

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

MINUTES OF MEETING
April 3, 2006

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on April 3, 2006, 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

Co-Chairman Dean Woehrle called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Introductions were made of those in attendance. The minutes from the March meeting were reviewed but could not be approved due to lack of a quorum. Treasurer Winifred Stephenson presented the treasurer's report; the committee's main account has a balance of \$9,783.50.

RIVER CLEANUP

Co-Chairman Woehrle, on behalf of the committee, expended \$2,111.66 on the cleanup and raised \$2,250. According to Woehrle, the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted to pay for the first \$1,000 worth of dumpster costs for Nassau County. The county also approved that all future dumpster costs for Nassau County will come out of the Keep Nassau Beautiful program. Woehrle mentioned that the committee hasn't received any type of bill/receipt from White Oak Conservation Center. There was discussion about whether the committee should offer to pay White Oak for hosting the post-cleanup picnic.

Five hundred volunteers participated in the cleanup and together collected a total of 40,000 pounds of trash. Woehrle discussed the foam cleanup from the derelict barge.

Woehrle expressed disappointment in the lack of media coverage of the cleanup, particularly in Charlton County.

Woehrle explained that no specific person was tasked with picking up tires after the cleanup. Consequently, there are several piles of tires around the watershed that need to be collected. Woehrle said there were several issues with the contents of the "roll-up" dumpsters (which are not to be used to collect things such as appliances, batteries, etc.). Woehrle said it will be important next year to stress that those types of items need to be left beside the dumpsters rather than placed inside them.

2005 ANNUAL REPORT - STATUS

Former Chairman Chip Campbell said he presented a rough draft of the 2005 Annual Report at the committee's February meeting. He said some edits need to be incorporated and is still working on that. He agreed to send out the current draft and asked that members review it and send any comments to him. Campbell recognized the urgency of completing the report and sending it to the counties.

SMRMC WEB SITE

Melinda Granlund, committee secretary and St. Johns River Water Management District staff, explained that the committee's domain name for its Web site had expired at the end of March. Because the name was not renewed in a timely manner, another organization was able to obtain the committee's former domain name. She said District staff are investigating the issue. Granlund agreed to provide an email update to the committee members once a resolution is reached.

MISCELLANEOUS

There was discussion among committee members about the committee's missing/stolen anti-pollution signs. Chip Campbell and Dean Woehrle said there were 2 or 3 left that could be used to replace the missing signs. Trish Gramajo, with The Nature Conservancy, said the monofilament bins have yet to be installed. They were included in the US Boat Foundation grant and have already been paid for. Gramajo said she would follow up with her contact to see when and where they are supposed to be placed.

Co-Chairman Woehrle referenced the wetland issue in Nassau County. He said the terminology in the draft ordinance had changed somewhat. Woehrle mentioned the increased attendance at the recent Board of County Commissioners meeting during which the topic was discussed. The Commissioners moved to table the vote until April 10. Woehrle said only two or three people spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance changes. Committee member Winifred Stephenson said there was a meeting on the morning April 3 in the county administrator's office. She said a consulting firm participated in the meeting and explained how the developers could rework their designs to achieve a similar purpose without loss of wetlands and property rights. Stephenson said she wasn't sure what the result of the meeting would be.

Woehrle mentioned some concern about the terms "contiguous" and "isolated" wetlands. Woehrle and Stephenson both mentioned the rules of the St. Johns River Water Management District. Stephenson said if the county's proposed ordinance was passed, then someone could petition the District to expand the buffers along the river.

Committee member Chip Campbell asked Bruce Foisy, with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, about Georgia's River Corridor Protection plan. Foisy said he was not very familiar with that particular plan; he did mention the Georgia Sedimentation and Erosion Control Act, but stressed that it is not designed to control growth.

Campbell discussed the impact of growth in the area.

Gramajo mentioned an upcoming meeting in Camden County on April 7 to discuss growth management issues.

Co-Chairman Woehrle said the LandMar Group has purchased the old Gilman Paper Company. The property is on the North River and there are apparently some environmental and contamination concerns on the site.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.