

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**August 31, 2009**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on August 31, 2009, at the Nassau County Building, in Callahan, Florida. *(Due to the regularly scheduled September meeting falling on Labor Day, the meeting was rescheduled to August 31.)* 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 7:20 p.m. The minutes for the July 6, 2009 meeting were approved with revisions.

**New Business**

There was discussion of the need for a quorum to hold a meeting. The vacancies in the Baker County membership has affected many of the past years' meetings.

**Election of Officer:** In view of the recent resignation of committee secretary Rick Walsh, it was necessary to elect a new secretary. After discussion it was moved and approved that Merrill Varn become the committee secretary.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report:** Winifred Stephenson presented a summary report. Ken Hase moved to accept the report and the motion carried. Winifred Stephenson proposed that the committee give \$500.00 to each school system of each county, and have the funds tagged to a science field. After discussion there was a consensus to defer action; more consideration of funding is necessary as it is not clear that the four counties will continue to fund the committee in the future.

There was discussion of a proposed telescope and astronomy lab, possibly near Hilliard on U.S. Highway 1. If developed, there could be a designated space for St. Marys River Management Committee use. No action was taken.

Merrill Varn provided a University of Georgia update, noting that the first meeting will possibly be held on October 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss coordination of water quality sampling.

It was announced there will be a St. Marys Restoration Committee Habitat Assessment meeting on September 8-9. This will be a training session in order to build a working database from the ground up. This format has been used at Yellow River.

Trish Gramajo-St. John of The Nature Conservancy announced that they should hear by mid-September the results of a grant application of \$650,000 for the University of Georgia.

Alice Vick, Georgia EPD, gave a water quality presentation. She explained that water quality for the St. Marys River had been tested monthly for the last 5 years, and is now being tested every other month. She referenced the Georgia 305(b)/303(d) list documents, and Georgia EPD studies that have been done on the St. Marys River.

**Upcoming meetings:** It was announced that the annual holiday “end of the year” meeting will be held December 4, 2009 at White Oak Plantation. There was discussion of a topic or theme for the meeting, possibly focusing on storm water run-off or the sturgeon group.

Trish Gramajo-St. John mentioned the Georgia Water Council meetings, and SMRMC representation was discussed. Chip Campbell or Merrill Varn would try to attend. The meetings are September 22, 2009 in Charlton County and September 23, 2009 in Suwannee County.

It was announced that a low-impact development (LID ) workshop sponsored by the St. Johns River Water Management District will be held September 11, 2009 from 9:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. in Jacksonville; notices have been sent out.

The next committee meeting will be October 5, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.