

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

P.O. Box 251 Folkston, Georgia 31537

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**June 7, 2010**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on June 7, 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 7:18 p.m. Introductions were made of those present. The meeting agenda was reviewed and amended to include a discussion of the draft Nassau County 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The minutes from the previous meeting (May 2010) were reviewed and approved.

#### **Draft Nassau County 2030 Comprehensive Plan**

Walter Fufidio, Planning Director for Nassau County, distributed paperwork regarding the issue and gave an overview of the draft comprehensive plan. He explained the Future Land Use Element of the draft plan. There were questions from committee members about taxation, setback requirements, and the normal annual flood line of the St. Marys River. Fufidio was asked to explain the 22,000 acre (approximate) proposed urban expansion area (the East Nassau Community Planning Area). Fufidio said it is a mixed-use plan that Nassau County is excited about. He said the area will be developed through the DRI process and said there will be a significant open space corridor through the area. Fufidio said it will probably be a 20-30 year project that will require new interchanges and mandatory water and sewer hook-ups (no septic allowed).

Trish Gramajo-St. John, with The Nature Conservancy, inquired about the absence of any septic tank inspection requirement in the draft plan. Fufidio said the local planning and zoning staff discussed the idea but ultimately decided not to include it. Gramajo-St. John informed Mr. Fufidio about the recent passage of a Florida Senate bill which requires such inspections.

There was discussion about the Tompkins Landing area being up for sale and the possibility of whether the county could consider purchasing it.

#### **Treasurer's Report and Funding Issues**

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Winifred Stephenson and approved by the committee. The report indicated \$2,154.95 in the operating account and \$526.50 in the management account. Stephenson said she had drafted budget request letters to be submitted to the four county commissions. Merrill Varn, Charlton County, said the letter needs to be worded in a way that explains that the counties are obligated, through the Interlocal Agreement, to fund the committee. There was discussion about whether or not Nassau County had removed the committee as a line item in the county's budget, and about how to get the line item reinstated. Dean Woehrle, Nassau County, agreed to speak to the Board of County Commissioners and explain the situation.

### **Septic Think Tank / 319 Grant Proposal Update**

Merrill Varn, Charlton County, informed the committee that she and Laurie Fowler will be meeting on July 17 to finalize the septic tank working group documentation. Then, the whole working group will convene on August 2.

Varn said the 319 grant applications are currently in flux as it is possible the grant money may be redistributed elsewhere.

### **Charlton County Comprehensive Plan update**

Merrill Varn, Charlton County, said the comprehensive plan had been formally approved, and that the final plan does include comments offered by the committee.

### **Coastal GA Regional Water Council meeting update**

Merrill Varn, Charlton County, said the next council meeting will be on June 23. Chip Campbell, Charlton County, and Jeremy Flood, Nassau County, said they would try to attend.

### **Northeast Florida Alternative Water Supply Subgroup**

Chip Campbell, Charlton County, gave an overview of a recent meeting of the Northeast Florida alternative water supply subgroup. Campbell said the subgroup members tried to emphasize the “planning exercise” and “required” nature of the water management district’s Water Supply Plan. There was discussion about whether the proposed plan to use the St. Marys River as an alternative water supply source could ever be financially or technically feasible. Campbell said he disagreed with the data being used for the volume of water flow in the river, and there was discussion the time period in which such data was collected. Campbell said SMRMC members Kevin Shell and Jeremy Flood also attended the subgroup meeting, and they all agreed that the committee’s concerns about interstate impacts were heard and accepted by the subgroup members.

### **2009 Annual Report Presentations**

Committee members have begun presenting the 2009 Annual Report to the respective counties. Dean Woehrle and Geoff Sample presented the report to Nassau County. They felt it was positively received. Kevin Shell and Geoff Sample presented the report to Baker County and felt it was favorably received. Chip Campbell presented the report to Charlton County. He said the report was well-received and that the Commission agreed to reappoint Chip to the SMRMC. Ken Hase will be presenting the report to Camden County on June 15.

### **Future Subcommittee Meeting**

A motion was made, and approved, for the members of the water quality subcommittee to meet on August 2 at 6 p.m. at Cedar River Seafood restaurant to conduct an initial meeting, prior to the 7 p.m. meeting of the SMRMC. It was clarified that the purpose of the subcommittee is to review water quality data that has been collected by other entities. The purpose of the meeting will be to develop procedures for contacting the entities that are engaged in the collection of the water quality data. Melinda Granlund, administrative assistant, asked Merrill Varn to help her prepare an agenda for the meeting. It was agreed that the meeting would need to be noticed and that minutes would need to be taken.

### **End-of-Year Event Planning**

Dean Woehrle, Nassau County, suggested the committee host a less formal end-of-the-year holiday party this year, as the events at White Oak Plantation have become cost-prohibitive for the committee. The committee members agreed this was a good idea. Winifred Stephenson suggested purchasing a plaque for White Oak Plantation to express the committee's appreciation for White Oak and all the support they've given to the committee over the years.

### **Committee Member Reports**

Kevin Shell, Baker County, informed the committee that Baker County is processing two applications for appointments to the SMRMC.

Merrill Varn, Charlton County, asked for committee volunteers who would agree to address the four county commissions in an effort to keep the commissions informed about what the SMRMC is doing. Dean Woehrle agreed to visit Nassau County. Russell Barber agreed to visit Charlton County. Kevin Shell agreed to visit Baker County. Ken Hase agreed to visit Camden County.

### **Miscellaneous**

Trish Gramajo-St. John informed the committee that her position with The Nature Conservancy will be terminated at the end of June. She expressed her thanks and gratitude to the committee for all their work and commitment.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.