

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

MINUTES OF MEETING
October 6, 2008

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on October 6, 2008, at the Nassau Farm Bureau Building, 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 Dean Woehrle called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. The Treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$7961.87 in the main account and \$526.50 in the management account. Minutes from the September 8, 2008 meeting were approved.

St. Marys River Outstanding Florida Water (OFW) Petition and Transboundary Watershed Cooperation Project

Kristi Lindgren and Rachel Mertz from the University of Florida College of Law gave an update on progress with the OFW petition. The scope of work and budget have been updated, and they expect to have a draft petition to present to the committee at the November meeting. The OFW process will involve several steps: 1. petition to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), 2. Rule-making workshop (will involve public hearings), 3. Florida DEP writes economic impact statement (public hearings by FDEP), 4. Decision by FDEP whether to award OFW status.

Trish Gramajo and Dean Woehrle were appointed a subcommittee to draft letters to the cities and county commissions, requesting resolutions of support for the OFW process.

The total budget of \$1039.12 will be paid out of the SMRMC general fund account – division between UF and UGA to be made at the December meeting. This was voted on and passed.

Discussion was held concerning the advantages and disadvantages of OFW status for the St. Marys River. The three main disadvantages were seen to be 1. increased storm water discharge standards, 2. increased standards for industries and timber BMPs, and 3. increased restrictions on docks and marinas. All three disadvantages were seen as actual advantages for preservation of the water quality in the river.

Discussion was held regarding whether all Florida tributaries would be included in the designation. The committee voted to include all tributaries for now.

The SMRMC "to-do-list" includes the letters supporting the petition from the cities and counties (see subcommittee above), and communicating with any developments of regional impact (DRIs) to enlist their support also.

Upcoming Events

The Atlantic Sturgeon Repopulation committee will meet tomorrow at White Oak (Chip, Jim Wildes).

Thursday 10/9: Conservation opportunities for agriculture (Trish).

10/12: Nassau County local mitigation management meeting (Trish).

10/28: Four Creeks State Forest Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.