

St. Marys River Management Committee

P.O. Box 251 Folkston, Georgia 31537

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 10, 2007

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on September 10, 2007, at the Farm Bureau office, Callahan, Fla. Committee members and visitors in attendance are listed on a separate sheet. A quorum of members was not present.

Call to Order

Chip Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:24 P.M., as neither co-chairman was present. The Treasurer's report was presented, showing \$11,216.32 in the main account, and \$526.50 in the Management Plan account

Baker County Planning Director's Report

Ed Preston, Baker County Planning Director was introduced to the committee, and gave a brief report on anticipated new development in Baker County. He stated that present population is 25,000 – this is expected to double in the next 10 years. Two new housing developments are underway: one with 6,000 homes, the other with 10,000 homes and three industrial parks are presently proposed – none of these involve the St. Marys River. The 1600-acre park that is presently being developed on the St. Marys River was visited by the committee last year.

St. Marys Riverkeeper

Gordon Rogers, executive director, Satilla Riverkeeper organization, gave a presentation on the Riverkeeper program. The Riverkeeper program was started in New York on the Hudson River, by fishermen disturbed by poor water quality and quantity on the river. This was prior to the Clean Water Act. The Hudson River Fishermen's Association became the Water Keeper Alliance in the mid 1980's, and is the licensing agency for all waterkeeper associations, worldwide. The main requirements are to have a paid staff and a volunteer board of directors.

The Satilla Riverkeeper organization has been in existence for 3 years. It now has 3 paid employees and covers about 4,000 square miles. Its goals are to restore watershed quality and quantity, to protect the river and watershed from pollution, and to educate the public on issues facing the Satilla River.

NorthShore Development

Rick Walsh reported on his visit with Robb Stinger, project manager of the NorthShore development just east of Browntown. The tract is about 900 acres, with around 300 homesites in phase I, and around the same number in Phase II (not yet begun). Twenty lots abut the St. Marys River, and 4 more abut Catfish Creek. The riverfront lots are around two acres each, while those on the creek are somewhat smaller. Lot sizes vary from 0.25 acres up to 2 acres. Ponds are planned internally on the property for collection

of stormwater runoff, and small common areas of green space have been allocated. A boat ramp presently exists on the river, and a floating dock is planned. Walsh presented Mr. Stinger a CD, "Greengrowth Guidelines" as well as a checklist prepared by Jeannie Butler, Georgia DNR.

Sturgeon Repopulation

Campbell reported on the meeting held August 29th. The support of the SMRMC will be requested for the effort to reintroduce sturgeon into the St. Marys River; in addition it was requested that the committee get the word out to find anyone with personal knowledge of a sturgeon being caught in the river.

No further progress has been made on committee member appearances before the county commissions.

Campbell reported that some entries had been received for the T-shirt logo design contest.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.