



# St. Marys River Management Committee

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## INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT CREATING THE ST. MARYS RIVER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this 6th day of  
December, 1993 by and between:

BAKER COUNTY

NASSAU COUNTY

CHARLTON COUNTY

CAMDEN COUNTY

### WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the parties have entered into an Interlocal Agreement creating the St. Marys River Management Committee, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, and the Constitution of the State of Georgia, 1983, Article 9, Section 3, Paragraph 1, Intergovernmental Contract (as amended 1992), permits local governmental units to make the most efficient use of their powers by enabling them to cooperate with other localities on a basis of mutual advantage and thereby to provide services and facilities in a manner and pursuant to forms of governmental organization that will accord best with geographic, economic, population, and other factors influencing the needs and development of local communities, and

WHEREAS, Camden County and Charlton County, Georgia and Nassau County and Baker County, Florida, have come together in an effort to ensure the long term viability of both the environmental and economic resources of the St. Marys River, now therefore

IN CONSIDERATION of the mutual promises, covenants and benefits to accrue from conduct of a comprehensive regional planning process, the member governments do hereby covenant and agree as follows:

1. Establishment of St. Marys River Management Committee.

There is hereby established a multi-jurisdictional arrangement, herein referred to as the "St. Marys River Management Committee", among all parties hereto.

2. Purpose. The purpose of the St. Marys River Management Committee is to identify issues and recommend solutions related to the St. Marys River and its water quality. The St. Marys River Management Committee is to promote the protection and long term viability of both environmental and economic resources of the St. Marys River through a mechanism which retains local control, protects private property rights, and fosters cooperation of local individuals, governments, regional, State and federal agencies.

3. Duties and Responsibilities. The duties and responsibilities of the St. Marys River Management Committee are as follows:

To identify issues of concern related to water quality and recreational/commercial use of the St. Marys River.

Pursue the establishment of a coordinated and consistent code of regulations which, when implemented, will protect the water quality of the St. Marys River.

Development and implementation of a St. Marys River Management Plan for the protection of the water quality of the St. Marys River.

Promote the establishment of positive incentives for landowners to encourage land management options which provide the greatest benefits to the ecology of the St. Marys River.

Maintain a public monitoring and a violation reporting service to improve compliance and enforcement of existing laws and regulations to protect the River.

Review and provide recommendations on public policy issues such as local government comprehensive plans and land development

regulations, the expenditure of public resources, development proposals, and other state and federal actions which will impact the resources of the St. Marys River.

Serve as an advisory committee and provide coordination among various regulatory, land use planning, acquisition programs, and governmental entities to protect the resources of the St. Marys River.

To educate the public and provide information on the resources of the St. Marys River.

To provide a forum for affected landowners and county residents to provide input into decisions on river corridor protection while balancing the protection for private landowners.

4. Voting Membership. Each member County Commission (Nassau and Baker Counties, Florida and Camden and Charlton Counties, Georgia) shall appoint five (5) persons representing their respective county, to serve on the Committee. Of the five appointees from each County: one (1) will be a County Commissioner, two (2) will be landowners who own property on the St. Marys River in that county, or if the landowner is a company, corporation or other legal entity, then an appointed representative of that company, corporation, or legal entity, and two (2) will be residents of that county.

5. Terms of Service. Each voting Committee member shall be appointed by the County Commission and shall serve for a four (4) year term. Terms of Committee members shall be staggered so one half of committee terms will end every two years.

If the status of an appointed member changes during his/her term which makes that individual unqualified for their particular appointment, the County Commission of the affected member will appoint a replacement at the next available Commission meeting.

6. Non-Voting Members. One (1) representative from the St. Johns River Water Management District and one (1) representative from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources shall also serve on the Committee. The Agency representatives may serve as long as they represent the agency.

7. Funding. Each member County shall contribute an equal amount based on a budget approved by all member counties. The Committee and member Counties may pursue grants, donations, and other funding sources to support the implementation of and further the goals of the St. Marys River Management Committee.

8. Fiscal Agent. The parties hereto agree that Charlton County shall act as the fiscal agent for the Committee to receive and disburse all funds and be accountable for same. Any party employed to work for the Committee shall be an employee of Charlton County for all legal purposes. All funds contributed by

member counties and any funds otherwise received for the Committee shall be placed in a special account established for the Committee in an account named "Special Account of the Board of Commissioners of Charlton County for the St. Mary's River Management Committee." All funds drawn from this account must bear the signature of the chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Charlton County and of the chairman of the committee.

9. Term of Agreement. This Agreement shall remain in force and affect for a period of fifty (50) years; however, it is further provided that any party may, upon six (6) months written notice to all other parties, withdraw from the Committee and terminate all of its obligations set forth herein which had not already occurred prior to the sending of the withdrawal notice.

EXCEPT as hereby expressly amended, all terms and conditions of the Interlocal Agreement shall be and remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have officially adopted and caused this Agreement to be executed and their signatures to be affixed by their respective Chairman or chief official as of the day and year first above written.

BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Alex Bunsin*  
Vice-Chairman

NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*James E. Distone*  
Chairman

CHARLTON COUNTY, GEORGIA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*William J. Carter*  
Chairman

CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Daniel L. Sullivan*  
Chairman