

St. Marys River Management Committee Reports

June 2, 2025

Attendees:

Baker -

Nassau - Paul Lore (virtual)

Camden - Commissioner Ben Casey, Dara Pickren-Davis, Jay Smith

Charlton - Merrill Varn (Secretary)

Other - Claire Feazel (SMRMC Admin, virtual)

- Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. A quorum was not present; reports were received but no business was conducted

Old Business/Reports

Land Use (including public access)

Baker -

- Boat Ramp - No update in June
- Shoals Park - No update in June
- Development Projects - No update in June

Nassau -

- On Island
 - Brett's Waterway Cafe - Demolition and potential redevelopment - discussion on-going
 - Bioethanol plant - No update in June
 - Atlantic Seafood Property - Demolition and potential redevelopment - discussion on-going
 - Port of Fernandina land - beginning discussions concerning re-use of property, on edge of city limits/old town area
 - Public Access - temporarily lessened due to on-going construction - limited parking available
- Mainland
 - Townhouse Development - No update in June

Camden -

- Blue Bridge - Still awaiting decision on property finalization with mediation anticipated to begin soon
- Raydient Development - Taylor Morrison has begun construction on *Esplanade at St. Marys*, a residential subdivision and golf course - concern remains surrounding adequate water retention on site
- Temple Creek - Boardwalk and Trail are under construction

Charlton -

- Charlton Camp Pinckney County Park Boat Ramp - Continued discussion on the ramp's condition, with concerns about the unknown state of the submerged portion. A nearby privately-owned pond may be draining onto the entrance road during heavy rain, potentially causing damage
- Raydient - No update in June

Water Quality

- NPDES - No new or renewed permits in Camden County or Charlton County
- Spanish Creek 319- No report for June 2025. Reporting takes place every other month throughout 2025

- Septic Think Tank - Project is currently on hold, but there is still a need to do septic tank maintenance talks with any HOAs on both the Florida and Georgia sides of the river and its tributaries. There is a need to improve communication and education to help property owners understand septic tank maintenance needs and issues
- E&S spreadsheet
 - Florida requires a 25' buffer for wetlands, but not for surface waters. The committee continues to work towards a 25' construction buffer for Florida
 - Georgia does not have Nitrogen and Phosphorus (N/P) regulations
 - White Oak held a Golf Course Best Management Practices (BMP) manual workshop on May 6. Local golf courses were invited, but were unable to attend. Tim Hiers with White Oak is reaching out to the course individually
 - Tim Hiers met with the superintendent for the new course being built for *Esplanade at St. Marys* and had a productive discussion
 - Educational flyer for landscapers
 - Shared with Ace Hardware for distribution in Charlton County
 - Shared with Ace Hardware and Hometown Feed & Seed for distribution in Camden County
- FL TMDL Planning - No update in June
- Georgia EPD Comprehensive Nutrient Permitting - No update in June
- Folkston WasteWater Treatment Plant - No update in June

Water Quantity

- Four County Stormwater
 - Baker County - No update in June
 - Nassau County - Applied for a grant to assist with resiliency planning/BLE Maps. The Vulnerability Study done by the Balmoral group will be sent to the Board of Commissioners in March - No update for June
 - Camden County - Resiliency Operations Center open and operating
 - Charlton County- Vulnerability and Stormwater- EPD's Base Level Engineering Map is completed and is being uploaded to the online viewer. Updates are slowly being added to the St. Marys River Watershed
- City Stormwater rehab -
 - Folkston Stormwater improvements - No update for June
 - Macclenny - No update for June
 - Updates needed for Hilliard, Kingsland, and St. Marys
- Georgia Water Councils - No update for June

Regulatory/Comp Plans

- Nassau County No Wake Zone - One application complete and other applications are still in progress
- Charlton County Comprehensive Plan - Draft plan is complete, but a meeting to discuss it has not yet been scheduled
- Fishing Tournament/ Want Waste Regulations FL - No update in June

Administrative

- 2024 Annual Report
 - Presented to Baker County - February 18, 2025

- Presented to Camden County - February 18, 2025
- Presented to Charlton County - February 20, 2025
- Presentation to Nassau County pending

County Projects

- Boating Safety signs at Boat Ramps
 - Approval received from both GA-DNR and FWC
 - Signs will be made of metal and 2' by 4'
 - Suggestion made to add all four county names/seals, along with SMRMC, on each sign - 2' by 4' made of metal
 - Need members to submit to their counties for review before printing and installing signs

New Business

- No new business in June

Partner Reports

- St. Marys Riverkeeper (SMRK) - No update in June
- St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) - No update in June

Committee Member Reports

- Committee members need to make their counties aware that many programs, including the 319 program, are being defunded due to other “regulatory responsibilities”

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Next Meeting July 7, 2025 Callahan Fire Department