

**Charlton County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Commissioners Conference Room
68 Kingsland Drive, Suite B
Folkston, GA 31537
Thursday, March 5, 2026
6:00 PM**

3/5/2026 - Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Present was Commissioner Jesse Crews, Chairwoman Alphya Benefield, Vice Chairman Luke Gowen, Commissioner Drew Jones, Commissioner James Everett, County Attorney Remington East, Interim County Administrator Rebecca Harden, and County Clerk Madeline Nettles.

All guests are recorded hereafter.

Invocation and Pledge to the Flag

The invocation was led by Vice Chairman Gowen.

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Everett made a motion to Approve. Vice Chairman Gowen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Minutes

1. Motion to adopt the February 19th, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes
Vice Chairman Gowen made a motion to Approve. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Motion to Adopt the 2026 SPLOST Joint Meeting Minutes
Commissioner Crews made a motion to Approve. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentations

3. Recognition of Donation of Equipment from The GEO Group
Joel Shivar, Director of Parks and Recreation, was present. Present from the GEO Group is Lee Waterfield.

Director Shivar summarized the donation of picnic tables, benches, and bleachers from the GEO Group and where those items will be used by Recreation. Mr. Waterfield was presented with a letter of recognition for the donation.
4. Hear from Chip Campbell of the St. Mary's River Management Committee
Mr. Chip Campbell from the St. Mary's River Management Committee on the 2025 Annual Report.

Mr. Campbell thanked the board for the reappointment to St. Mary's River Management Committee.

Mr. Campbell was recently appointed as the Georgia Chair for the committee.

Mr. Campbell highlighted main points in the annual report, including an update on the 319 grant which will soon be coming to a close in the City of Homeland. The grant was able to pump, repair, and even replace several septic systems in the city limits. All creek branches remain consistently in good health. Feral pigs seem to be the number one contributor of trace fecal matter in Long Branch. Reviews of potential causes of occasional spikes in other areas are still being conducted.

The St. Mary's River Management Committee is a quasi-governmental advisory panel established by interlocal agreement between Florida and Georgia counties, comprised of 5 voting members from each county. All meetings are open to the public and are held on the first Monday of each month.

Commissioner Jones asked if any information regarding the Camp Pinckney boat ramp grant will be available soon. Mr. Campbell stated that what they are receiving from the state is that they want to see more improvements to the road leading to the boat ramp before the county is able to move forward with the grant. Mr. Campbell will get some more information on it and report back.

5. Recognition of Agencies that Assisted with the Highway 301/ Highway 252 Wildfire

Vice Chairman Gowen expressed his gratitude to the individuals who assisted with the wildfire and shared his personal experiences with the wildfire.

Commissioner Crews shared his gratitude for the first responders who assisted with his own personal experiences.

Commissioner Jones thanked everyone again. Commissioners Jones stated that he was thankful for everyone who showed up and came together.

Commissioner Everett thanked everyone.

CL Lewis, Director of Fire and Rescue, was present. Chief Lewis spoke about the wildfire and recognized the way everyone assisted the county, including other agencies, individual citizens, and community partners.

Vice Chairman Gowen and Commissioner Jones expressed some more sentiments of gratitude and thankfulness.

Chairwoman Benefield shared some sentiments about the wildfire, stating she "has never seen such a large number of men and women on a cold, cold night with such caring hearts. They started at the beginning of the fire." "some of them stayed all night until the next day."

Recognitions were given to Georgia Department of Transportation, Georgia Power, Camden County Fire Department, Ware County Fire Department, Nahunta Volunteer Fire Department, Hoboken Volunteer Fire Department, Hortense Volunteer Fire Department, Calvary Volunteer Fire Department, Waynesville Volunteer Fire Department, Hilliard Volunteer Fire Department, Callahan Volunteer Fire Department, Georgia Forestry, Okefenokee Rural Electric Membership Corporation, Camden County EMA, Camden County Sheriff's Office, Charlton County Sheriff's Office, Charlton County Road Department, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Seldomridge Towing, Mobile Communications America, GEMA/ Homeland Security, Supporting Individuals With Disabilities Inc, Georgia State Patrol, City of Homeland Police Department, City of Folkston Police Department, Charlton County EMS, Charlton County EMA, and Charlton County Volunteer Fire Department.

