

St. Marys River Management Committee

P.O. Box 251 Folkston, Georgia 31537

MINUTES of MEETING

February 5, 2007

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on February 5, 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

Co-Chairman Dean Woehrle called the meeting to order at 7:20 P.M. The minutes from the January 8, 2007 meeting were approved as corrected. Woehrle presented the Treasurer's report (no activity since last month). The SMRMC 2006 Annual Report was presented and approved with minor corrections.

2007 ST. MARYS RIVER CLEANUP

Dean Woehrle reported that planning of the annual River Cleanup is complete, and circulated the list of site captains for this year. He reported that Johnny Myers and Walt Gossett of the Sand Hill Recycling Center are providing dumpsters for the cleanup sites. He also handed out fliers for committee members to distribute.

MEETING WITH ROB McDOWELL, GA DNR

Co-chairman Jim Wildes reported on a meeting between committee members Wildes and Chip Campbell and Jim Harris (GA DNR), with Rob McDowell, Assistant Branch Chief for Watershed Protection, GA DNR. The meeting was a stakeholder introduction, providing McDowell with a history of the SMRMC, its successes and ongoing concerns. McDowell questioned whether any of the 4 counties have actually made ordinances stating that any future legislation would be in conformity with the SMRMC River Management Plan? The answer given was no. Committee member Merrill Varn felt that this should be a priority for the committee this year, and a discussion of objectives/strategies followed. Woehrle felt that we should send each county a letter, congratulating them on successes in river protection. Campbell felt we should go before each Commission once yearly, to remind them of the Plan they signed on to in 2001. Teresa Crawford agreed that we should approach the Commissions personally.

Co-chairman Woehrle directed formation of a subcommittee to interact with the County Commissions by getting on their agendas, giving them the SMRMC Annual Report and giving them a CD of the River Management Plan – to be accomplished in the May-June '07 time frame. The people involved in each visit will be selected at the March meeting.

1033 ACRE TRACT in CAMDEN COUNTY

Bob Merck stated that the tract, which lies east of his property, appears to be heading toward development. Bruce Foisy (GA DNR) said it appears to be a true forestry operation, under BMP's for forestry. Woehrle said a contact at Geiger Lumber said it is a forestry operation. Campbell pointed out that GA law requires a 3-year waiting period between logging and development.

OTHER BUSINESS

Melinda Granlund stated that the final iteration of the committee's responses to the GA State Water Plan had been mailed to the UGA Fanning Institute last week.

Steve Nance reported that FEMA is in the process of updating its flood plain maps in Charlton County; this will take 4 or 5 years.

Jim Harris had CDs of GA DNR's "Green Growth Guidelines" available for committee members.

Granlund reminded members of the upcoming Fla. Stormwater Workshop on Feb. 26.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 P.M.