

St. Marys River Management Committee Reports

September 14, 2026

Attendees:

Baker - Danny Norton (FL Co-Chair)

Nassau -

Camden -

Charlton - Chip Campbell (GA Co-Chair), Merrill Varn (Secretary)

Other - Claire Feazel (SMRMC Admin), Alec Jarobe (St. Marys Riverkeeper)

- The meeting began at 6:08 p.m. A quorum was not present; reports were received but no business was conducted
- Treasurer's Report - \$11,578.40 (as May 31, 2026)

Old Business/Reports

Land Use (including public access)

Baker -

- Boat Ramp - Delay due to FEMA reimbursement and the Florida Forest Service \$380,000 grant - FFS extended grant period by 2.5 years - Demolition on-going - Contract has been let - Waiting on funding to be released by FEMA - Plan for construction has been approved by FEMA - No update for September
- Development Projects - Multiple projects within Baker County may impact the St. Marys River. Approximately 680 homes within the first two developments that would be on city sewer and city water
 - Barber Point Development - old golf course - on 23A - No update for September
 - Nehemiah Point - southernmost development on 23A - entrances and exits have been approved by Baker County Board of Commissioners - No update for September
 - Mid Pointe Development - Initial Application submitted for unincorporated Baker County - Consultant reviewing project on County's behalf - Water and Sewer would come from a Jacksonville-area developer - waiting on developer to respond to request for information - No update for September
- Maple Set Recreation Area - Improvements at John M. Bethea State Forest, the upper most access point to the river - No update for September
- Reynolds Bridge - connection between northeast Baker County, Florida and southwest Charlton County, Georgia is currently closed. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has the \$8.5 million dollar rebuild is scheduled for 2028 on their Draft Tentative Five-Year Work Program - No update for September
- Plant AS - Project to build large-scale greenhouse - there are no agreements in place for developers to proceed - No update for September
- National Park Service – Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program (NPS-RTCA) - No update for September
 - Review of 2, 4, 7, and 11-mile kayak trails within Baker County on river from Moniac to Boy Scout Camp
 - Shoals Park - Working on Canoe Trail - Also working to make the area more accessible and kid friendly - Baker County has made improvements, but is still waiting on NPS for next steps.
- Steele Bridge Road - FEMA funding improvements to make drainage updates and cross drains to the road - Plans should be available within the upcoming months - No update for September

Nassau -

- On Island
 - Boutique Hotel - No update for September
 - Bioethanol plant - Concern with land use plan - \$6.6 million lawsuit filed against City of Fernandina Beach - City has until November to respond - No update for September
 - Beach re-nourishment - No update for September
 - Atlantic Seafood Property - Lessee vacated - building most likely to be demolished - No update for September
 - Inland Fernandina Beach - Concern about stormwater management. New areas are flooding from lighter rain events - No update for September
 - Waterfront Park - No movement on construction. Work began in the spring, but stopped during the summer - No update for September
 - New Fishing Pier - Possible seawall and parking construction - in front of Alachua - No update for September
- Mainland
 - Townhouse Development - No update for September
 - New Race Track development west of I-95, near the Florida Welcome Center - approximately 600 acres - No update for September
 - BOCC continues to negotiate for future conservation easements. One property is approximately 1,400 acres - No update for September

Camden -

- Blue Bridge - Work has begun on the topographic, hydrographic, and geotechnical surveys for the project
- Raydient Development - Taylor Morrison has completed construction on the 18-hole golf course at the *Esplanade at St. Marys*. Concern remains surrounding adequate water retention on site. It may be possible to obtain storm water plans - Ribbon cutting on the project is scheduled for later in September - In August it was reported that the site was briefly shut down in July due to sediment entering the river
- Temple Creek - Boardwalk complete - Interpretive Trail is under construction, but the project is waiting on completion of the work that will produce millings - Signage for the trail will go up after the trail has been completed
- Data Centers - Camden County has enacted a Moratorium on Data Centers - No update for September
- Oscar Oaks Subdivision - Proposed for the NE corner of the St. Marys Road and GA Hwy 40 - appears to be accessible from St. Marys Road - No update for September