Public Hearings

Petitions

Purchasing Items

6. Motion to Execute the Purchase of AC Units for the Auditorium

Chairwoman Benefield asked that Chief Lewis, County Administrator Harden, and EMS Chief Lewis Sami Luffman step forward prior to this item being heard.

Chairwoman Benefield presented Division Chief Luffman, on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Byron Presley and the members of Tabernacle of Hope Ministries, Inc., a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the EMS Paramedic School to help people have a better opportunity to be trained to help others.

Charles Smith, Facility Maintenance Coordinator, was present.

Commissioner Jones asked if this was to replace the heavy units that were removed. This project will add 5 new ones to the sides of the auditorium instead of above the support beams. The quotes include the same warranties, but have different brands of units.

Dixie Heating and Air has done a great job on the single units they have installed for the county, but the county has not worked with them on the larger projects yet.

Commissioner Jones would like to know the brand of the units and their comparables before they make a decision. Vice Chairman Gowen also would like to wait for more information before making a decision.

Vice Chairman Gowen made a motion to Table the Item. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Grants and SPLOST Project

7. Ratify the Authorization of Georgia Forestry to Apply for the Radio Equipment Grant on the County's Behalf

CL Lewis, Director of Fire and Rescue, was present.

The grant is through Georgia Forestry. The cost to the county is \$30.00 a month. This would allow the county and Georgia Forestry to communicate during emergency events.

Commissioner Jones asked if the county should consider getting one of the handhelds that tune into Georgia Forestry's signal as well, which can be discussed later.

Georgia Forestry members were present, including Roger Todd, Kenny Lee, Casey Harris. Georgia Forestry has a copy of a Memorandum of Understanding that needs to be signed. Georgia Forestry would need a county radio to put the patch in place as well.

Vice Chairman Gowen made a motion to Ratify the Action. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman Gowen said thank you to Georgia Forestry. The grant "popped up last minute" and the Board was polled on it.

Agreements

8. Motion to Execute the Agreement with Camden County for Mutual Aid Fire and EMS Services
CL Lewis, Director of Fire and Rescue, was present.

County Administrator Harden discussed changes made, per the recommendation of County Attorney East.

Attorney Remington East is okay with this agreement, with the changes.

Commissioner Jones asked if the county has one with Nassau as well. Chief Lewis stated that they are working on an agreement with them currently.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to Approve. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinances

Resolutions

9. Ratify the Emergency Adoption of the Temporary Burn Ban Resolution

CL Lewis, Director of Fire and Rescue, was present.

Vice Chairman Gowen asked if County Attorney East has read it. County Attorney East has approved the resolution.

Chairwoman Benefield stated that Chief Lewis, County Administrator Harden, County Clerk Nettles, and County Attorney East will revise the resolution and bring it back to the board.

County Administrator Harden stated that the revisions need to clarify the exemptions allowed. The current resolution refers to county ordinance where exemptions are listed. Georgia Forestry has asked that the county make revisions to include those exemptions in the resolution itself. Georgia Forestry has also asked that the county changes language from "ban" to "limit" or "restriction."

Commissioner Jones discussed the changes.

Tonight's action is to ratify the resolution that was previously adopted under emergency action. Commissioner Jones made a motion to Ratify the Adoption of the Temporary Burn Ban Resolution. Vice Chairman Gowen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous

10. Motion to Nominate Doug Gowen, Bill Allen, and Nancy Zetmeir for Consideration of Appointment to the Hospital Authority of Charlton County

John Adams, of the Hospital Authority of Charlton County, was present.

