

St. Marys River Management Committee

P.O. Box 251 Folkston, Georgia 31537

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 7, 2011

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or committee) held its regularly scheduled meeting on March 7, 2011, at the Nassau County Building in Callahan, Florida. Committee members and visitors in attendance are listed at the end of the minutes.

Call to Order

The meeting was formally called to order by Co-Chairman Dean Woehrle at 8:36 p.m. A quorum of members was present. The draft agenda was reviewed and approved. Minutes from the previous month's meeting (February 2011) were reviewed and approved. The treasurer's report was presented and approved.

Letter of Support for Nassau County Land Purchase

The committee voted to draft a letter of support to Nassau County for the acquisition of 39 acres of land near Kings Ferry. The land will be purchased by the River Branch Foundation of Jacksonville Beach and then donated to Nassau County to be held as a conservation easement.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

(Please see Attachment A for additional items informally discussed prior to the presence of a quorum and subsequent call to order.)

**St. Marys River Management Committee
Attendance Log – March 7, 2011**

Baker County Members

(none)

Nassau County Members

Walter Boatright, Commissioner

Jeremy Flood, by telephone

Winifred Stephenson

Keith Tindall

Dean Woehrle

Camden County Members

Karen Chisholm

Philip Jones

Charlton County Members

Mitchell Crawford, Commissioner

Chip Campbell

Teresa Crawford

Merrill Varn

Non-voting Members

(none)

Visitors

Walter Fufidio

Steve Nance

Administrative Assistant

Melinda Granlund

Attachment A – Information items discussed prior to the presence of a quorum of members.

Draft Budget

On behalf of Treasurer Jeremy Flood (Nassau County), Melinda Granlund distributed a draft budget for the committee for 2011. Members were asked to review it prior to the next meeting.

Potential Acquisition of Land in Nassau County

Walter Fufidio, Nassau County Growth Management Director, informed the members of a potential purchase of 39 acres of land in Nassau County near Kings Ferry. The land would be purchased by The River Branch Foundation of Jacksonville Beach and donated to Nassau County. The land, which is mostly wetlands, would be subject to a conservation easement. There is 2/3 of a mile of river frontage along the St. Marys River. Although the River Branch Foundation will be handling purchase costs, the county has been asked to pay for “incidentals,” such as appraisal and title search fees. These costs to the county are expected to be around \$10,000.

Fufidio asked the committee to consider writing a letter of support to Nassau County, encouraging obtaining the conservation easement.

Water Quality Technical Meeting update

Merrill Varn, Charlton County, provided an overview of the Water Quality Technical Meeting, which was held the previous week. Varn said the meeting was successful and that the attendees seemed to appreciate the opportunity to meet and discuss issues. Topics of discussion at the technical meeting included: fecal coliform testing, septic tank regulations, agricultural/animal waste regulations, and ranking of streams/tributaries of the St. Marys River regarding fecal coliform levels.

Upcoming River Cleanup and Celebration event

Dean Woehrle, Nassau County, and Karen Chisholm, Camden County, provided an update on the upcoming river cleanup event, which will be on March 19. Chisholm confirmed the “celebration” portion of the cleanup will be held at the Howard Gilman Memorial Park in St. Marys, GA. The committee will provide a limited number of hot dogs and water, and there will be another food vendor on site who will provide additional food choices. Chisholm said she will need volunteers to come early to set up and some to stay late to make sure everything is cleaned up. She also asked that people bring coolers filled with ice.

Philip Jones, Camden County, said he had spoken with the Executive Officer at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base and expected that there will be some military support for the cleanup. He said he had also spoken with the St. Marys Yacht Club about participating.