Charlton -

- Charlton Camp Pinckney County Park Boat Ramp - GA-DNR conducted a technical review in March 2025 and sent a letter to Charlton County identifying necessary improvements - Progress on this item is currently paused as discussions with the County continue - No update for September
- Raydient - The Refuge, featuring 12 lots ranging from +/-20 to +/-45 acres along the St. Marys River, has been advertised as “coming soon” from Raydient Rural. This is near the Atlantic White Sturgeon protection area - No update for September

Water Quality

- NPDES - No new or renewed permits in Camden County or Charlton County that would impact the St. Marys River
- Spanish Creek 319 - Grant extended through October 2026. 45 total pump outs have been completed. Due to the end of the City of Homeland's fiscal year, there is a hold on spending. There are still plans to replace a septic tank lid and complete approximately 8 more pump outs.
 - The exact location of the pollutants is still to be determined - water quality sampling is continuing
- Septic Think Tank - Project is currently on hold, but there is still a need to do septic tank maintenance talks with any HOAs on both the Florida and Georgia sides of the river and its tributaries - No update for September
- E&S spreadsheet
 - Florida requires a 25' buffer for wetlands, but not for surface waters. The committee continues to work towards a 25' construction buffer for Florida; No update for August
 - Georgia does not have Nitrogen and Phosphorus (N/P) regulations - No update for September
- FL TMDL Planning - No update for September - Need to identify someone to take lead on this project. There is a need to identify the baseline for N/P
- Georgia EPD Comprehensive Nutrient Permitting - No update for September - will move this to a Fall-only agenda item
- Folkston WasteWater Treatment Plant - Construction continues on the new system, which will increase capacity to 1.25 MGD. The project is ahead of schedule and could be completed by the end of January. The new ponds could be in use by February 2027. The current facility has a capacity of 1.0 MGD.
 - Plan to seek CDBG funding for new project on sewer pipe replacement in 2027

Water Quantity

- Four County Stormwater
 - Baker County - Working to schedule presentation from Fara Ilami at an upcoming meeting - Vulnerability Assessment Complete - No update for September
 - Camden County - County has begun work on stormwater grant, but waiting on progress update - No update for September
 - Charlton County - Vulnerability and Stormwater- EPD's Base Level Engineering Map is completed and is being uploaded to the online viewer. Updates are slowly being added to the St. Marys River Watershed - No update for September
 - Work in-progress by Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division (CRD) and St. Marys Riverkeeper may help with Vulnerability Assessment - No update for September
- City Stormwater rehab -
 - Focusing on collecting updates for October Meeting
 - Folkston Stormwater improvements - No update for September
 - Macclenny - Nearing completion of Phase II and anticipate applying for Phase III - No update for September
- Georgia Water Councils -
 - Suwannee-Satilla Water Council - No update for September
 - Coastal Water Council - No update for September

Regulatory/Comp Plans

- Nassau County No Wake Zone - Currently on hold - No update for September
- Baker County Comprehensive Plan - Consultants completed the draft and are finalizing the final version - No update for September

Administrative

- Discussion regarding absent members
- The online tool has been updated and the link has been replaced on the website. We have received the invoice for this work from UGA

County Projects

- New project for 2026
 - Updates to ARC Story Map - Goal of adding new GIS layer to identify areas for possible conservation - Will need to engage third-party to assist with this effort - Still working with UGA GIS to find a student, hopefully the same student that worked on updating the online tool

New Business

- No new business for September

Partner Reports

- St. Marys Riverkeeper (SMRK) - Update on EPA definition change opportunity for comment
 - Working on survey to get residents' input to ask about resilience and gather data
 - Identifying members from local communities for a steering committee
 - Continuing to work on sturgeon in the St. Marys River - partnering with UGA to test samples
- St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) - No update for September

Committee Member Reports

- No reports for September

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Meeting Ended at 7:33 p.m.

Next Meeting October 5, 2026 Callahan Fire Department