The Hospital Authority currently has 4 members, as the 5th member is no longer able to serve. The procedure is to have 3 members nominated, and then the authority chooses one of the nominees for appointment. All three nominees are aware that their names have been submitted for nominations.

The Hospital Authority must have 5 members to conduct business. The Hospital Authority is interested in doing something with the property they have now and in the future investigating whether an emergency facility can be established in this county.

The Hospital Authority will need some more members, either 7 or 9, and will bring it back to the board for nomination later.

Vice Chairman Gowen recused himself from voting due to his relation to Mr. Doug Gowen.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to Nominate Doug Gowen, Bill Allen, and Nancy Zetmeir for Consideration of Appointment to the Hospital Authority of Charlton County. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Motion to Accept Patricia Booker's Resignation from the Board of Assessors

Commissioner Jones made a motion to Accept the Resignation of Patricia Booker from the Board of Assessors Vice Chairman Gowen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

County Administrator Harden asked for candidates' names to be provided to the office. Once gathered, candidates will be brought to the board for consideration.

Commissioner Jones asked Mr. Gary Tippins for his opinion on the matter. Mr. Tippins has asked several potential candidates, but they do not apply because they do not want to go to the mandatory training. Mr. Tippins has asked for an alternate board member to be appointed as well.

Commissioners Jones agreed to advertise the position. Vice Chairman Gowen asked that the position be advertised in newspaper and on the county webpage.

12. Motion to Reappoint Josh Popham to the Recreation Advisory Board from 3/1/2026 to 2/29/2028

Commissioner Crews stated, regarding all appointments, that if they want to serve on boards, they need to be present at meetings.

Commissioner Crews wants to send the appointees a letter, telling them that they have to be present at meetings. Vice Chairman Gowen asked if the county can give them some criteria, such as if they miss so many meetings, the board can remove them.

County Clerk Nettles asked for the board to make motion to reappoint the members, and give then admin staff time to research the enacting legislation to ensure the letter and criteria align with the legislation.

Vice Chairman Gowen made a motion to Approve Reappointment of Josh Popham, Benji Huling, and Lester Hamilton to the Recreation Advisory Board. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion unanimously.

13. Motion to Reappoint Benji Huling to the Recreation Advisory Board from 3/1/2026 to 2/29/2028

Item was voted on under "Motion to Reappoint Josh Popham to the Recreation Advisory Board from 3/1/2026 to 2/29/2028."

14. Motion to Reappoint Lester Hamilton to the Recreation Advisory Board from 3/1/2026 to 2/29/2028

Item was voted on under "Motion to Reappoint Josh Popham to the Recreation Advisory Board from 3/1/2026 to 2/29/2028."

Public Comments

Public Comments are limited to 3 minutes.

This item was heard before "Motion to Enter Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate."

Deia Harris, of Jacqueline Lane, was present.

Ms. Harris is coming back to see if there was some follow-up on Jacqueline Lane. County Attorney East spoke to the matter. The county looked back at the original minutes. Some deeds were prepared in 2016 to allow the property owners to sign over the road to the county, but no one attended the meeting where this was to take place, and the road was not deeded over. The road remains private and out of the county's control.

Deborah Milton, of Jacqueline Lane, was present.

Mrs. Milton stated that the county redid the road and dug the ditch. Before that, the county had no issues maintaining the road. Mrs. Milton stated that the county went on Jennifer Milton's private property to dig the ditch. Mrs. Milton stated that Jennifer Milton did not give consent to the county to dig ditch on their property. Mrs. Milton looked today and stated that the water is coming from all over Blackbottom through the Milton's property. Mrs. Milton stated that it washes trash into their yard. Mrs. Milton stated that they had no issues until the county dug this ditch.

Ronnie Pollock, Director of Infrastructure and Development, stated that the direction on the ditch would not make this statement accurate. The ditch was there before the property was purchased by the individuals speaking. The county asked to clean out the ditch and widen it, but the ditch was already there. The county agreed to maintain the road as needed when they were discussing widening the ditch.

