

## **St. Marys River Management Committee**

P.O. Box 251 Folkston, Georgia 31537

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**February 1, 2010**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on February 1, 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 present.

#### **Call to Order**

Co-Chairman Dean Woehrle called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. The meeting agenda was reviewed and amended to include a discussion of the Charlton County Comp Plan update. The minutes from previous meetings (June 2008 and August 2009) were reviewed and approved. The minutes from the January 2010 meeting were amended and approved. The event summary (December 2009) was also reviewed and approved. The Treasurer's report indicated \$3,608.78 in the operating account and \$526.50 in the management account.

#### **Election of 2010 Officers**

The slate of officers for 2010 (Chip Campbell and Dean Woehrle, Co-Chairmen; Merrill Varn, Secretary; Winifred Stephenson, Treasurer) was approved by the committee.

#### **Charlton County Comprehensive Plan Update**

Merrill Varn, Charlton County, distributed copies of a portion of Charlton County's draft comprehensive plan update for review. A motion was made and approved to appoint Chip Campbell and Merrill Varn to review and comment on the draft comp plan document and offer suggestions on behalf of the committee.

#### **Draft Protocol for Open Meetings**

Adam Darrow, J.D. Candidate, briefly reviewed the Draft Protocol for Open Meetings document with the committee and answered members' questions. A clarification was made regarding Section 3(b), that meeting minutes should be posted in draft form to the committee's web site within two days of the meeting. It was agreed by committee members that a meeting notice containing all the meeting dates for the entire year should be posted somewhere at the meeting location (possibly outside the entrance).

Geoff Sample, St. Johns River Water Management District, mentioned that he had submitted the Draft Protocol document to each of the county attorneys for review but had not received any response. He agreed to follow up with the respective attorneys so that the committee could adopt the protocol at the next meeting.

#### **Boat Wake Issues**

Adam Darrow, J.D. Candidate, asked the committee members to explain their concerns regarding boat wake impacts. Various members offered explanations and situations regarding boat wake hazards, especially when the St. Marys River is in flood stage. There was discussion about whether the river could be closed when it was in flood stage, but it was determined that closing the river is not possible because it is deemed a navigable waterway. There was discussion about

which entity has the right to establish no-wake zones, as well as discussion about the possibility of increased law enforcement during times of flooding. Darrow agreed to research the boat wake issues and follow up with the committee at a future date.

### **Georgia State Water Plan Meetings**

Merrill Varn, Charlton County, provided the committee with an update from the Joint Regional Water Planning Council meeting (held Jan. 28, 2010), at which Varn offered comments on behalf of the SMRMC. She agreed to email any corresponding documents to the committee when they became available. There was discussion among committee members about whether the committee should draft a letter of concern, regarding the impacts of EPA's future TMDL rulings. It was agreed that the committee should draft a general letter of concern about possible interstate impacts.

Chip Campbell, Charlton County, provided an update from the Jan. 29 meeting of the Northeast Florida Water Supply Planning Area Workgroup, at which the St. Marys River was discussed as a possible future alternative water supply source.

### **2010 District Water Supply Plan**

Geoff Sample, St. Johns River Water Management District, explained the purpose of the District's Water Supply Plan. Sample explained that when a water deficit for the year 2030 is identified in the plan, an alternative potential water source must be identified. The St. Marys River is listed as a potential alternative source in the 2010 Water Supply Plan, assuming there is a water deficit and other alternatives (such as increased conservation) do not fully address the deficit. He emphasized that this is a planning effort, and a study of the environmental impacts and economic feasibility will be undertaken before any project is proposed for further consideration.

### **Baker County Vacancies and Funding**

Geoff Sample, St. Johns River Water Management District, informed the committee that he had attended a Baker County Commission meeting to ask that the committee's three vacant seats (Baker County representatives) be filled. Sample recommended that the committee consider formulating a budget that could be submitted to the counties along with the committee's annual invoices.

### **St. Marys River Celebration – Cleanup**

Co-Chairman Dean Woehrle provided an update regarding the donations he had received regarding the cleanup. Woehrle said the cleanup event is listed as part of Disney's "Give A Day, Get A Disney Day," promotion. There was discussion about whether the Disney listing might encourage more volunteers than usual. There was discussion about how to pay for the luncheon at White Oak Plantation.

### **Miscellaneous**

Co-Chairman Chip Campbell stated that he would like the minutes to show that the Outstanding Florida Water designation, which the committee investigated in 2008, was part of the committee's original Management Plan document approved by the four counties (Table 1: Recommended Strategies for Management of the St. Marys River).

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.