

# St. Marys River Management Committee Minutes

March 3, 2025

## Attendees:

Baker - Commissioner Ronald Mann

Nassau - Bill Cochran, Paul Lore, Commissioner Alyson McCullough

Camden - Commissioner Ben Casey, Jay Smith, Cassie Turpin

Charlton - Chip Campbell (GA Co-Chair), Merrill Varn (Secretary)

Other - Claire Feazel (SMRMC Admin), Cori Hermle (SJWMD, virtual)

- Meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. A quorum was present.
- The March Agenda was approved.
- Minutes from the February Meeting were approved.
- Treasurer's Report: \$9,675.95

## Old Business/Reports

### Land Use (including public access)

Baker -

- Boat Ramp - Waiting on FEMA for next steps - There is a possibility of rebuilding the dock and ramp at a new location on the river
- Shoals Park - No update
- Development Projects - Continued progress and additional meetings are taking place regarding this project. Need to monitor sewer capacity. Possibility of a 2,000 acre and 2,500 home subdivision in Macclenny. This development would be north of I-10 to the Baker County/Nassau County line

Nassau -

- On Island
  - Brett's Waterway Cafe - Lease coming up in December 2025 for Brett's Waterway Cafe, located directly on the river. - Visioning session showed possibility for demolition of current structure
  - Bioethanol plant - denied by City of Fernandina Beach.
  - Waterfront Park - loss of parking
  - Marina - New plantings and oyster beds
  - Atlantic Seafood Property - Discussion about what do do with property
- Mainland
  - Townhouse Development - Eight homes/acre - located near Hilliard

Camden -

- Blue Bridge - Still awaiting decision on property finalization. This is tentatively scheduled for March
- Temple Creek - Continued closure for construction. GA-DNR anticipates it will open in Spring 2025. The Board of Commissioners accepted a grant for boardwalk repairs. The slab is in the water
- 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

Charlton -

- Charlton Camp Pinckney County Park Boat Ramp - GA-DNR reviewed property and made suggestions to Charlton County -
  - Made recommendations regarding the ramp, parking, and entrance road
  - Identified issues with alcohol consumption and lewd activity on site

- Raydient - possible sales activity for two large lots on the St. Marys River, south of St. George. Reviewed records with the Tax Assessor's office.

### Water Quality

- NPDES- No new or renewed permits in Camden County or Charlton County
- Spanish Creek 319- During the repair phase, reporting will be every two months - next report in April
- Septic Think Tank- Currently on hold - did update Charlton County BOCC on the need to support committee's efforts to speak with riverfront landowners
- E&S spreadsheet
  - Florida does not have a 25' buffer to surface waters only to wetlands. Nassau County requires grading permits for all land disturbance activities, but they will not match the Georgia requirements
  - Georgia does not have Nitrogen and Phosphorus (N/P) regulations- Waiting on White Oak to finish their Best Management Practice (BMP) manual. Design of educational flyers for landscapers needs approval of UGA Extension once the committee approves. Draft flyer included in minutes
- FL TMDL Planning- No update
- Georgia EPD Comprehensive Nutrient Permitting- No update
- Folkston WasteWater Treatment Plant- No update

### Water Quantity

- Four County Stormwater
  - Baker County - Drainage concerns in multiple locations throughout the county. Difficulty in maintaining ditches. Vulnerability study should be available later this spring.
  - 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
    - Nassau County also has additional funds that will help with a gap analysis and more of a focus on stormwater vulnerabilities. Part of that funding will fund the Watershed Master Plans (St. Marys and Nassau Basins)
    - The other part will also be coming to the Board of Commissioners as an Adaptation Plan and Disaster Relief/Maintenance Plan for the vulnerability study with Half and DRMP. The Adaptation Plan will be performed at the same time as the City of Fernandina Beach.
  - Camden County - Stormwater grant for unincorporated Camden County - held kickoff meeting in late February
  - Charlton County- Vulnerability and Stormwater- EPD's Base Level Engineering Map is completed and is being uploaded to the online viewer. It will be available shortly. The Charlton County Administrator is interested in the study. Additionally, a code enforcement officer may attend a future SMRMC meeting
- City Stormwater rehab -
  - Folkston Stormwater improvements- no update
  - Macclenny - no update
  - Updates needed for Hilliard, Kingsland, and St. Marys
- Georgia Water Councils - No update

### **Regulatory/Comp Plans**

- Nassau County No Wake Zone- Progress continues. Working with Nassau County staff to make it through the application process. Meeting scheduled in March to review
- Charlton County Comprehensive Plan - no update until draft plan is ready
- Fishing Tournament/ Want Waste Regulations FL-new tournaments beginning - will review to see if recommendations are warranted

### **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
  - Scheduled to be presented to Nassau County - March 24, 2025

### **County Projects**

- Boating Safety signs at Boat Ramps
  - Charlton County agreed to move forward with posting the boating safety signage. However, there were concerns about whether the wording had been reviewed by DNR and FWC. While the language on the signs is directly copied from state rules and regulations, the committee will need to rearrange the signage for both the Georgia and Florida sides. The boat ramp sign should also be placed at the top of the Georgia side. Additionally, approval from FWC is required before proceeding with the installation.

### ***New Business***

- Submitting Comments to Georgia EPD for amendments to "Georgia's Rules for Water Quality Control" -

### ***Partner Reports***

- St. Marys Riverkeeper (SMRK) -
  - SMRK is advocating for the St. Marys River with the Georgia General Assembly, specifically on HB 561 and HB 562
- St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) -
  - In May, the SJRWMD will be hearing project ideas for the Jacksonville area

### ***Committee Member Reports***

- Committee Member Paul Lore presenting Annual Report to City of Fernandina Beach on April 1
- Continued discussions regarding resiliency and revitalizing shrimping in different way

### ***Public Comments***

None

### ***Adjournment***

Meeting Adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

**Next Meeting April 7, 2025 Callahan Fire Department.**

## Draft Flyer:



Help maintain healthy lawns and protect water resources by applying fertilizer at the right time and amount and

using the right nutrient source. In southeast Georgia you only need to fertilize mid-April until mid-October. A mix of quick release and slow-release nitrogen delivers some immediate nutrients and then provides a steady supply of nutrients over a longer period, leading to more consistent growth, reduced risk of fertilizer burn, less nutrient leaching into the environment, and overall improved lawn health.

1

### Know before you Go

*Test the soil before starting a fertilizer program. Soil type has a big impact on optimal fertilization practices.*

2

### Don't fertilize if over an inch of rain is forecast

*Rainfall can wash fertilizer into storm ditches and on to the river.*

3

### Calibrate and maintain your spreader

*Be sure to apply only the amount of product recommended. Excess fertilizer can damage the lawn and will runoff into stormwater ditches.*

4

### Avoid hard surfaces and water bodies

*Don't fertilize within 10 feet of bodies of water and keep it off impervious surfaces like driveways or sidewalks to prevent runoff.*

5

### Sweep up your spills

*Avoid accidents and always sweep up spilled granules. Do not rinse with hose since this will wash them into stormwater ditches and to the creeks, rivers, and lakes.*

*For additional information contact the Charlton County UGA Extension Service.*

*912-496-2040*

*This brochure was printed compliments of St. Marys River Management Committee.*