Ms. Harris claims that the ditch was not there when she bought the property in 2000. There were trees where the ditch currently is. Ms. Harris asked that if the county cannot pave it, can they fix the ditch to avoid the issues with the flooding.

Commissioner Crews asked Director Pollock about the maintenance agreements. Director Pollock stated that he will discuss this later.

Commissioner Jones stated that he recalls a fire being there in previous years, and there being a ditch then because that is where the fire stopped.

Commissioner Jones asked about the trash coming into their yards when it rains, asking whose trash it is. Ms. Harris stated that it is trash from the ditch.

Commissioner Gowen wants to get Code Enforcement out there to start citing people about the trash.

County Clerk Nettles talked about the documents that research yielded regarding the road, including the lack of maintenance agreements, easements, or county ownership records for Jacqueline Lane.

Mrs. Milton recognized Chairwoman Benefield for working on it. Mrs. Milton stated that when she calls to complain, they do send someone to grade the road. Mrs. Milton stated that when it rains the problem with the ditch remains.

Chairwoman Benefield stated that the county will act legally and will not doing anything without looking into the legal information first. Staff will research and see what can be done about the ditch.

Antwon Nixon of Folkston, Georgia, was present.

Mr. Nixon was following up with Betty Reads Project. Mr. Nixon thanked a few of the commissioners for their individual contributions. Mr. Nixon will keep them updated on the project.

CL Lewis, Director of Fire and Rescue, was present.

Chief Lewis stated that this Saturday is the fundraiser at Homeland City Park 11 AM-1 PM for Mr. Kip Taylor.

Commissioner Crews asked if Chief Lewis has talked to Fire Board about what is going on with Mr. Taylor.

Joel Shivar, Director of Parks and Recreation, was present.

The 10U basketball team just won District. The team is going tomorrow night to represent the county in the state championship.

Commissioner Jones asked Director Shivar to look into food trucks servicing recreation again. Food trucks had to meet certain insurance requirements in order to provide services based on previous conversation. County Attorney Harden stated that if it is on county property, there has to be a certain level of insurance coverage met and an executed agreement on how the funds will be distributed.

County Administrator Comments

The maintenance department is painting the hallways, doors and trim in the Annex Building. They are starting in public-facing areas first.

The floor at the EMS building is being finished.

The Georgia Bend fire station is complete. The Certificate of Occupancy has been received. County Administrator Harden needs some dates for the Grand Opening.

County Administrator Harden asked that everyone remember Joanna Powell, Director of Administrative Services, and her family. Her mother is in poor health, and Director Powell is in and out of the office to help with the family.

County Clerk Nettles asked about planning retreat dates.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Jones asked who was doing the painting and if they could work in auditorium. Charles Smith, Facilities Maintenance Coordinator, is waiting until the AC is replaced, and then they will patch and paint in there.

Commissioner Crews thanked Coordinator Smith for all they do.

Commissioner Everett asked if it is possible to put slag on Jacqueline Lane. Director Pollock stated that it can be discussed later.

Chairwoman Benefield apologized to everyone present in the room. Chairwoman Benefield stated that the room is not intended for "ruckus, cussing, yelling and carrying on." Chairwoman Benefield apologized for anything that may have offended them and stated that the board will not tolerate behavior like that. The Board apologizes for any ill behavior or out of order speech that occurs in the meeting. They do not want anyone to be offended.

Chairwoman Benefield stated that the Board is trained to not respond quickly or put staff under duress, but rather to allow for listening to the public and consideration of what is said.

Commissioner Jones excused himself at 7:49 PM.

County Attorney's Action Items

15. Motion to Enter Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate

Commissioner Jones returned to the meeting at 7:51 PM.

Vice Chairman Gowen made a motion to Enter Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Commissioners and staff entered Executive Session at 7:52 PM.

