

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

MINUTES OF MEETING
March 2, 2009

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on March 2, 2009, at the Nassau County Building, in Callahan, Florida. 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 7:14 p.m. The Treasurer's report indicated no changes in either account. Minutes from the February 2, 2009 meeting were approved.

2009 River Cleanup

Dean Woehrle announced the river cleanup, the third Saturday (3/21/09) in March. Site captains will remain in place from 2008, unless further notified, and lunch will follow at White Oak Plantation (11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.). Site captain materials were distributed. Woehrle announced that the *News Leader* and *Record* newspapers had withdrawn their financial support.

Management Plan Update

John November (University of Florida) announced that suggestions for updating the SMRMC River Management Plan will be presented at the May meeting.

Septic "Think Tank" Report

Merrill Varn introduced Walter Fufidio, Nassau County Planning Director, who reported on a meeting of health department directors of Camden and Nassau Counties and the City of Kingsland (GA), as well as himself and members of the Florida Onsite Wastewater Association (FOWA), earlier on March 2. Six talking points were identified at the meeting:

1. collection of baseline data
2. getting information on permitting rules and regulations out to the appropriate entities
3. review of regulations regarding community septic systems for each county
4. points of entry for septic system inspections for each county
5. creating an entity to promote periodic pump-outs on a 3 to 5-year cycle
financial incentives:
 - a. property owners pay pump-out fee by the month
 - b. get pump-out vendors to give a better rate for regular pump-outs
6. identify the failing/failed systems (Laurie Fowler, University of Georgia will look for funding)

A motion was made and passed to have another septic think tank meeting on April 6. Roxanne Groover of FOWA suggested booths promoting septic tank education at the local festivals.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.