

St. Marys River Management Committee

P.O. Box 251 Folkston, Georgia 31537

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 4, 2007

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on June 4, 2007, at the Nassau County Building, Callahan, Fla. Committee members and visitors in attendance are listed on a separate sheet. A quorum of members was present.

Call to Order

Meeting co-chairman Jim Wildes called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. The Treasurer's report was not available. Minutes from the March, April, and May, 2007 meetings were approved as recorded.

Low Impact Development Workshops

Melinda Granlund of the St. Johns River Water Management District provided an update on Low Impact Development (LID) workshops that the District is sponsoring in conjunction with the University of Florida (Program for Resource Efficient Communities). An LID workshop is tentatively scheduled for sometime in August for Duval County. The District would be willing to consider holding a workshop in Nassau County, if the county shows interest in being a host/sponsor. Granlund offered a definition of LID and several examples of LID practices. LID involves storm water and land development strategies at the parcel or subdivision scale that emphasize conservation and use of onsite natural features to more closely mimic pre-development hydrologic conditions. Examples of LID practices include: minimized impervious area, use of green roofs, harvesting of rainwater, using permeable surfaces, use of depression storage, use of bioretention and soil filtration, use of vegetated swales and of enhanced stormwater ponds. Granlund also described a new program being developed by the District, called "Water Star", which is designed to encourage builders and developers to use more water efficient appliances and irrigation systems in new homes.

Atlantic White Sturgeon Repopulation in the St. Marys River

Chip Campbell gave a report on the meetings held to consider an effort to repopulate the St. Marys River with Atlantic white sturgeon, involving federal and state fisheries agencies, held the last week in May. He briefly described the population crash, ending in the early 1980's with the last known landing of any such fish. Although this species is not federally listed as endangered in Georgia, an effort is being considered to repopulate the St. Marys River, which is approximately its southernmost range. Populations of these fish are present in many of the coastal rivers north of the St. Marys. Steps being considered are documentation that no population actually exists in the St. Marys, habitat suitability studies, and, finally, the actual restocking. Fish for the restocking would possibly come from the Altamaha River. Another meeting is scheduled for the end of August.

Member appearances before the various county commissions

A discussion was held concerning the appearance of members of the SMRMC before the constituent county commissions, to present our 2006 annual report and remind these bodies of the existence and activities of our group. Co-chairmen Wildes and Woehrle and member Chip Campbell will meet at White Oak in June to finalize details. Other interested members are invited to participate.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.