

St. Marys River Management Committee

P.O. Box 251 Folkston, Georgia 31537

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 4, 2010

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on January 4, 2010, 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 not present.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chairman Dean Woehrle called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. The minutes from meetings in June, November and December were distributed, but no action was taken due to the lack of a quorum.

Sunshine Laws for Open Meetings in Florida and Georgia

Co-Chairman Dean Woehrle provided a brief overview of the Draft Protocol for Open Meetings document that was submitted to the committee by the UF Law Conservation Clinic. It was suggested that the draft document be emailed to the committee members for review and then be addressed at a future meeting. Geoff Sample, St. Johns River Water Management District, agreed to share the document with the respective county attorneys.

Guest Presentation – Tricia Reynolds, Coastal Regional Commission

Tricia Reynolds, Planning and Government Services Director with the Coastal Regional Commission (CRC), gave a presentation to the committee about the role of the CRC and possible assistance the CRC could provide to the committee. Reynolds stated that the CRC has model ordinances available for review and use, and the suggestion was made to provide copies of the ordinances to Charlton County (which is updating its comprehensive plan). (Charlton County is not part of the CRC, but rather part of the Southern Regional Commission.) Reynolds stated the committee's best option to effect change would be to have an impact on the update of Charlton County's Short Term Work Plan.

There was general discussion about how to increase the state of Georgia's involvement with the committee.

Following Reynolds' presentation, there was general committee discussion about how the committee can be more effective. Jeremy Flood, Rayonier, suggested that the committee could offer some type of public education regarding the committee and various regional issues. Merrill Varn, Charlton County, stated that it is important to educate local elected officials, as well. It was suggested that the committee could offer to review the counties' draft ordinances and offer official recommendations.

St. Marys River Celebration – Cleanup

Co-Chairman Dean Woehrle gave an overview of the upcoming river cleanup, which will be held on Saturday, March 20. Woehrle stated that White Oak Plantation will be submitting a bill to the committee to help cover the costs of the cleanup luncheon (\$5 per person). There was discussion about how to cover the costs and the necessity of more sponsorship fundraising.

Trish Gramajo-St. John, The Nature Conservancy, agreed to follow up with the St. Marys Fishery Restoration Committee to explore a possible partnership for the cleanup since the SMFRC expressed an interest in participating with this year's cleanup.

Miscellaneous

Co-Chairman Chip Campbell suggested that the committee needed to contact Baker County in some format to encourage more attendance from Baker County members. Geoff Sample, with the St. Johns River Water Management District, agreed to follow up with staff from Baker County.

Co-Chairman Dean Woehrle stated that White Oak Plantation will be submitting a bill to the SMRMC to help cover the costs of the holiday function. Woehrle also suggested that the committee become a 501-C3 entity, so that it could accept charitable donations.

Public Comment

Trish Gramajo-St. John told the committee about several upcoming educational programs and grant opportunities.

It was announced the next meeting will be Monday, February 1, 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.