

St. Marys River Management Committee
Minutes September 12, 2022

Attendees:

Baker: Ed Barber, Danny Norton (FL chair)

Nassau: Keith Tindall

Camden: Rick Frey, Jay Smith

Charlton: Merrill Varn, Chip Campbell (GA chair), Russell Barber

Other: Emily Floore (SMRK), Courtney Balling (admin), Paul Lore (Nassau applicant), Bill Cochran (Nassau applicant), Doug Conkey (SJRWMD), Scott Brazell (Camden applicant)

Housekeeping:

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm

September agenda: approved by committee

August minutes: approved by committee

Old Business

Land Use (including public access)

- Baker County
 - Boat ramp, Shoals park - no update
- Camden County
 - Blue Bridge access - no update
- Charlton County
 - Camp Pinckney Land - no update
 - Trader's Hill - revised septic plan has been approved and is out for bids

Water Quality

- Temple/Horsepen/Mallet Creek 319 (Phase 3)
 - Two systems still to be repaired/replaced. Weather has been too wet to get much done.
- NPDES permits
 - Two new groundwater permits in GA (Twin Pines and Plug Power). Rayonier is renewing in FL. Public comment is open through Oct. 6. Committee is looking into Power Plug.
- Spanish Creek (Clay Branch project)
 - City of Homeland was awarded the grant and is undergoing contract negotiations. Should begin by October 2023.
- Septic Think Tank
 - A Septic Do's and Dont's mailer was created and sent to Terry Ferrell for distribution in Camden. Trying to get a proposal for group pump out rates on the agenda at an HOA.
- River Corridor/ Land Use/E&S Think Tank
 - Scott Brazell reported that nutrient management at White Oak golf course is being handled well, which includes double buffers and monitored outfalls

- GA EPD Comprehensive Nutrient Permitting Strategy (N,P)
 - The committee approved a motion to have Chip Campbell and Rick Frey respond to a DNR survey re: nutrient permitting, stressing that the new plan should “promote cross boundary consistency” in GA and FL.

Water Quantity

- Four County Stormwater Management
 - SGRC is currently working on a new map layer (bare earth) for our model.
- Georgia Water Councils
 - Coastal Georgia Regional Water Council/Suwanee Satilla Regional Water Council - Both councils will meet in Oct./Nov.
- SJRWMD water use estimates/ Withdrawal of water from Black Creek
 - Chip Campbell was appointed to send a letter expressing the committees’ opposition to withdrawal of water from the St Marys for consumptive use, and the need for minimum flow regulations.

Regulation/Comp Plans

- Nassau County No Wake Zone applications
 - The county attorney has requested new maps, which Merrill Varn, Sam Williams, and Paul Lore will work on providing.
- Charlton County 100ft overlay
 - Hampton is still working on this.

Administrative

- Wildlight Presentation
 - No update.
- Nassau and Camden Applicants
 - Still needs to go on BOCC agendas in both counties.
- Digitizing Files
 - The committee approved paying Courtney for four additional hours to digitize files.

New Business

- Thomas Creek
 - The public would like to see dredging, but the USACE won’t permit it. The county is now asking for volunteers from 105 parcels to sell their land so that the floodplain can be recreated.

Partner Reports

Riverkeeper- Twin Pines, Redesignation

- Redesignation requests were submitted for three segments. Twin Pines has been sent back to GA EPD. Emily sent the committee a paper by Dr. Rhett Jackson (UGA) on mining impacts to the swamp and river, and suggested we have him speak at a meeting. High E.coli levels were observed at Alligator Creek and County Rd. 125 at Cedar Creek.

SJRWMD/GDNR

- Tom Frick is the new resiliency coordinator for SJRWMD and would likely be a good contact.

Committee Member County Reports

- None.

Public Comment None

Adjournment 8:53

Next Meeting – **October 4, 2022**