

St. Marys River Management Committee

P.O. Box 251 Folkston, Georgia 31537

MINUTES OF MEETING

November 5, 2007

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on November 5, 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 not present.

Call to Order

Committee co-chairman Dean Woehrle called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. The Treasurer's report was not available.

Report on DRI Process and Greenprinting

Kelly O'Rourke, Coastal Resources Specialist, GA DNR, gave a report on developments of regional impact (DRI). These are projects of sufficient scale that they are likely to have inter-jurisdictional impacts, and details must be submitted to the Regional Development Center (RDC) for intergovernmental review before any action (rezoning, permitting, water or sewer hookups, etc.) is taken to further the project. The Kingsland Plantation (aka NorthShore) in Camden County was used as an example of a DRI that was reviewed by the Coastal GA RDC.

O'Rourke also reported on the Camden County Greenprint being created by the City of St. Marys, GA DNR, NOAA, and the Trust for Public Land, to be used by city and county leaders to make decisions about conservation of historical, natural and recreational lands, creating green spaces, and preserving and improving the overall quality of life along the GA coast. The actual greenprint is a computer-based model using the Geographic Information System (GIS) that combines spatial and demographic information to guide growth management, based on community goals and values. Dates for the Greenprint meetings in Camden County are still being arranged, but will occur in December.

Plans for the December SMRMC meeting/Christmas party were discussed. The meeting will be at White Oak Plantation on December 7th. Plans to invite the county commissions of all four counties, as well as planning and zoning directors were discussed; in addition, representatives of the GA and FL DNR, TNC, and SJRWMD. Hopefully, John Lucas will speak, Chip may speak on sturgeon repopulation and we will try to engage a speaker on low impact development. Toys will be brought for Toys for Tots.

Carolyn Bissonnette, Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning for Baker County was introduced to the committee and gave a brief overview of projects her office is working on, specifically, assessment of Baker County's comprehensive plan.

Charlene Sears, Camden County Commissioner (delegate to SMRMC) was introduced and discussed work that she is doing to attempt to find a formula using population density to determine feasibility of central sewage treatment plants vs. package plants (for each development) vs. individual septic tanks, for new and existing development.

Merrill Varn brought up the question of what the SMRMC's major emphasis for 2008 should be. Discussion centered on issues of developmental impacts on the river, as well as problems with flooding, especially as regards new developments in flood zones. The revision of flood plain maps by NOAA, scheduled to begin in the near future, was welcomed, but may take several years to produce any useful results. In the meantime, it was pointed out, our current flood plain maps are inadequate for flood planning.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.