

DETAILS OF SMRMC INVOLVEMENT IN 319 GRANT

The Georgia Water Planning Council will want to see a substantial level of commitment from a local stakeholder. UGA will be committing at least \$25,000 in match in terms of donated salaries and we'll ask for donated time from the same folks who committed last time. SMRMC is being asked to spend at least 400 hours over the course of 13 months (January 1 2012- January 31, 2013). That is equivalent to 4 people (WQ subcommittee) spending 10 hours each per month for ten months or 8 people (WQ and LUP subcommittees) spending 5 hours each per month or some combination thereof.

We are being asked to convene and host eight meetings and one field day (roughly equivalent to two meetings). This will include finding free appropriate place and time for the particular meeting, identifying and noticing potential attendees, setting up meetings and welcoming attendees at meeting, and participating in the meeting. Laurie would also like us to participate in the initial planning meeting (probably September 22 or 23) prior to the onset of the grant funding.

There are at least two uncertainties that are making it difficult to plan. Firstly, the funding may be delayed until after October. Secondly, EPD has indicated that they will be discussing some changes to the grant at an August meeting. With all that said, we still need to begin planning since we only meet on a monthly basis.

Initial Grant Planning Meeting

SMRMC Members involved: Land Use and Planning (LUP) Subcommittee Chip Campbell and Phil Jones, Water Quality (WQ) Subcommittee Merrill Varn

Goals: discuss questions below (things to think about), develop timeline, assign tasks

Date: after funding papers are signed and at least a month prior to start date

Water Quality Sampling and Ground-truthing Meetings (4) (SMRMC-WQ):

Background: On the broader scale, this work complements and will be coordinated with the Section 319 onsite septic disposal systems project for the State of Georgia's Coastal Nonpoint Source Program. This broader coastal project, led by the University of Georgia's Marine Extension Service (MAREX) and the Coastal Health District, partners with the local health departments and the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) to visually inspect, geolocate and map the high priority dense areas of individual onsite wastewater treatment systems and drinking water wells in proximity to tidal waters of the state in the eleven coastal counties. It also extends the successful 319 WelSTROM project to cover all coastal counties with access to the webaccessible centralized database of these systems for historic and new permitted installations. The data developed pursuant to this proposed St. Marys 319 project will help the Coastal Nonpoint Source Program develop pollution susceptibility maps for coastal waters and target future protective actions. The MAREX/Coastal (and eventually Southeast) Health District individual systems to be documented into a GIS database coast-wide. The visual inspections will be enhanced by the targeted sampling proposed in this proposed Horsepen Creek 319 project, which will identify failing systems that may not be *visually* dysfunctional, but where loadings transported by groundwater are contributing to surface water impairments.

Members: SMRMC WQ subcommittee, the Camden County administrator, planning director, director of Environmental Health, MAREX, interested folks from the CRC and Georgia Water Planning Council, etc.

SMRMC subcommittee(s) responsible: WQ

Goal: Oversee targeted sampling to identify failing septic systems that are contributing to the impairment of Horsepen Creek, determine locations of subsequent repairs or replacement and deliver summary to the public.

Dates: -planning meeting 1 initial brainstorming pre-sampling;
-planning meeting 2 after sampling results and before ground-truthing;
-planning meeting 3 after ground-truthing to decide where to replace/repair;
-planning meeting 4 to prepare for public wrap-up meeting;

Blue Ribbon Committee Meetings (3) (SMRMC-LUP):

Background: Activities funded under this 319 proposal would also help the state of Georgia satisfy conditions imposed by EPA and NOAA to obtain the maximum statewide 319 (h) and Coastal Management funds allowable. In order to maintain full federal funding, Georgia must receive final approval (conditional now) of a comprehensive Coastal Nonpoint Source Program. Onsite disposal conditions imposed by EPA and NOAA on the state of Georgia are: (1) policies that require an OSDS be repaired, replaced, or modified where OSDS fails, or threatens or impairs surface waters, (2) inspection OSDS at a frequency adequate to ascertain whether OSDS are failing, and (3) consider replacing or upgrading OSDS to treat influent so that total nitrogen loadings in the effluent are reduced by 50% where they are hydrologically connected to groundwater or low nitrogen surface water.

Members: Specifically this grant will establish a blue ribbon committee comprised of:
the staff attorney at the UGA river basin center,
a representative from the SMRMC Septic Think Tank and/or Land Use and Planning Subcommittee
a representative from CRC,
a representative from MAREX,
a representative from the Coastal Regional Water Council, and
other appropriate persons suggested by the Camden County Health Department and the Camden County Commission.

SMRMC Subcommittee(s) responsible: LUP

Goals: The Blue Ribbon Committee will establish recommendations for:
(1) a policy promoting ongoing management of onsite wastewater treatment systems,
(2) a financing mechanism/s for paying for the replacement of failing onsite wastewater treatment systems as well as maintenance and repair,
(3) a strategy for assuring adequate facilities for septage disposal,
(4) a review of the effectiveness of the existing interlocal onsite wastewater treatment citing criteria.

Dates: TBD

Field Day exhibiting the demonstration site (new Kingsland Park)

Attendees: multi county developers, health department (counts as two meetings)(WQ and LUP);

SMRMC members responsible: WQ and LUP and if in conjunction with River Clean-Up also the Public Outreach (PO) Subcommittee.

Background: The St. Marys River Management Plan specifically calls for educational materials and an educational campaign that addresses the relationship between the river and its impairment and the shallow groundwater flows affected by failing septic systems. We will work closely with MAREX and the Southern Regional Commission to ensure that we do not duplicate any educational materials and strategies that have been or are being developed by those groups; our efforts will focus on a campaign that emphasizes the protection of the river as a way to motivate maintenance activities. Practicum students will assist this effort.

Goal: Develop and implement an educational campaign informing homeowners of the need for and how-tos of onsite wastewater treatment system maintenance

Date: if grant starts in January, it may be possible to do Field Day in conjunction with River Clean-Up and have Friday be professional day and Saturday be a general public day.

Final public wrap-up meeting relaying accomplishments to general public

Background:

Attendees: elected officials, local health departments, and the St. Marys River Management Committee in all four St. Marys counties (GA and FL)

SMRMC subcommittee(s) responsible: WQ, LUP, and PO

Goal: closing workshop on findings of Blue Ribbon Committee regarding onsite wastewater treatment system issues, also summarize grant activities and evaluate project results

Date: month 12 or 13

Things to think about prior to September Meeting

- 1) *What are the advantages and disadvantages of Blue Ribbon Committee having members from Camden county only, Camden and Charlton counties, and all four counties?*
- 2) *Where should the Blue Ribbon Committee meet under each of the above scenarios? why?*
- 3) *Who are these major players and what do they do? (MAREX, Southern Georgia Regional Commission, Coastal and Southeast Health Districts, Georgia Water Planning Council – Coastal Region)*
- 4) *What is the best timing for the three Blue Ribbon Committee meeting?*
- 5) *Should Blue Ribbon Committee met during or after work hours?*

The following people will pick up samples of all educational material available to owners of On Site Sewage Disposal Systems and bring them to Merrill, Chip, or Phil at the September SMRMC meeting Camden- Phil Jones, Charlton- Merrill Varn, Baker- Kevin Shell, Nassau-TBD.