First Bi-Monthly Report on Spanish Creek CIG

February 6, 2020

As a result of testing since the mid-1990’s Spanish Creek has been listed as not meeting its designated fishing use because of excessively high fecal coliform levels and excessively low dissolved oxygen. In 2006, EPD published a TMDL Implementation Plan for Spanish Creek with a deadline of 2016 for remediation efforts. That deadline was not met and grants to accomplish the efforts now require a more extensive EPA Nine Element Watershed Management Plan.

In October 2019, Charlton County was awarded a $29,000 Coastal Incentive Grant (CIG) from GA-DNR Coastal Resources Division (GA-CDR) to write such a plan for Spanish Creek, which is impaired for fecal coliform and dissolved oxygen.  The subcontract to write the plan was awarded to Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood. The County provides a 1:1 match through the following community participation opportunities:

* + a steering committee,
  + a Citizens Advisory Committee,
  + two sites at the River CleanUp,
  + bimonthly reports to SMRMC, SMRK, Charlton Co and the cities of Folkston and Homeland, and
  + several educational opportunities, including informative articles in the Charlton County Herald/Charlton County website, a wrap up meeting, and a water quality monitoring project by local high school students.

The first meetings of the two committees were held December 10, 2019. At the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, GMC presented information about the physical characteristics of the creek and past sampling efforts. The powerpoint presentation is attached for your information. The committee then discussed additional sampling sites for this year. Fortunately, the student team can sample the creek from private property, with permission. EPD must sample from public property. Committee members were able to supply excellent access to suggested sites. The next meetings of the steering committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee are February 11, 2020.

Other match activities are on schedule. Audrey Pickren and Ashley Raulerson, the teachers who will be leading the sampling efforts have received training in Adopt-A-Stream methodology and have in turn trained their student team. They will collect the first two sample sets before mid-April and the last two sets once school resumes in August. The article for the Herald/Website has been written and will be posted soon. A map, and possibly the powerpoint presentation, will be posted on the website also. Plans are underway for the two sites for the April 25, 2020 River CleanUp. GMC anticipates that the plan will be complete by December 2020 and that all final reports will be submitted by the March 30, 2021 deadline.

Thank You. Any questions?