

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:

Meeting was begun at 7:00 pm, officially brought 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. Balance is now \$7457.03

Old Business

Land Use (including public access)

- Baker County
 - Boat ramp, Shoals park - some confusion 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 it. Not sure about the timeline.
 - Spaceport - waiting on Supreme Court decision
- Charlton County
 - Camp Pinckney 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 over, and they'll replace another system if they can. If not, they'll have to give it back. May be able to use it to remove the old bathrooms. Will look into it. Need to suggest that board of commissioners contact EPD to begin de-listing process. Need data that says that no more than 10% of samples are above criteria. Need to ask Emily to get the data either to us or Camden Co. Final report will be done Jan-Feb and we need that before we can send a letter to Camden
- NPDES permits
 - No new discharge permits. Sent a letter several months ago to EPD about TMDLs for Folkston wastewater treatment, and they revised it to include

clay branch. No surface water withdrawal permits. Two groundwater withdrawal permits, but there's no indication of a discharge permit as of 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 it seems.

- Spanish Creek (Clay Branch project)
 - Got the first draft of contract 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 has found that on the FL side, wetlands aren't very protected in terms of buffer laws. He needs to know what all parameters we're looking for 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.
- GA EPD Comprehensive Nutrient Permitting Strategy (N,P)
 - When water goes from GA to FL, we have to deliver the water based on their regulations. So essentially, GA has to follow FL rules even though it's not on paper. Means GA doesn't necessarily need regulations

Water Quantity

- Four County Stormwater Management
 - Nassau County - Thomas Creek - no more updates needed. It's not really our area.
 - Charlton County - Map Layer - no update
 - Camden County - Resiliency plan - no update. They're supposed to include us in meetings whenever they start up. They'll 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 - had meeting Nov.2. Simple water supply plan compared to other councils. Just ag included. Aiming to have plan finished by end of year. Also talked about adding extra process to the Sea Grant applications to have them present to the Water Council and include 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 in mid-December. Should be getting info on workshops - nov 15, nov 16 at 2pm. Bill Cochran will attend. Open comment through end of January. From there they'll move on to determining projects 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
 - Waiting on update from Paul

- Charlton County - 100ft overlay
 - Finally found the ordinance from 2001 but it never got put into code. Wasn't in any of the minutes that it was passed and Charlton Co didn't have a copy. Still needs to be put into code.

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
 - Folkston WWTF grant - taken care of
 - Winn Dixie subdivision - property has been purchased and they are in talks with city. It'll be on sewer. Keith will send numbers on those. WWT will get likely get expanded. Keith will also update us on money applied for in Hilliard. One development is 72 and the other is 300
 - Hilliard stormwater grant - see above

Partner Reports

Riverkeeper- Twin Pines, Redesignation

- No update

SJRWMD/GDNR

- Black creek project was kicked off in Keystone to serve as new recharge location, improving the aquifer and there by the lake. Max 17,000 gal a day removed, which is then filtered for nutrients and color before it empties in alligator creek
- Watering your yard should only be once a week with the time change
- Cost share project window opens dec 1 closes Jan 31. Nassau and Baker towns 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

- Osprey cove development - Camden ordinance has wetland protections but city of st Mary's does not. That's why new development is going in city. Wetlands will only be protected if they have to apply or ACE permit, who would add 25 foot buffer. We could write a letter, but Camden won't have time to put in an ordinance. May be able to freeze permitting process, but st Mary's and kingsland would need to be brought in because they can annex it at any time. Committee will send letter to St. Marys asking them to review their ordinances re: waters of the US. Committee approved Scott Brazzell writing a letter.
- Admin will add times to top of agenda

Public Comment None

Adjournment Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm

Next Meeting – December 5, 2022

DRAFT