

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**July 11, 2005**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on May 2, 2005, at the Farm Bureau Insurance office in Callahan, Fla. Committee members and visitors in attendance are listed on a separate sheet. A quorum of members was present.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Chip Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. Minutes from the May and June 2005 meetings were reviewed, corrected and approved. Treasurer Winifred Stephenson was not in attendance so the treasurer's report was not presented.

**Septic Tank Overlay — Baker County**

Vice Chairman Dean Woehrle informed the committee that he had given a brief presentation to the Baker County Commission about the committee's septic overlay recommendations. Woehrle said the commissioners seemed supportive of the recommendations but said they needed to hold a public workshop to discuss the recommendations before they could be adopted. Woehrle said the commissioners did not select a date for the public workshop; Patricia Lazare agreed to check on the date tomorrow (July 12) while at the county commission office on other business. Woehrle said he is continuing to monitor the workshop situation and that Trish Gramajo, of The Nature Conservancy, is also following the county's actions regarding the overlay recommendations. George Varn suggested that committee members be informed as soon as possible once a workshop date is set so that members can attend.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant — Baker County**

Chairman Chip Campbell said he had talked with Baker County Manager Jason Griffis about the proposed construction of a new wastewater treatment plant, and that Griffis has repeatedly said the county will not allow wastewater discharge to be piped into the river. Although the county's engineer suggested a direct discharge as a way to save money, commissioners agreed it was not a plausible option and have said they will not pursue it.

Chairman Campbell mentioned that a letter had been drafted, on behalf of the committee, to the county, stating the committee's desire to see wastewater discharges disposed of in other ways, rather than placing it in the river. He suggested holding off on sending the letter since it is apparent Baker County commissioners are not pursuing the option. Vickie Samus suggesting revising the letter to be more generic and then sending it to all four counties along the river, rather than tailoring it specifically to Baker County. Committee members supported Samus' suggestion.

## **Miscellaneous**

Dean Woehrle said he had learned from a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) official that the St. Marys River could receive an Outstanding Florida Water designation, even though it is a “border” river.

Committee members participated in a general discussion about St. Marys River flooding issues and the sale of various properties in Charlton County.

Steve Nance, Charlton County administrator, informed the committee that land in Charlton County across the river from Baker County’s St. Marys Shoals property is part of a subdivision with some houses and some mobile homes. He said the subdivision is 15 to 20 years old.

Melinda Granlund, of the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), distributed copies of the summer edition of the committee’s newsletter, the *POSM*. Committee members expressed their appreciation to SJRWMD communications coordinator Teresa Monson for putting the newsletter together.

Granlund distributed a flyer about the upcoming Total Maximum Daily Load meeting on July 27, hosted by FDEP.

The group also discussed recent suggestions to change the committee’s regular meeting time to start the meetings earlier. Several members said they could not arrive before 7 p.m., and the committee agreed to keep the meeting time at 7 p.m.

George Varn asked if any lead members for each county had been appointed. No lead members had been appointed as of the time of the meeting. Committee members agreed to make this an agenda item at the next meeting, scheduled for Aug. 1.

Granlund informed the committee that the SJRWMD had contacted Baker and Nassau counties regarding possible stormwater funding.

Woehrle said he contacted the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) about sending staff to attend the committee’s meetings. He said the GDNR has acknowledged his request and are working on getting staff members assigned to attend the meetings.

Varn said a new chief of water protection had been appointed to GDNR’s Environmental Protection Division. He was not sure of her name but suggested inviting her to a future committee meeting.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.