Action Plan for 2022

Action Item #1- Recruit partners SMRK, Environmental Health staff, Environmental Health staff Planning/erosion and sediment control/stormwater staff, smart developers, septic pumping companies, regional commissions. Task SMRK with designing public and school education programs.

Action Item #2- recommends to the local jurisdictions the expansion of existing river corridor

protection (via overlay zone or other means) to 100 feet adjacent to the main stem and 50 feet

adjacent to perennial tributaries. Note that the inner counties rely on state regulations with Baker County having a 75 ft buffer and Charlton only protecting waters of at least 400 cfs. A St. Marys River overlay is the recommended method.

Action Item #3- Reconvene the Septic Think Tank and meet at least annually. Before first meeting have Georgia counties evaluate what difference the ordinances have made and have Florida counties list reasons why counties are hesitant to require inspections and pumpouts. At first meeting discuss:

1. whether Georgia septic inspection regulations adequately protect human health and the environment and if not how they should be amended,
2. recommendations for motivating Florida counties to require septic maintenance, and
3. potential for extending maintenance requirements to all systems within the river and tributary corridor.

Also review the ARCGIS map to identify target areas for a project in each county.

Action #4- Based on the recommendations of the Septic Think Tank, decide on the best method to present to the various BOCCs. Be sure that education working in tandem. Camden paired ordinance with announcement of Horsepen Grant with maintenance ordinance requiring inspection and pumpout when there is a name change on the waste disposal account.

Action Item #5- Create a land use planning spreadsheet similar to the septic think tank spreadsheet and include relevant legislation as outlined by Kat Christie in her law practicum study.

Action item #6- Convene a group to advise the SMRMC on using and enhancing local planning tools to control erosion and sedimentation and other stormwater impacts to the river and its tributaries. The attendees would include E&S, Stormwater, building inspectors, other relevant local staff (sometimes Septic Think Tank). At the first meeting of the Think Tank:

1. review the spreadsheet,
2. identify gaps in current regulations that allow E coli to reach the St. Marys River,
3. discuss best ways to fill the gaps in each county.

Also review the ARCGIS map to identify target areas for a project in each county.

Action Item #7- Based on recommendations of the Land Use and Planning Think Tank, decide on the best method to present to the various BOCCs. Be sure that education working in tandem.

Action Item #8- Review progress in December 2022 and decide on plan for 2023.