

St. Marys River Management Committee Minutes  
November 7, 2022

Attendees:

Baker: Danny Norton (FL chair)  
Nassau: Earl K. Tindall, Bill Cochran  
Camden: Scott Brazzell, Jay Smith, Ben Casey  
Charlton: Merrill Varn (secretary), James Everett  
Other: Courtney Balling (admin), Doug Conkey (SJRWMD)

Housekeeping:

Reports began at 7:00 pm, meeting called to order 7:47 when a quorum was present  
November agenda: approved by committee  
September minutes: approved by committee  
Treasurer's Report: one disbursement of \$477 to pay Administrative Assistant. Balance is now \$7457.03

Old Business

Land Use (including public access)

- Baker County
  - Boat ramp, Shoals park - some confusion about what included in new plan needs to be cleared up re: what was removed from the Phase 1 plan and what remains to be done. Committee will follow up.
- Camden County
  - Blue Bridge access - Still waiting on judge's action
  - Temple Creek boat landing - property has been deeded to DNR and they will replace the ramp and parking area. Not sure about the timeline.
  - Spaceport - waiting on Georgia Supreme Court decision
- Charlton County
  - Camp Pinckney Land - Alexander Land willing to donate land. Still some concern about fires and illegal dumping
  - Trader's Hill - work on septic tanks should start any day now

*Water Quality*

- Temple/Horsepen/Mallet Creek 319 (Phase 3)
  - They've replaced the last system that was on the list. There's a little bit of money left, County will repair/replace another system if they can. If not, they'll return the money to EPD. Committee suggested they may be able to use the remainder to collapse and fill the tank for the old bathrooms.
  - Once the final report is filed, committee should suggest that Camden BOC contact EPD to begin de-listing process. Need data proving that no more than 10% of samples are above criteria. Need to ask Emily to check data.
- NPDES permits
  - No new discharge permits. Sent a letter several months ago to EPD about discharge for Folkston WWTF not including the new TMDL set for Clay

Branch EPD revised all discharges to include new TMDLs resulting from 2022 review.

- There are two groundwater withdrawal permits, but there's no indication of a discharge permit for either yet. Twin Pines may need one eventually. Plug Power is going to be creating green hydrogen and nothing will be released into ground or water. Plug Power can be taken off of the watch list for now.
- Spanish Creek (Clay Branch project)
  - Homeland received the first draft of scope of work today. Haven't looked it over yet.
- Septic Think Tank
  - Black River HOA still not responsive. Merrill still working on it
- E&S Spreadsheet (sediment)
  - Scott said that on the FL side, wetlands are protected when development occurs but there are no buffer laws. He asked what parameters need to be included on spreadsheet so he can complete it. We're interested in how GA and FL protect the river re: sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus. Scott will have something for us to look at next month's meeting.
- GA EPD Comprehensive Nutrient Permitting Strategy (N,P)
  - When water flows from state to state it must be delivered to comply with receiving state's regulations. So essentially, GA has to follow FL rules for cross boundary waters even though it's not on paper.

#### *Water Quantity*

- Four County Stormwater Management
  - Nassau County - Thomas Creek - no more updates needed. It's outside the current committee purview. Need to update SMRK.
  - Charlton County - Map Layer - no update.
  - Camden County - Resiliency plan - no update. County supposed to include us in meetings whenever they start up. Jay Smith will try to get the info for next month so we can include it in annual report.
- Georgia Water Councils
  - Coastal - will meet nov 15 from 10:30-2. Scott Brazzell will attend virtually
  - Suwannee-Satilla - met Nov.2. Aiming to have plan finished by end of year. Theirs is a simpler water supply plan compared to other councils because agriculture is only parameter that needs to be modeled. Other councils have more complicated interactions with population and industry. The council also talked about adding council presentation step to the seed grant applications . They also want to require actions in addition to research. Liz Booth provided updates on the 22-24 triennial review process. New DO TMDLs for black water rivers should come out in 2023.
- SJRWMD 30 year water plan
  - Recommendation letter from committee - Chip was going to send. Not sure if he did. First public meeting was last year. Next meeting will be nov 15, nov 16 at 2pm. Bill Cochran will attend. Comments on procedures and demand open through end of January. From there they'll move on to determining supply side in spring/summer. Should be approved in the fall. Bill will get up to speed and take the lead on this. He will work with Doug.

### *Regulation/Comp Plans*

- Nassau County - No Wake Zone applications
  - no update
- Charlton County - 100ft overlay
  - DCA found copy of the MRCA ordinance from 2001. Charlton County did not have a copy.

### *Administrative*

- Camden Applicant
  - Scott Brazzell was approved by Camden BOCC

### New Business

- Chairs appt nominating committee for 2023 officers
  - John, Ed, and Keith. Danny needs to ask them to present a slate of officers at December meeting. We need a treasurer.
- Annual report loose ends
  - Macclenny stormwater - currently looking for funding for stormwater project they described at meeting last year.
  - Folkston WWTF grant - Merrill called Pender Lloyd, the City Manager for Folkston. They received the grant for replacing the Folkston WWTF.
  - Winn Dixie subdivision - property has been purchased and the developer is in talks with city. The development will be on city sewer but the committee is concerned about the capacity. Keith Tindall will look into both the development and the capacity and report at December meeting. be on sewer. He said one development is 72 units and the other is 300
  - Hilliard stormwater grant - see above

### Partner Reports

#### Riverkeeper- Twin Pines, Redesignation

- No update

#### SJRWMD/GDNR (Doug Conkey)

- Black Creek project was kicked off in Keystone. The receiving lake will serve as a new recharge location for the aquifer. Max 17,000 gal a day removed following rain events, which is then filtered for nutrients and color before it empties into alligator creek
- With change to standard time, SJRWMD residents may only water their yards once a week
- Cost share project window opens Dec 1 closes Jan 31. Nassau and Baker and the towns within are now eligible for up to one million dollars. Resiliency will be a graded item. Baker might want to apply for cost share. Keith will make sure Nassau knows.

### Committee Member County Reports

- St. Marys development - the city of St. Marys is annexing land for a large Raydient development. There is a large Raydient development being planned for the area between 95 and Osprey Cove. The committee was concerned about city

regulations that protected the river and wetlands. Scott Brazell said that the state waters were protected but that federal waters that fell outside definition of state waters ie wholly contained wetlands, were not. Camden ordinance has wetland protections but city of st Mary's does not. A 25ft wetland buffer would apply only if they have to apply for ACE permit. The city would not have time to pass an ordinance that is the same as the county's. The committee approved writing a letter to St. Marys asking them to review their ordinances re: waters of the US. Scott Brazell will draft

- Admin will add meeting times to top of agenda

Public Comment None

Adjournment Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm

Next Meeting – December 5, 2022 7pm Callahan Fire Department