

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**April 4, 2005**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on April 4, 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 7:09 p.m. The minutes from the March 2005 meeting were reviewed, corrected and approved. Winifred Stephenson presented the treasurer's report; the main account has a balance of \$10,793.39. Expenditures for the month included \$225 for grant obligations, \$1,345 for t-shirts, and \$54 for the committee Web site hosting service.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**St. Marys River Celebration Cleanup**

Dean Woehrle provided an update of the March 19 river cleanup. He said the cleanup was very successful; approximately 550 volunteers participated and more than 52,000 pounds of trash were collected. Woehrle said he received \$2,750 in donations. He used the remaining t-shirts from previous cleanups and paid \$1,345 for new t-shirts. Woehrle said the committee still needs to pay Mr. Stokes for the roll-off dumpsters. Woehrle is arranging a meeting with Mr. Stokes to discuss the garbage collection. Vickie Samus said the cost is \$45 per ton to dispose garbage at the county landfill. Woehrle explained the issue and concerns with the dumpsters provided by Sandhill and suggested forming a committee in the future to handle planning and garbage collection issues. He suggested that the committee pay for pick up and disposal of the garbage for future cleanups, instead of arranging volunteer pick-up commitments. Woehrle suggested holding site captain meetings at White Oak Plantation prior to each cleanup to promote better organization.

Woehrle reminded members to thank any river cleanup sponsors they might see. He said the only recognition the sponsors receive is having their name printed on the back of the cleanup t-shirt.

**Budget Subcommittee Update**

Chairman Chip Campbell reported that the committee had not received any response from the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) regarding the committee's recent budget request, but he agreed to follow up next week with a telephone call.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Member Profiles

Melinda Granlund, committee secretary and SJRWMD staff, passed out “member profile” forms and asked the committee members to complete them. She explained that the information would be retained and possibly used in upcoming editions of the *POSM* newsletter.

### May Meeting

The next meeting of the SMRMC will be held in Baker County at the St. Marys Shoals. The meeting will be hosted by Baker County, and they will provide dinner, starting at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held outside, so wear appropriate clothing and bring/wear bug spray. Barbara Yarbrough passed out directions and gave her cell phone number in case anyone gets lost.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Trish Gramajo reminded the committee that The Nature Conservancy would be hosting a forestry/land management conference on April 14 at the Nassau County Building in Callahan. The all-day conference will include presentations from various land management agencies. The cost is \$10.

Gramajo informed the committee that all the anti-pollution signs had been distributed and erected. Dean Woehrle has the replacement signs and will hold onto them if/until they need to be put up. There was discussion about the positive media coverage about the cleanup and sign installation. Dean Woehrle thanked Teresa Monson for her assistance with the media.

Winifred Stephenson suggested sending thank-you notes to Nassau County Commissioners Floyd Vanzant and Marianne Marshall for contributing their discretionary funds to the committee.

Dean Woehrle informed the committee that Stephanie Hamilton, a member of the Nassau County Chamber of Commerce, is trying to open a new children’s museum in the county. Woehrle suggested to her that she could possibly use the land that the abandoned welcome center is on (a new building would need to be constructed) as long as the committee could use a portion of the building to display their materials and information. Hamilton presently works for a nonprofit, Two Hands Helping, and is currently seeking grants to pay for the museum. Chairman Campbell inquired whether Hamilton’s plan was detailed enough to include money for building maintenance and upkeep; Woehrle responded yes. Campbell stressed the importance of an educational theme.

Vickie Samus started a discussion about new development in Yulee. She said an areawide Development of Regional Impact (DRI) for Yulee had been developed, but due to various issues, the DRI process had been dropped. The development is still moving forward, however (it is now called the Yulee Areawide Planning District), but now the responsibility for the project has been shifted to Rayland. Samus said the original DRI plans had low-density along the St. Marys River, but the new plan has higher density along the river. She said several meetings have been held recently to discuss the project

but that the committee has not been informed or invited. Samus suggested reminding the county planners and Rayland's staff that Nassau County has an overlay district. Samus said she is concerned about the river and the proposed increased density, and she urged the committee to use its voice and to be proactive now, before the project goes for final approval by the county commission.

Chairman Campbell discussed a natural gas pipeline proposed by Cypress, Ltd., which would run along U.S. 1 from Savannah to Green Cove Springs. The crossing of the St. Marys River would probably be a tunnel. Merrill Varn said Cypress held some general information meetings about the pipeline in February and would be accepting written comments about the project until April 7. Dean Woehrle said that counties would not be able to hook up to the pipeline. Trish Gramajo suggested that Chairman Campbell contact the Cypress company to get more information and to request that the committee be added to their mailing list to be notified when actions occur.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.