



REGIONAL COMMUNITY INSTITUTE OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA, INC.

Water Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 12, 2017, 2pm

NEFRC Offices

100 Festival Park Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Meeting Summary

Chair White introduced himself and staff and asked participants to introduce themselves. The Chair noted that public input is always welcome. He reviewed the summary of the June 14 meeting, including the ideas that might be considered as the committee thinks about recommendations.

The committee was introduced to John Myers, Esq., representing the St. Marys River Management Committee. Mr. Myers reviewed the membership of the SMRMC, including a Commissioner from each of the four counties (Camden, Charlton, Baker, Nassau) and 2 landowners on the river from each county. Their mandate is a River Management Plan, to be reviewed every 5 years. The SMRMC was formed by interlocal agreement. The original plan was funded by SJRWMD. The major concern has been septic tank and point source pollution. They have received two 319 grants and in-kind work is being provided by the counties. There was an effort to have consistent septic tank ordinances in each county. The current Riverkeeper program is an output of the SMRMC. The biggest challenge to the river is e-coli, and the focus has been on septic tank setbacks. Egans Creek is an issue. The current approach is to be a clearinghouse. Ideas were discussed about how to align with/enhance the work of SMRMC. There could be a convening of SMRMC and the Riverkeepers. It was noted that there are free flowing 4 inch wells in Georgia that owners do not want to cap. The St. Marys Riverkeeper, Mr. Frey, noted that there are currently 23 sites being sampled for bacteria, so progress is being made. There was discussion on whether the St. Marys is considered impaired. DEP noted that St. Marys tributaries (only) are listed as impaired for lead on the Florida side. Georgia has a TMDL implementation plan.

The committee discussed low impact development. It was noted that Article 9 of Camden County's Unified Land Development Code may have aspects that can be used as part of a LID example. It was also noted that density and clustering bonuses that are coming out of the Cumberland Island negotiations may be models. The committee discussed the potential recommendations/strategies handout provided by Ms. Moehring based on prior meetings. She was directed to assemble a first draft of a regional action plan based on the discussion.

The Chair asked for public comment but there was none. The next meeting will be August 9 at NEFRC. The meeting ended at 4 pm.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: 8/9 and 9/13