

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**November 7, 2005**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on Nov. 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 not present.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Chip Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. The minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and a correction was suggested but could not be approved due to lack of a quorum. The correction was to change the term “monthly” to “yearly” in reference to the payment of the lease for the former welcome center property.

Treasurer Winifred Stephenson presented the treasurer’s report; the committee’s main account has a balance of \$11,459.34. Expenditures included a reimbursement to Teresa Monson for postage (Spring 2005 POSM mailing) and payment to Loose Foot Computing.

There was discussion about what to do with the management plan account. Former member George Varn suggested retaining the money in the management plan account to print more copies of the committee’s management plan in the future.

**HOLIDAY MEETING/PARTY**

Committee member Jim Wildes informed the committee that White Oak Conservation Center has agreed to host the committee for the Dec. 5 meeting. Members discussed what to offer White Oak as a gratuity. The suggestion was made of \$20 per person for dinner and for use of the meeting space. Spouses are included. All the county commissioners and county managers will be invited, in addition to SMRMC members. The suggestion was made to inform Nassau County Attorney Mike Mullin about the invitations, for noticing purposes. Agenda topics may include inducting new officers, recognition of long-serving members, and highlights of 2005’s accomplishments. The committee agreed to participate in the Toys-For-Tots drive — members will bring new, unwrapped toys. The meeting will start at 6 p.m., with dinner to follow.

**NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

Chairman Chip Campbell said the nominating committee had met and formulated a list of nominations for 2006 officers. The nominations are: Chair – Dean Woehrle; Co-Chair – Jim Wildes; Treasurer – Winifred Stephenson; Secretary – Melinda Granlund.

**FUTURE DIRECTION OF COMMITTEE**

Chairman Campbell suggested the committee needed to form a “projects committee” that can follow up on the committee’s involvement on various projects, such as stormwater master plan funding, a conservation overlay and St. Marys Shoals park development. Dean Woehrle volunteered to contact Nassau County about the overlay.

## **WELCOME CENTER PROPERTY VOTE**

A vote to approve paying the yearly lease was tabled until a future meeting, when a quorum is present.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Committee member Winifred Stephenson provided a summary of Nassau County's recent changes to wetland regulations. The committee discussed how that might impact its recommended conservation overlay, which was adopted as part of the county's comprehensive plan. Stephenson said she has looked through the comprehensive plan and has not found the adopted language. The suggestion was made to contact the county attorney to find out what has happened to the adopted language. Vice-chairman Woehrle asked Stephenson if the Sierra Club would be suing Nassau County over the wetland regulations issue. She responded that there was already one lawsuit under way; she was not sure if Sierra Club would be going forward with another.

Committee members also discussed the lack of quorums at several recent SMRMC meetings and what could be done to improve attendance. The suggestion was made to ask Baker County to host an upcoming meeting, as the May 2005 meeting hosted by Baker County at the St. Marys Shoals property was a big success and a welcome change of venue.

Woehrle gave a brief overview of the St. Johns River Water Management District's Projects and Land committee meeting on Nov. 3. He mentioned the suggestion from former SMRMC member Vickie Samus about keeping mitigation within county boundaries. Also, Chairman Campbell brought up the informal request the SMRMC made to the District for assistance with the Outstanding Florida Water application, land acquisition, and development of basic land-development regulations.

Former member George Varn mentioned that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has a new chief, Linda McGreggor. He has spoken with her on several occasions and has asked her if she might appoint someone to attend the SMRMC's meetings on a regular basis. She sent Bruce Foisy, with EPD's Coastal District, to attend the St. Johns District's Projects and Land committee meeting. It is possible that he may start attending the SMRMC monthly meetings, and his name has been added to the committee mailing list.

Also, Stephenson discussed a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant that the county could apply for, which could be used for educational materials to support the committee's efforts. Chairman Campbell said the application deadline is in December and therefore the committee would need to start working on it right away. Trish Gramajo of The Nature Conservancy and Stephenson agreed to talk about the issue following the conclusion of the meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.