

St. Marys River Management Committee Minutes

January 13, 2025

Attendees:

Baker - Danny Norton (FL Chair)

Nassau - Bill Cochran (Treasurer), Paul Lore

Camden - Commissioner Ben Casey, Rick Frey

Charlton - Chip Campbell (GA Chair), Commissioner James Everett, Merrill Varn (Secretary)

Other - Claire Feazel (SMRMC Admin), Cori Hermle (SJWMD, by phone), Jenn Klindt

- Meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m. A quorum was present.
- The January Agenda was approved.
- Minutes from the December Meeting were approved.
- Treasurer's Report: \$10,269.73

Old Business/Reports

Land Use (including public access)

Baker -

- Boat Ramp - No update.
- Shoals Park - No update.
- Possibility of a new 2,000 acre and 2,500 home subdivision is in the very early stages of the development process in Macclenny. This development would be north of I-10 to the Baker County/Nassau County line

Nassau -

- 400 acres of marsh land has been donated to the North Florida Land Trust near Egan Creek.

Camden -

- Blue Bridge - Decision on property finalization tentatively scheduled for March.
- Temple Creek - Closed for construction. Closure began in December 2024. GA-DNR anticipates it will open in Spring 2025. The Board of Commissioners accepted a grant for boardwalk repairs.
- Raydient - Concern remains surrounding adequate water retention on site.

Charlton -

- Charlton Camp Pinckney County Park Boat Ramp - No update.

Water Quality

- NPDES- no update.
- Spanish Creek 319- Five septic systems have been identified as needing repair. City of Homeland is trying to get at least one completed by the end of January but well abandonment, lack of sand, a gas line, and back orders on tanks are causing delays. The Q6 flyer has been printed and cut and will be distributed by the end of the month. SMRK continues with sampling.
- Septic Think Tank- Currently on hold.
- E&S spreadsheet
 - Florida does not have a 25' buffer to surface waters only to wetlands. Nassau County requires grading permits for all land disturbance activities. The Stormwater Department has asked the Building and Planning Department whether permits along surface waters or county stormwater ditches could require silt fencing etc. Committee Secretary Merrill Varn sent a copy of a Georgia buffer variance to the Stormwater Department.
 - N/P- Waiting on White Oak to finish their BMP manual. Will need to design educational flyers for landscapers.

- FL TMDL Planning- No update.
- Georgia EPD Comprehensive Nutrient Permitting- No update.
- Folkston WasteWater Treatment Plant- No update.

Water Quantity

- Four County Stormwater
 - Baker County - No update.
 - Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) - Resilient First Coast Collaborative Meeting (includes Baker and Nassau Counties)
 - Nassau County - Still working on vulnerability asset mapping - seeking to develop two plans, for east and west of I-95 - using information from Resilient Florida Plan
 - Camden County - Georgia Conservancy - working to identify grant opportunities
 - St. Marys Raydient Development - No new information. Taylor Morrison plans to build 1,300 single family homes and a golf course.
 - Charlton County- Vulnerability and Stormwater- EPD's Base Level Engineering Map is completed and is being uploaded to the online viewer. It will be available online within a month. A link to the data has been sent to Charlton County. Committee Secretary Merrill Varn waiting to discuss with new County Administrator, Glenn Hull.
- City Stormwater rehab -
 - Folkston Stormwater improvements- no plans to apply for funding until Waste Water Treatment Plant is complete
 - Macclenny - Working on Phase II of sewer lines replacement or re-lining. Current phase is \$4.8 million and should be completed in Summer 2025.
 - Updates needed for Hilliard, Kingsland, and St. Marys
- Georgia Water Councils - No update.

Regulatory/Comp Plans

- Nassau County No Wake Zone- Progress continues. Language needs to be in resolution format. Continuing to work with local officials
 - At the Ralph Simmons LMR, we discussed the White Sand Landing no wake Zone with FFS and SJRWMD. Both said that they would support the no wake zone and would file the application if needed. Merrill asked Paul to find out whether SMRMC or property owner/manager should file the application. We also need to be sure that there is no cost to SJRWMD or RSSF.
- Charlton County Comprehensive Plan - Charlton County launched their comprehensive planning process in early November and held the second meeting in December. The final meeting will be January 21, 2025.
- Fishing Tournament/ Want Waste Regulations FL- no update.

Administrative

- Nassau Annual Report- no update.

County Projects

- Boating Safety/Water Quality signs at Boat Ramps- Goal is to educate the boaters from one state on the rules in the other state. It was suggested that the first signs focus on the No Wake information for the two states. Draft sign is available.

- Proposed Locations include: Baker County, Ralph Simmons, Kings Ferry, Traders Hill, Camp Pickney, Temple Creek, and St. Marys
 - At the Ralph Simmons LMR, we discussed placing one of the no wake info signs at the Scott's Landing Boat Ramp. FFS and SJRWMD were amenable and said to get in touch with them when the time came to install.
 - Committee members will talk to each BOC about the signs when presenting the annual report.

New Business

- Annual Report: Motion to approve draft by Chip Campbell and seconded by Rick Frey - Passed Unanimously
- Nominating Committee Report: sharing slate of officers for 2025
 - Recommended Chip Campbell of Charlton County to serve as Georgia Chair and Danny Norton of Baker County to serve as the Florida Chair
 - Recommended Merrill Varn of Charlton County to serve as Secretary
 - Recommended Bill Cochran of Nassau County to serve as Treasurer
 - Motion to approve by Chip Campbell and Seconded by Rick Frey - Passed Unanimously
- Review/Revise By-Laws - Need to reflect the same language in the 2021 Interlocal agreement.

Partner Reports

- St. Marys Riverkeeper (SMRK) - no update
- St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) -
 - Funding cycles are open for projects, including for alternative water supply.

Committee Member Reports

None

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Next Meeting February 3, 2025 Callahan Fire Department.