

## Fourth Bi-Monthly Report on Spanish Creek CIG

June 16, 2020

### FINALIZE GOALS AND IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS

As discussed in the last report, GMC designed a survey which asked respondents to rank the importance of various pollutant sources discussed at previous meetings and to determine whether management measures enumerated in other plans including the 2002 TMDL Implementation Plan for Spanish Creek, the 2017 Suwanee-Satilla regional water plan, 2014 St. Marys Watershed Plan, and the 2003 St. Marys River Management Plan would be relevant for correcting the impairments on Spanish Creek. The online survey counted as Meeting #3.

The Citizen's Advisory Committee met June 9 to discuss the results of the survey. The top sources of impairment and suggestions for management measures were as follows:

**Improper Disposal of Waste-** education about effects of illegal dumping, advertise dump sites, no dumping signage, method to report illegal dumping

**Urban Stormwater Runoff-** education, increase retention detention capacity, enforce current fed/state regulations, maintain Local Issuing Authority (LIA) to locally enforce erosion control regulations, create county position to handle LIA, NPDES, stormwater etc

**Livestock&Domestic /Wild Animal Management-** education (pet waste and best management plan for agriculture, require exclusion from and buffer for wetlands/creeks

The following impairments need to be studied further by using chemical or microbial source tracking to determine whether they are of concern:

**Septic Systems-** maintenance education and reminders if human pollutant source identified

**Overflowing Sanitary Sewers and Leaking Lines-** check system for leaks and overflow if human pollutant source identified

The Committee asked GMC to create a short public survey to assess awareness of the problems and support for solutions.

### SAMPLING

Charlton County High School was able to complete both winter stream fecal coliform sampling events before the end of March. The first sample was taken in late February after a rain event and showed high E. coli levels at three locations Clay Branch at Gibson Post Rd., woods road at "the hook" and at the 121 bridge. The committee discussed possible sources. The sample just downstream of the Folkston Pond had low numbers both sampling dates. The second sample was taken in late March during a dry period and showed no high numbers.

August sampling events will add a location to further elucidate the problem at the Hook. The next Committee meeting will be delayed until September 8<sup>th</sup>, after the next sampling date.