

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**March 6, 2006**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on March 6, 2006, at the Nassau County Building in Callahan, Fl. There was a quorum of members and all present committee members and visitors in attendance listed on a separate sheet.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Dean Woehrle called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The minutes from both the January and February meetings were reviewed and with a quorum present, all minutes were accepted with no edits. Treasurer Winifred Stephenson was not present and no treasurer's report was given.

**2006 RIVER CLEANUP**

The 2006 St. Marys River Cleanup will be on March 18, which is the third Saturday in March. Dean as the lead organizer updated the group on the dumpsters, cleanup site locations, and reviewed site captains for each site. Unfortunately, there could be no site captains meeting at White Oak like Dean had planned, but Dean will spend the week of the cleanup driving to drop off site captain materials like binders, tickets, bags, etc.. Teresa Monson asked that committee members please take pictures at their sites for the POSM. She will try to drive to the top attended sites for pictures and get more at the celebration lunch. Jim Wildes asked that site captains remind their volunteers to arrive at White Oak no earlier than 11:30 and no later than 2:30 pm.

**Land Acquisition Proposals to SJRWMD**

Dean read a letter received from Kraig McLane with the District regarding land acquisition proposals on the St. Marys:

*Dear St. Marys River Management Committee members:*

*As you are aware, the river's management plan recommends land acquisition and easements to aid in the protection of the river and its resources. Knowing that the committee has had an interest in this area, I would like to share with you that the District will consider acquisition project proposals. These proposals can be spearheaded by the committee or its members, as well as anyone else in the public. If you are interested in building a proposal keep in mind that the District will review them on a case-by-case basis and will be looking for parcels large enough for manageability and that show water resource protection benefits. Water resources benefits include: sites on the river large enough to buffer the river from upland impacts, preservation and/or restoration of wetlands and associated upland habitats, lands that could be used to build a needed stormwater treatment project, etc.*

*Sincerely,  
Kraig McLane*

**NASSAU COUNTY 25 FOOT SETBACK BUFFER**

Dean updated the group on the 25 foot setback amendment proposed by Nassau County and announced there would be an upcoming meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> where the BOCC's will vote on the wetland reduction. There is still no clear indication of whether the wetland reduction will impact the river or not since some county documents state the amendment will be for "isolated wetlands" and other public hearing documents that state the amendment is for "non-isolated and

contiguous wetlands”? In addition to this confusion, it is unclear how wetland permitting works in the county and a lengthy discussion ensued on trying to understand how wetland permitting currently works in the county and what would change if the wetland reduction is adopted? The committee resolved to attend the county meetings and reiterate their support for additional protection of natural resources like the St. Marys River and be opposed to any reduction of protection efforts until the SMRMC can have an accurate statement from the county regarding the wetland reduction impacts on the St. Marys River and its floodplain. Dean will plan on attending the upcoming meeting and get an answer from the BOCC on what the amendment will impact. A second vote was taken on whether Dean had permission to draft a letter and submit to the county (prior vote & approval was granted in the January meeting). Unanimous support was granted for Dean to draft & submit letter and to try to get a clear understanding of the wetland reduction impact would be on the river at the meeting.

### **GA WATER MEETINGS**

Trish Gramajo with The Nature Conservancy reminded the committee of the second GA Water Meeting in Waycross that will take place on the 14<sup>th</sup>. No word yet from Chip on whether he has been successful at becoming a St. Marys, Suwanee, Satilla Basin Advisory Committees (BAC) member. Merrill Varn agreed to attend in Chip’s place if Chip can not make the meeting. The next meeting topic will be “Water Returns”. Trish will follow up with Chip & find out if he plans on attending the meeting.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Steve Nance informed the committee that a presentation will be made to Charlton County for new sand mine one mile from the river, he will keep the committee updated on the mine as more details come. Jim Wildes asked if the SMRMC has a “DR14 Permit” they can supply him. White Oak would like a copy so no sales tax can be assessed for the December meeting at White Oak.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm