

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

MINUTES OF MEETING
June 2, 2008

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on June 2, 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 present.

Call to Order

Committee co-chairman Chip Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. The Treasurer's report was not available.

Report on the Outstanding Florida Water (OFW) Designation

Co-chair Dean Woehrle reviewed how the SMRMC had formed as result of a potential federal Wild and Scenic River designation. He noted that he felt that after years had passed and they had accomplished a lot of their other goals, it was time to move on to look at other options and the Florida OFW program might be suitable.

Geoff Sample, SJRWMD, introduced Tom Ankersen, director of the University of Florida's Conservation Law Clinic. Tom explained his role at the clinic, their relationship to the community, and their interest and experience in conservation topics. He said he was here as much to learn about the committee and get acquainted, as to talk about a possible project.

Tom discussed the OFW process in general terms. He mentioned his experience elsewhere working with the OFW designation. He said if the committee wanted to look at this possibility, he had graduate students needing a terminal project that could do the bulk of the research. They would need cooperation and assistance from the committee, but the project could be done largely pro bono as community service. Tom mentioned there were complicating transborder aspects that would require research since the river joins Florida and Georgia. He noted that his counterpart at the University of Georgia law clinic might be able to offer research from the Georgia perspective.

Tom noted that a lot of data and information would have to be compiled and analyzed. One example of information that could be provided was a natural area inventory, as part of a larger northeast Florida ecological assessment being proposed as a joint project through a University of North Florida graduate student.

Tom suggested that a potential project could take place over two semesters. The first semester, the students would focus on document review and research. Then, they could prepare the actual application. At some point, they would go visit each county commission and its administration and brief them on the process. That should occur before the required public meetings. If they did not support the idea, that would be known before progressing too far. Also, in the fall, Tom

suggested that students would come up for an outing on the river, to get a better idea of the scope of the project.

Barry Holloway, Nassau County Commissioner, indicated he was interested in learning more about the designation and noted that at the appropriate time the committee could bring a resolution to the county commission to consider supporting the OFW designation.

After discussion, the committee agreed to have the UF Conservation Law Clinic draw up a draft proposal for further consideration by the committee, to research the feasibility of the OFW designation for the St. Marys River and a similar designation from Georgia.

There being no other business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.