Protecting Our Rivers with Stormwater Management Camden County- Shalana McNamee, Director, Public Works

Camden County considers proper management of stormwater runoff critical to protecting both their citizens and their environment, including the rivers and creeks. Current tools include:

* Stormwater Regulation (Georgia Stormwater Management Manual adopted in full)
* Erosion and Sedimentation Regulation (Manual for Erosion and Sedimentation control in Georgia, required by state and federal NPDES construction permits)
* Better Back Roads Manual (best management practices)
* Industrial Best Management Practices (especially forestry), and
* Special Projects and Grants

Stormwater Regulations are codified in Article 11 Division 2 of the Camden County Unified Development Code (UDC), which is available on the county website. There are regulations concerning:

* Illicit non-stormwater discharges and illegal connections (section 1112),
* Maintenance of existing stormwater facilities (section 1113), and
* Stormwater Management including permits, standards, design, construction, discharge management responsibilities, and inspection (section 1114).

Stormwater permits are in addition to NPDES land disturbance permits and, in general, are required for all development except single family or duplex residential lots not part of a subdivision, agricultural or silvicultural management activities, or repairs deemed necessary by the Public Works Director. Violations and Penalties are codified in section 1115.

For information on the Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) regulations, including forestry BMPs, see Scott Brazell’s presentation from April 2021. The E&S regulations are codified in Article 11 Division 1 of the Camden County UDC.

Camden County maintains over 125 miles of unpaved roads and considers correction of stormwater carried sediments and non-point source pollutants to be a major focus of their stormwater management plan. County staff have been active in the revision of the Better Back Roads Manual in progress now. Their motor grader operators are trained according to the revised manual. The county currently has several pilot projects underway using aggregate filled geosynthetics at erosion hotspots on county roads and have applied for a NonPoint Source Implementation Grant (319(h)) to reduce sediment runoff into the stormwater drainage ditches in the White Oak Creek (Satilla River) watershed. There is also a grant to replace septic tanks and thereby reduce bacterial counts in stormwater ditches in the Temple/Horsepen/Mallets Creek watershed (St. Marys River).