atlantic Seafood and its impact on access to the boat ramp. He was told the new design would not change ramp access.
- The plans for a 19-unit boutique hotel made from shipping containers has been approved.
- Fernandina is applying for a federal grant to move the channel north of the Marina

Camden-

- Blue Bridge- no news
- Temple Creek- no news
- Raydient- Rick Frey continues to work with City of St. Marys to get isolated wetland protection for the large wetland on the Raydient property

Charlton-

- Camp Pinckney land- Alexander Land requested minor changes in corner post locations and land reversion language. The new survey has been completed and has been forwarded to the county attorney to make the changes to the deed.

## **Water Quality**

NPDES permits- No new or renewing permits were introduced for Georgia.

Spanish Creek (Clay Branch 319 Grant)- After additional recruiting in Zone A south of Bowery, 35 households have signed up to have their septic tanks pumped. All questionnaires have been returned. The City of Homeland has signed a contract for septic pumping with Southern Septic Pumping. With help from Reid Jackson (EPD), the PSC roughly outlined the pumpout schedule taking into account the status of WQ data for the two creeks as well as the distance of septic systems from them. The third newsletter with information about how a septic system works and an invitation to Field Day was distributed to all households the first week in February.

Septic Think Tank- no news

E&S spreadsheet- Scott Brazell said that he had looked over Camden and Charlton Co environmental ordinances and Camden listed fertilizer as a pollutant, but Charlton did not. He thought the listing could allow regulations to keep nutrients from reaching waterways and suggested that Charlton members check to see why their code does not have the same wording. John Myers said that the Camden code is what is required by the state. Merrill Varn said that she was planning to schedule a meeting with the County Administrator in a few weeks to go over recommendations and would broach the subject then.

Deep Creek Impairment (WBID 2196)- Merrill said she had asked Michael Godwin whether he was aware of any sources for the impairment. He said he had received no complaints and that SMRMC should check with the monitoring division of F-DEP. According to the verified list, the impairment is due to a sample size of under 20 taken in 2019 with at least five temporally independent samples not meeting criterion. The priority for a TMDL is listed as low.

FL TMDL Planning- no discussion

Georgia EPD Comprehensive Nutrient Permitting- no update

## **Water Quantity**

Stormwater Management/Resiliency-

- Baker- no news
- Nassau- Both sides of Alachua St are being renovated to improve stormwater drainage.
- Camden- John Myers reported that Chuck White (EMS Camden) was not aware of any schedule to update the Camden County Resiliency Plan. He will call Scott Pippin and Ashby Worley. He also said that the occupation date for the resiliency center had been postponed until June 1.
- Charlton- The Charlton County webmap is up and running and staff training will begin soon.
- City Stormwater rehab- no updates

Georgia Water Councils- not scheduled to meet for several months

### **Regulatory/Comp Plans**

Nassau County No Wake Zone- Paul Lore is filling out the application.

Fishing Tournament/ Wanton Waste Regulations FL- Bill Cochran contacted David Waldo Florida Fish and Wildlife officer Hilliard area. Like Georgia, Florida does not have Wanton Waste Laws. The only laws FWC officers enforce are licensing and boating regulations. The FWC officer had not seen examples of unnecessary waste at tournaments and suggested that Bill contact the FWC biologist with additional questions.

### **Administrative**

New Admin- no update.

Annual Report- The report was emailed to all counties. Members should schedule presentations for February. Merrill Varn presented to Charlton Co February 1. She requested that BOCC dedicate funding to cleaning, mowing, and patrolling Old River Access, discuss ways they can promote proper septic maintenance, document nutrient content of runoff, and use the webmap to produce a vulnerability map. John Myers will present to Camden Feb 8. Paul Lore will try to see if he is allowed to do a brief presentation. Currently the report is on the consent agenda. Sabrina Robertson requested that both she and Amy Bell receive copies of the report for 2024.

### **New Business**

County Projects- no discussion

### **Partner Reports**

SJRWMD- None

Riverkeeper-

- The Clean Up is April 27, 2024
- Twin Pines has submitted their revised MLUP. It is on the EPD website.
- Clean 13 Award for Horsepen Creek Project is April 30 in Monroe GA
- Legislation of concern was sent in most recent SMRK newsletter

### **Committee Member Reports**

None

### **Public Comment**

None

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm

Next Meeting March 4, 2024 Callahan Fire Department