

**St. Marys River Management Committee**  
P.O. Box 251 Folkston, Georgia 31537

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**June 7, 2004**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on June 7, 2004, at the Nassau County Building in Callahan, Fla. Committee members and visitors in attendance are listed on a separate sheet. A quorum of members was not present.

Chairman Chip Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Introductions were made of those in attendance. The minutes from the months of April and May were reviewed but could not be approved due to lack of a quorum. The treasurer's report was not presented.

**OLD BUSINESS**

***Bank-to-Bank Strategy Update:***

Amanda Loach, with the Northeast Florida Regional Council, gave a presentation to the committee of the work she has completed to date regarding the committee's bank-to-bank strategy issue. Loach explained that she focused on the boating and fishing laws relating to the two states. She said she reviewed the laws that are implemented for each state and found that there is some reciprocity between the two states.

Loach evaluated the laws and highlighted the inconsistencies. She recommended the committee review the inconsistencies and then select the ones on which the committee wants to focus. She said she contacted both Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC). The FFWCC mentioned the need for more access points along the river.

Loach said she had written several pages on the topic and would like for the committee to work with her to help her narrow down the issues or pick several laws on which to focus. Kraig McLane, with the St. Johns River Water Management District, reviewed the minutes from the October 2003 kick-off meeting, which highlighted 15 areas of concern. Loach asked for those 15 items to be prioritized. McLane said the topics that keep coming up relate to bag limits and safety.

Chairman Chip Campbell explained that the state agencies would be unlikely to change the laws on their own. It will be necessary for the local governments to get involved and encourage the state agencies and legislators to change the laws.

There was discussion about making a public records request of the Georgia counties along the river to get the number of citations issued along the river.

The decision was made that Amanda should email her work/spreadsheets to Melinda Granlund, committee secretary, and Granlund would distribute them to the committee members.

Chairman Campbell asked for information on “float hunting.”

Chairman Campbell said not to lose the focus on strategies. How does the committee reach the desired end? McLane suggested the following strategy: Loach conducts the analysis, and then the committee goes to the counties to get support from commissioners, possibly with new or updated ordinances, and with that support, the state will be more willing to get involved or make changes.

McLane said that focusing on the public safety issues first might get a better response. Wake zones, boat ramps, and swimming issues would fall under that category, and addressing those inconsistencies would make a very big difference along the river.

#### ***Baker County Septic Setbacks Update***

Amanda Loach informed the committee that she would be working on the septic setback issue on behalf of Baker County, in place of Lindsey Haga. (Haga had originally contracted with the county to provide planning assistance.)

Chairman Campbell explained the committee’s request to the county: two-acre minimum lot size on riverfront; 150-foot lot width at the river; and a 100-foot minimum setback from the river for location of septic tanks (only affects new development; does not pertain to anything that is already platted or developed).

Trish Gramajo, with The Nature Conservancy, agreed to contact Loach and send her the sample ordinance language used for Nassau County so Loach could review it.

#### ***Baker County Land Donation***

Chairman Campbell explained that Joe Hopkins had given him a contact name and telephone number for Georgia DNR regarding the possible land partnership in Charlton County. Chairman Campbell said he would follow up with the contact.

#### ***US Boat Foundation Grant update***

Chairman Campbell completed the grant acceptance package and mailed it back to the Foundation. Trish Gramajo said the next step will be to determine the 13 sites where promotional signs will be placed. Chairman Campbell and Dean Woehrle agreed to go over those sites and get them to Gramajo.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### ***International Paper/Fish & Wildlife Service Conservation Agreement***

Chairman Campbell asked if any of the committee members knew how much land International Paper (IP) owned along the river. Steve Nance said they did not own a significant amount of property on the river.

On May 28, Chairman Campbell attended a signing ceremony between IP and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) about conservation. He said he felt it exemplified good

stewardship of the lands. Part of the agreement affects riparian lands (waterfront lands). Wildlife, timber harvest, and any joint management plans may be affected.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Steve Nance said there has been recent discussion about buying timber land and subdividing it into mini-hunting estates. This is a trend that might become more prevalent. Chairman Campbell said such a trend could cause some controversy.

The next committee meeting will be held on July 12.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.