The Board of Commissioners and staff exited Executive Session at 8:26 PM.

No action was taken.

Next Meeting

Adjourn

Commissioner Crews made a motion to Adjourn. Vice Chairman Gowen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Alphya Benefield, Chairman

Madeline Nettles, County Clerk



2025 Annual Report

Introduction

To the County Commissioners:

Please accept this document as the Committee's required Annual Report.

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC or Committee) is a quasi-governmental advisory panel established by interlocal agreement between Baker and Nassau counties in Florida and Camden and Charlton counties in Georgia. The Committee is composed of five voting representatives from each county: one county commissioner and four appointed members (if possible two riverfront landowners or representatives of corporations with riverfront property, and two at-large members). One representative from the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and one representative from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA-DNR) Environmental Protection Division (EPD) serve as technical advisors. All meetings are open to the public with notice provided on the Committee's website: www.saintmarysriver.org. The 2025 expenditures and 2026 budget are available in Appendix 1. A list of acronyms used in more than one section is available in Appendix 2.

Land Use (including public access)

Development remains the greatest challenge to the long-term management and protection of the St. Marys River. Without broad community agreement on the importance of the river's natural assets, continued growth and new development will threaten water quality and vital natural resources across the basin. The Committee urges all four counties and the basin cities to review and strengthen their local ordinances and codes to ensure effective protection for the river and its watershed.

Baker County

In August 2024, shortly after the newly restored St. Marys Cove Landing Boat Ramp reopened, Hurricane Debby destroyed the facility. Because the project had not yet been formally closed out by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the County spent 2025 working with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and FWC to secure repair

approvals and extend the project deadline, including engineering recommendations to relocate the ramp approximately 150 feet upstream to reduce future flood impacts.

The National Park Service- River Trail Conservation Assistance Program (NPS-RTCAP) has begun plans for 2-, 4-, 7-, and 11-mile kayak trails on the St. Marys River starting from various river accesses in Shoals Park. If there is adequate funding NPS-RTCAP will also be able to assist the county in updating the park's Management Plan.

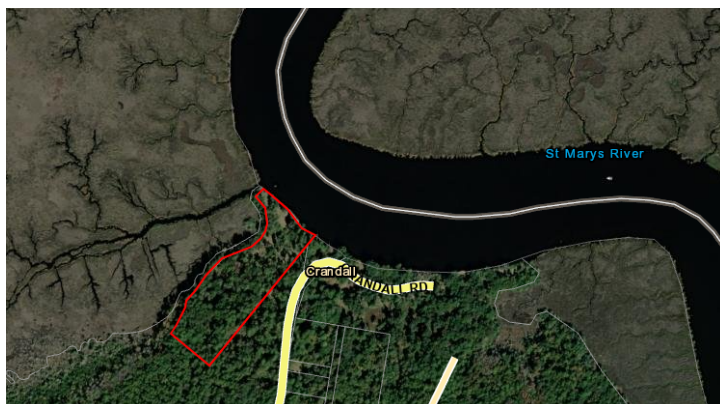
Improvements continued at the John M. Bethea State Forest, the northernmost public access point to the St. Marys River. In February, the Florida Forest Service (FFS) replaced the boardwalk river access at Maple Set. FFS also constructed a new pavilion and picnic area at the Catface Corner Campground at the end of Rosin Road and cleared a new 0.4 mile hiking trail from the campground to the river, providing a 0.8 mile out and back trail for visitors.

In Macclenny, Barber Point and Nehemiah Point developments, off Lowder Street along Turkey Creek and the Copper Creek Subdivision, respectively are in the permitting/zoning process. The combined 600 plus units can be accommodated by the existing capacity of the city water treatment facility (see under Water Quality Section). The proposed 2,500-unit Mid Pointe subdivision north of I-10 Exit 335 exceeded both the limits of the City of Macclenny's Consumptive Use Permit and the capacity of its water treatment facility, leading the developer to explore construction of a private treatment plant and potential coordination with the County in 2026.

