

# **St. Marys River Management Committee**

P.O. Box 251 Folkston, Georgia 31537

## **MINUTES of MEETING\***

**January 8, 2007**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on January 8, 2007, 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.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting-Chairman Jim Wildes called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. The minutes from the November and December, 2006, meetings were reviewed and approved without correction. Owing to the absence of Winifred Stephenson, no treasurer's report was available at the meeting, however a report was submitted the following day by e-mail; the committee's main account balance is \$9633.77.

### **PRESENTATION**

*Visitors: Jim Draper, painter and multi-media artist and Bill Yates, photographer, owner of "CyPix" company*

A very interesting presentation was given regarding the Okefenokee Project, an all-encompassing art project exploring the relationship between various artists and the environment. Projects will include photography, painting, music, sound sculptures, video documentary, theatrical play, writings and more. The artists asked for the committee's blessing and cooperation in this undertaking and promised to keep us posted as the project progresses.

### **1033 and 700 ACRE TRACTS IN CAMDEN COUNTY**

Committee member Bob Merck expressed concern regarding a large tract of land near his home on the St. Marys River in Kingsland, which is currently being logged. This property lies to the east of Bob's property, but does not apparently contain any high ground adjacent to the river. A second property, consisting of 700 acres, on the west side of Walter Merck's property and adjacent to Catfish Creek, has also recently been purchased, and rumored to be slated for a housing development. No definite information is available on either site – committee members from Camden County will attempt to find out more and keep the committee apprised of developments.

### **2007 ST. MARYS RIVER CLEANUP**

Co-chairman Dean Woehrle announced that preparations are underway for the annual river cleanup, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in March. Site captains will remain the same as in 2006, and Keep Nassau Beautiful is on board.

Woehrle announced that Rob McDowell of GA DNR has requested a meeting with the executive board of the committee, and Trish Gramajo will also attend the meeting, to be held the week of January 15.

Meeting-chairman Jim Wildes requested ideas to increase the involvement of Baker County on the SMRMC. Committee member Teresa Crawford suggested a letter to the Baker County Commission, requesting a list of names of prospective new members.

#### **COMMITTEE RESPONSE to the GEORGIA STATE WATER PLAN**

Trish Gramajo (The Nature Conservancy) presented a revision of the committee's responses to Management Objectives for the Georgia State Water Plan, which the committee has worked on for the past 2 months, and which are discussed in the Nov., 2006 minutes. Since these responses must be submitted before the February meeting, she gave a deadline of Jan. 22 for any further comments or corrections.

Gramajo also notified the committee of the upcoming Green Infrastructure Workshop, to be held Feb.21 at the Jekyll Island Convention Center.

Woehrle informed the committee of a \$50,000 storm water management grant obtained by Nassau County from the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Two vacancies on the committee were announced: Camden and Nassau counties. Meeting-Chairman Wildes will contact Camden County, and Co-chairman Woehrle will contact Nassau County, regarding county commissioners to fill these vacancies.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

*\*corrected*