

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

MINUTES OF MEETING
Feb. 7, 2005

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on Feb. 7, 2005, 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 present.

Chairman Chip Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Introductions were made of those in attendance. The minutes from the January 2005 meeting were reviewed and approved. Winifred Stephenson presented the treasurer's report; the main account has a balance of \$11,356.24. There was discussion about combining the committee's two budget accounts. Stephenson agreed to check with Kraig McLane to determine if it would be permissible to combine the accounts.

OLD BUSINESS

St. Marys River Cleanup

Dean Woehrle informed the members that the annual river cleanup will be held on Sat., March 19. The cleanup will start between 8 and 9 am and end between 11 and 12 noon. Woehrle asked interested volunteers to contact the Callahan Farm Bureau office for more information. Woehrle explained that White Oak Plantation will host a luncheon following the end of the cleanup; luncheon tickets will be given to participants at the designated cleanup sites. Donny Rominger asked if the committee could increase its advertising regarding the cleanup and Teresa Monson, with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) volunteered to contact local newspapers to inquire about the possibility for additional publicity.

US Boat Foundation Grant

Trish Gramajo explained the grant that the committee received in 2004 from the US Boat Foundation. She said the committee needed to organize the installation of the signs in each county in coordination with each county's public works staff. Barbara Yarborough agreed to coordinate the Baker County installation, Chip Campbell agreed to work with Charlton County; Dean Woehrle agreed to work with Nassau County, and Donny Rominger agreed to work with Camden County. The goal is to have the signs installed before the river clean up in March. Gramajo said a list of placement sites for the signs has already been developed. Teresa Monson said photographs of the installation process would be good to place in local newspapers.

Budget Request Subcommittee Update

Melinda Granlund, SJRWMD, informed the committee that Kraig McLane (SJRWMD) is working on putting the committee's budget request together, with a goal of having a finalized request ready to be approved by the next full committee meeting in March.

Vision and Direction Subcommittee Update

Rick Walsh distributed copies of the committee by-laws, along with suggestions for amendments to the by-laws. Chairman Campbell explained each of the suggested changes to the by-laws. Walsh encouraged the members to review the suggested changes and contact him if they had any questions or comments. The next subcommittee meeting will be held on Feb. 22.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Budget Issue Request

Dean Woehrle explained the committee's goal of acquiring the state welcome center in Nassau County to be used as museum touting the river. Woehrle said he had applied for a Community Budget Issue Request (CBIR) on the committee's behalf through the offices of state representative Aaron Bean and state senator Stephen Wise. Woehrle said he had heard the building is scheduled to be demolished but that he thinks the building could be rebuilt if enough grant funds are received. Woehrle noted that the committee is currently leasing the building through the county from the state.

Chairman Campbell stated that the Okefenokee Education and Research Center had expressed an interest in adding a component about the river to their current exhibits.

Woehrle said that it is important for the potential future museum to include a recognition for the late Hap Harragin, a citizen who was very supportive of the efforts to protect the river.

Vickie Samus said that the value of the land would be considered the committee's "match," regarding the CBIR application.

MISCELLANEOUS

Paula Staples explained the role of the Watershed Action Volunteer (WAV) program to the new members in attendance.

Dean Woehrle mentioned the need for trash bags to be placed at local kiosks; said he thought yellow bags with "St. Marys River Management Committee" in black lettering would be eye-catching. A motion to purchase \$1,000 worth of printed trash bags was made, seconded, and passed.

Chairman Chip Campbell distributed copies of the committee's Annual Report. The report was reviewed and several technical changes were suggested. A motion to accept the amended report was made, seconded and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.