

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

P.O. Box 251 Folkston, Georgia 31537

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**December 6, 2010**

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on December 6, 2010, at the Nassau County Building in Callahan, Florida. Committee members and visitors in attendance are listed at the end of the minutes. A quorum of members was present.

#### **Call to Order**

Co-chairman Chip Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Introductions were made of those present. Minutes from previous meetings were reviewed and approved (August 30, October 4 and November 1). Treasurer Winifred Stephenson presented the treasurer's report to the committee. The main account has a balance of \$4,834.47. On behalf of administrative assistant Melinda Granlund, Stephenson presented a letter for the committee co-chairman's signature, detailing the amount paid to Granlund during 2010.

#### **Septic Think Tank update**

Merrill Varn, Charlton County, explained that there was no longer an opportunity for the committee to apply for a Section 319 grant due to staffing changes and other circumstances. Varn informed the committee that Laurie Fowler, with the University of Georgia, would be working on a new grant project that could benefit the committee—the creation of a non-point source pollution guidebook. The guidebook will be designed for use by the committee and other non-profits or local governments. Fowler had requested a letter of support from the committee on behalf of her guidebook grant application. Varn distributed a copy of a draft letter of support for the committee to review. At the conclusion of the meeting, the committee approved an edited copy of the letter to be mailed out.

The septic think tank group will meet again in early 2011 to decide future action.

#### **Water Quality Subcommittee Update**

Jeremy Flood, Nassau County, provided an update from the water quality subcommittee meeting, held earlier in the evening. Flood said the second annual Water Quality Technical Meeting will be held in March in Charlton County. The March meeting will focus on fecal coliform sampling and interstate cooperation.

Flood informed the committee he had met with Leonard Wood of the St. Johns River Water Management District (District) to discuss how to sort/analyze the data that has been provided by the District. Merrill Varn will contact Kraig McLane and Laurie Fowler to ask for guidance in developing parameters for handling the data. Geoff Sample, District Intergovernmental Coordinator, suggested that Flood contact Derek Busby (Lower Basin Program Manager) for additional help.

Ken Hase, Camden County, questioned whether the District had done any analysis of their own data. Flood and Varn said they had asked for such an analysis but had not received anything.

### **Nomination and Election of 2011 Committee Officers**

Greg Sheppard, Baker County, announced the candidates who had been nominated to serve as SMRMC officers for 2011: Dean Woehrle, Florida Co-Chairman; Chip Campbell, Georgia Co-Chairman; Merrill Varn, Secretary; and Ken Hase, Treasurer.

The slate of nominated officers was approved. A motion was made, and seconded, to elect the slate of nominated officers. A voice vote was taken and the slate was unanimously approved.

### **Committee Strategic Planning for 2011**

Geoff Sample, District, distributed a sheet detailing the original twelve guiding principles outlined in the committee's river management plan.

There was general discussion about how to keep the committee more informed about county activities that may impact the St. Marys River and its tributaries. County activities which could have such an impact on the river include future land use change amendments, comp plan reviews, DRIs proposals within a certain proximity to the river, etc.

Melinda Granlund, administrative assistant, suggesting amending the letter to the counties which had been drafted by Chip Campbell and Geoff Sample (and reviewed by the committee at the November meeting) to include such a request for notification. Varn suggested sending the letter as is, and then following up at a later date with a more specific "bullet letter" asking for notifications on specific issues. There was general discussion about which approach to take.

Jeremy Flood, Nassau County, questioned what the committee would do if it learned about an upcoming land change proposal. Jim Wildes, Camden County, and Gordon Crews, Baker County, suggested that the committee would review the information and then follow up with an official comment if necessary.

Chip Campbell, Charlton County, stressed the importance of having a dedicated group, or subcommittee, which would be willing and able to stay on top of these issues.

Ken Hase suggested focusing on the "bigger" items, such as comp plan reviews.

There was discussion about how to approach the counties: through letters, meetings, or presentations, or a combination thereof.

### **Creation of Land Use and Planning Issues Subcommittee**

The committee members agreed that there was a need for a subcommittee that could focus on the land use issues in which the committee is interested. A motion was made, seconded, and approved for the creation of said subcommittee. Members include: Jeremy Flood, Greg Sheppard, Ken Hase, and Chip Campbell. The members of the subcommittee agreed to draft a "request list letter" to the counties, requesting that the committee be notified of specific, upcoming land use issues that might affect the river.

Ken Hase made a motion, which was seconded and approved, to send Chip Campbell's original county "introduction" letter, as amended.

### **Expansion of River Cleanup Subcommittee**

Merrill Varn, Charlton County, suggested that the River Cleanup subcommittee be expanded to include additional, related issues, such as public outreach, marketing, updates to the committee's web site, etc.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved, for the River Cleanup Subcommittee to also include a focus on public outreach. The members of the subcommittee include: Dean Woehrle, Teresa Crawford, Karen Chisholm and Jim Wildes.

Greg Sheppard requested that the newly expanded River Cleanup Subcommittee consider a review of the committee's bylaws, including a review of committee member succession.

### **Miscellaneous**

Jeremy Flood and Winifred Stephenson (both Nassau County members) agreed to change roles/subcommittee duties: Flood will now focus on the Land Use Subcommittee, and Stephenson will assume Flood's role on the Water Quality Subcommittee.

A motion was made for all subcommittees to meet next month, before the January 10 meeting, and then provide updates at the full committee meeting.

Jeremy Flood inquired about the committee's septic tank work, and Merrill Varn explained the septic tank group's plans.

Dean Woehrle asked the committee members to think about possible luncheon sites following the 2011 river cleanup celebration.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14p.m.

**St. Marys River Management Committee  
Attendance Log – December 6, 2010**

**Baker County Members**

Gordon Crews, Commissioner  
Mike Griffis  
Kevin Shell  
Greg Sheppard

**Nassau County Members**

Jeremy Flood  
Winifred Stephenson  
Earl K. Tindall  
Dean Woehrl

**Camden County Members**

Karen Chisholm  
Ken Hase  
Jim Wildes

**Charlton County Members**

Mitchell Crawford, Commissioner  
Chip Campbell  
Teresa Crawford  
Merrill Varn

**Non-voting Members**

Geoff Sample, SJRWMD

**Visitors**

Steve Nance (Charlton County)

**Administrative Assistant**

Melinda Granlund