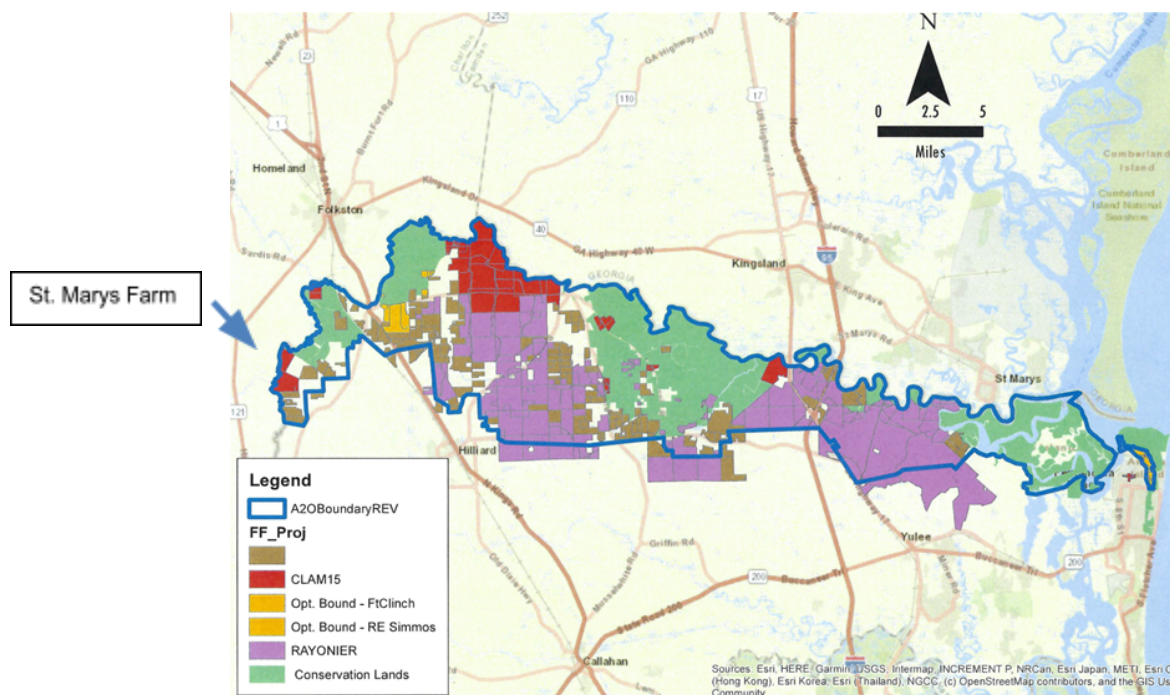
Nassau County

Nassau County expanded conservation and river access efforts in 2024 and 2025 through land donations and the purchase of conservation properties, including a major riverfront easement protecting nearly 600 acres.

In 2024 Wildlight donated 10 acres for a future boat ramp.

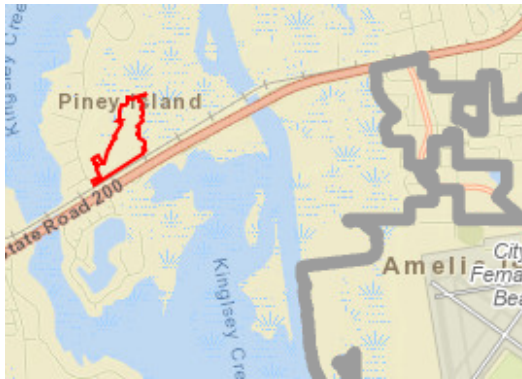


In 2025, the Conservation Lands Acquisition and Management (CLAM) recommended, and the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners approved, a \$2.1 million conservation easement for St. Marys Farm, protecting approximately 599 acres and 2.42 miles of St. Marys River frontage within the proposed Atlantic to Okefenokee (A2O) Conservation Corridor. The easement was finalized in November 2025.

