

Saint Marys River Management Committee Minutes  
January 8, 2024

**Attendees:**

Baker- James Croft (Commissioner, by phone), Ed Barber  
Nassau- Bill Cochran (Treasurer), Earl Tindall, Dean Woerhle  
Camden- Ben Casey (Commissioner), John Myers, Jay Smith  
Charlton- Chip Campbell (GA Chair), Merrill Varn (Secretary), Russell Barber  
Other-

The meeting was called to order at 7:11PM. A quorum was present.

The Agenda was approved.

The Minutes from the December meeting were approved with the addition of an EPD update about the G-EPD N/P permitting strategy.

The Treasurer reported that there had been no change in the balance which was still \$8291.04. He will confirm dues contacts for the counties and send dues notices this week.

**Land Use**

Baker-

- Boat Ramp - The county is checking with the state on a prioritized line item approach in order to break the cycle of scope change and higher than projected bids.
- Shoals Park- closed due to flooding.

Camden-

- Blue Bridge- no news
- Temple Creek- no news
- Raydient- no news

Charlton-

- Camp Pinckney land- Alexander Land requested minor changes in corner post locations and land reversion language. The county is waiting for documents from the Surveyor.

Nassau- no news.

**Water Quality**

- NPDES permits- City of Folkston expects GEFA to consider their gap loan this month. No new or renewing permits were introduced for Georgia.
- Spanish Creek (Clay Branch 319 Grant)- 32 households have signed up to have their septic tanks pumped. Everyone has been sent a questionnaire to gather info for WELSTRoM and to help prioritize the pumpout list. The pumper bid was issued December 15 and due January 8. The bids will be opened January 9 the lowest suitable bidder is slated for CC approval January 11. With help from a CAT volunteer, City staff

sent a newsletter (Holiday postcard with tips) December 8. SMRK took the 2nd water sample January 3; results were all within acceptable range. Both control sites were 0; all others had some E. coli. Water temps similar to the previous sample.

- Septic Think Tank- Charlton Co Herald will do a septic maintenance article in conjunction with 319 Pumpout Field Day in late February.
- E&S spreadsheet- Florida lacks a minimum 25' land disturbing activity buffer. Georgia lacks any regulation of N/P. The committee discussed the possibility of adding a 25' construction buffer to the Baker Co Overlay. James Croft will check with the rest of the commissioners. Merrill Varn presented a mock up of N/P BMPs for residents living in the river corridor in Charlton Co. based on BMP's from the town of Tavares FL and the N/P ordinance from Miami Dade Co. Ed Barber will discuss with IFAS for edits.
- FL TMDL Planning- no discussion
- Georgia EPD Comprehensive Nutrient Permitting- no update

### **Water Quantity**

Stormwater Management/Resiliency-

- Baker- no news
- Camden- no news
- Charlton- Still waiting for SGRC to add environmental layers (groundwater recharge and river corridor)
- Nassau- No update
- City Stormwater rehab- no updates

Georgia Water Councils- not scheduled to meet for several months

NFRWSP- The plan was approved by the Boards of SJRWMD and SRWMD December 12.

### **Regulatory/Comp Plans**

Nassau County No Wake Zone- no update

Fishing Tournament/ Wanton Waste Regulations FL- Bill is trying to get in contact with Florida Fish and Wildlife.

### **Administrative**

- Inactive County Appointees- Charlton Co reappointed all four members. Russell Barber switched jobs and is now able to attend.
- New Admin- Keith Tindall said that he would check with a recently retired admin to see if she was interested.
- Elections- The committee approved the continuation of the current officers (Danny Norton and Chip Campbell- Co-Chairs, Merrill Varn Secretary, Bill Cochran Treasurer)
- Annual Report- Merrill Varn asked for additional information concerning land use in Nassau Co. The committee decided to include FL impairments south through the Nassau River and its tributaries (2161, 2148) and Amelia (2124A) and Lofton (2129) Estuaries (but not the South Amelia Estuary (2149 and 2174). Reports for Amelia Island will also stop at the same line roughly between WBIDs 2124A and the 2149A (roughly

Crane Island). Merrill clarified that there are two different Deep Creeks on the FL 303d impaired waters list. One (WBID 2245) is at the Baker- Nassau line and is impaired for lead and iron, possibly historical contamination from road runoff. The other (WBID 2196), further north in Nassau County off FL state rd 121 between Crawford and Bryceville west of the Deep Creek cemetery, is impaired for fecal coliform. Both Keith and Dean were familiar with the area. Merrill hypothesized that FL would not devote 319 funds to the northern section of the state when the problems were so much greater elsewhere. She suggested that SMRK might consider doing additional sampling in the future and that we look more closely at the area. She will call Mike Godwin to ask what he thought the source might be.

### **New Business**

none

### **Partner Reports**

- SJRWMD- None
- Riverkeeper- no update

### **Committee Member Reports**

### **Public Comment**

- None

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm

Next Meeting February 5, 2024 Callahan Fire Department