

MINUTES OF MEETING
February 4, 2008

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on 2/4/08, at the Farm Bureau Building in Callahan, Florida. There was not a quorum of members. (See sign in sheet).

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chairman Dean Woehrle called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. The minutes from the January meeting were not distributed. Treasurer Winifred Stephenson was not present and there was no Treasury update.

River Cleanup Planning

March 15th cleanup plans are same as last years. Dean updated the group with a potential new sponsor. The new Chic Fil-A owner in Kingsland is interested in sponsoring the cleanup (near Hwy. 40 & Shoney's). Jim Wildes will follow up with the owner and firm up sponsorship.

There was discussion on what if any exhibitors or outreach materials should be distributed at the White Oak barbeque. Jim and other members felt that this is the best opportunity to distribute river outreach materials to the captive audience that obviously cares about the river. Potential exhibitors suggested included Georgia DNR's 'Coastal ARC', the SJRWMD Watershed Action Volunteers, and Keep Nassau Beautiful. Discussion was held on other good events the committee should try and exhibit at including Coastfest in Georgia, and Shrimp Fest in Fernandina Beach.

Membership

Dean updated the group that Nassau County Commissioner Barry Holloway is interested in serving on the committee. Trish had also informed the committee in December that Nassau County Commissioner Mike Boyle was also interested in serving. After agreeing that the committee would like to have both Boyle and Holloway serve on the committee in different capacities (one at large, and one as a commissioner), Trish was asked to send Nassau County a letter to that effect.

There was discussion regarding the need for an updated and current membership list so the committee could send letters to counties with vacancies asking for new appointments, and also so the committee could send letters informing very inactive members that they would no longer be 'active' members to better reflect what vacancies the committee has. Chip will also ask Ed Preston if Mike Sweat could be placed as a Baker County rep.

Georgia EPD TMDL Update

Bruce presented the "2008 Draft 305(b)/303(d) List" and distributed graph handouts showing the streams that are classified as impaired in the river. There was extensive discussion on the problem of not knowing how to resolve the naturally occurring DO issue in blackwater streams.

Georgia DNR will be doing three public workshops around the state to unveil the draft list. The closest meeting will be in Midway, GA on February 23rd.

St. Marys Shoals Update

Geoff Sample forwarded a Shoals article for the committee in February. The article talked about new Shoals preserve amenities, trail design, and a 76K reforestation for native longleaf pine restoration project. There is also a Phase two acquisitions planned for another 600 acres to add to the existing Shoals tract valued around \$6 million. The committee will ask Mike Sweat for an upcoming presentation on Shoals.

Northshore update

There is a new single floating dock in the river at the Northshore development. Since it is located in tidal area, Georgia EPD will update the committee with the permitting status at the March meeting.

New GA Water Planning Areas

Chip and Bruce updated the group on a new potential change that would mean two planning districts on the GA side of the river, e.g., around the county line.

Agenda

Amy will start printing up all future meeting agendas so members need to send her the agenda information.

GA Landfill

Dean and Chip were contacted regarding a wetland mitigation of 12 acres for a new landfill in Charlton County (eastside of trail ridge). The landfill owner is Waste Management. SMRMC suggests keeping the mitigation within the St. Marys basin and have contacted TNC office. Possible mitigation sites could be the two Toledo parcels.

Greenprinting

Trish did a quick update of the value of attending the Camden Green Printing meetings. Chip will attend the Feb 11th meeting in either St Marys or Kingsland.

ASN Sturgeon

Chip will not be able to attend the next Atlantic Sturgeon meeting (February 5) in Palatka but will try to take the meeting via teleconference if that option is available.

2008 Strategic Planning

Chip would like to hold the annual priority setting meeting for March to discuss the need to firm up organizational procedure and prioritize work for the year and focus on implementing the river protection strategies. Chip distributed the handout that showed where have we been, where do we need to go, outlined by the 12 protection strategies. He asked that each committee member take home and brainstorm strategies or projects they would like to work on. Chip and Dean both stressed that we all have different talents and expertise and we want every member to take ownership of areas they want to get more involved in.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.