

St. Marys River Management Committee
P.O. Box 251 Folkston, Georgia 31537

MINUTES OF MEETING
May 5, 2008

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on May 5, 2008, 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 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 received. Nassau County Commissioner Barry Holloway was introduced and welcomed to the committee.

Old Business

At last month's meeting, SMRMC member Chip Campbell had reported that he had custody of a quantity of memorabilia from Hap Harrigan's estate, which he was storing for the committee. SMRMC member Jim Wildes brought up Hap Harragin, noting that his data, including a large collection of water samples from the St. Marys River, is kept at Chip's, and some items are in the possession of Steve Nance and Dean Woehrle.

New Business

Geoff Sample (SJRWMD) announced a Low-impact development practices community workshop is being held in Nassau County on Friday June 6, 9:30-4:15 pm, at FCCJ – Nassau in Yulee. He mentioned that the Northeast Florida Regional Council is reviewing a proposed development of regional impact (DRI) – Cedar Creek DRI in Baker County. On Monday, May 19 that item will go before County Commission. It is planned to be an age-restricted (55+) community northwest of Glen St Mary. If approved Cedar Creek (6000+ units) could double the population of Baker County. Discussion ensued - re: central water and sewer in that area of the county, lowering the number of septic tanks and impacts on recreation.

He noted that the SJRWMD is trying to strengthen the irrigation (landscape watering) rules across district, and match neighboring water management districts. The St. Marys newsletter ("POSM") has not gone out in a while, so any articles for the POSM are needed. Geoff explained that with staffing issues (2 vacancies) and his office director leaving, they were not in a position to write the stories. Chip suggested an Atlantic sturgeon project update might be timely. Geoff said he has been updating the committee Web site, and suggested he could mail out the meeting agendas with the monthly meeting reminders, if provided to him in time.

Trish Gramajo (The Nature Conservancy) mentioned that the Department of Health was considering revisions to a septic ordinance to require a "point of sale inspection." She said this had been received well in Nassau County.

She then presented some background information on the Outstanding Florida Water designation for the committee. She noted that it takes two petitions to get underway. There will be water quality (total maximum daily load) issues. Right now there are two people at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection administering this program. Geoff Sample asked whether they might have some grant money to assist with the petition, or whether the University of North Florida or University of Florida might have some graduate student needing a project that could do some work on this. Merrill Varn said she could discuss that with staff at UNF as well as Jacksonville University. Other potential sources of grants and technical assistance were discussed. A sub-committee for the OFW was formed, consisting of: Dean, Merrill, Trish, Chip, Geoff, and Carolyn Bissonnette (Baker County Planning Dept.)

Trish Gramajo then mentioned a local mitigation strategy task force underway in Nassau County to review land use and flood plain protection issues. She noted that a Florida Forever Bill had passed, setting aside \$300 million. Nassau County was looking into the possibility of its own program.

Carolyn Bissonnette then presented an update on Baker County activities. She noted that a stormwater management plan had passed. A flood plain management plan is being developed for scheduled for the St. Marys Shoals Park, which includes 1,620 acres. She said their most recent data concerning resource acquisition and development along the St. Marys River was from a 1988 inventory, so they would like to do that again, or update it.

Bob Morgan of Camden County mentioned that the North Shore development was dredging without permits, using draglines. A request for additional dockage had been seen in the Times-Union.

Geoff Sample responded to a question about Seminole County's request to withdraw surface water from the St. Johns River. The county has requested 5.5 million gallons per day. Action on their permit has been delayed because it has been challenged. The 262 million gallon per day figure being used in the media is a planning figure, not a permit request. No other permits will be considered until the cumulative effects of withdrawals are thoroughly studied.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 P.M.