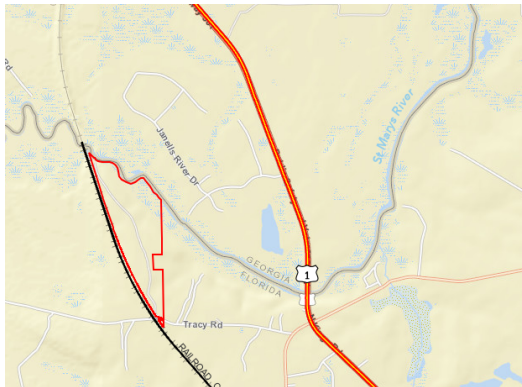


The county also used CLAM monies and other county funds to purchase several other properties for conservation.

- **Piney Island** – land purchase 43 acres CLAM, 2 acres county, November 2025



- **Callies on the River** - land purchase 130 acres, December 2025



Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor (Florida Forever Project)



On December 11th and 12th, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) began developing the 2026 Florida Forever Priority and has Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor listed as #23 under "Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects." The 2026 priority list goes to the Florida Forever Board of Trustees (the Governor and Cabinet) for approval in February/March of 2026.

Fernandina Beach

A private individual donated 400 acres of marshland near Egan Creek to the North Florida Land Trust.

Most planned downtown development remains on hold until the new seawall is completed. The \$4 million project has been partially constructed using funds raised to date. Completion is currently delayed by the presence of Brett's Waterway Café, which closed in October and will be demolished as soon as feasible. To close the remaining funding gap, the City is evaluating all available revenue options, including some that may be unpopular—such as implementing paid parking downtown.

The City of Fernandina Beach denied permission for a proposed Rayonier Advanced Material (RYAM) bioethanol plant. RYAM has in turn sued the city for preventing full use of their property.

Hilliard

There are four residential developments under construction or under review in the western part of the county near Hilliard. In general, development in the county south of Hilliard drains to the Nassau River and development north of town drains to the St. Marys River (see under Water Quality section). All developments listed below are within the city limits of the town of Hilliard and will be served by the town's Wastewater Treatment Plant which discharges to the Little St. Marys River.

- Whisper Ridge is off Pine Ridge Rd east of town (70 units, all building permits issued)
- Greenbrier is south of town on the west side of US1 (350 units, construction of civil infrastructure has begun, Residential construction beginning by December 2026)
- Lofty is east of US 1 across from Greenbrier (227-unit apartments, annexation and zoning complete, no site plan yet)
- Holland Walk (28 units, zoning complete, civil plans and pre-plat in review, planning to begin construction spring 2026)

There are also three new commercial developments under review in Hilliard. O'Reilly Auto Parts has received civil construction approval, and building permits are currently under review, with construction planned to begin soon. McDonald's has civil construction plans under review and anticipates beginning construction by February 2026. Key Plumbing also has civil construction plans under review, with construction expected to commence in spring 2026.

Camden County

In Camden County, the Blue Bridge property remains unresolved, with mediation expected in 2026.

At Temple Creek, the reconstructed boat ramp is now open, while boardwalk and interpretive trail construction continues with grant support.

City of Kingsland

The added capacity, 2 Million Gallons per Day (MGD), from the Water Treatment Plant is enabling continued growth in both residential and commercial sectors. Major active developments include:

- Ongoing projects along the Laurel Island Parkway corridor
- Continued implementation of the Kingsland Tax Allocation District (TAD) #3 Camden Woods Redevelopment Plan
- New multi-family and mixed-use proposals along the Highway 40 corridor, including projects within Kingsland TAD #1 such as the GA/FL Sports Park and the Haddock Road residential and commercial development

All development listed above can be serviced by the current Wastewater Treatment Facility.

City of St. Marys

Taylor Morrison began construction on Esplanade at St. Marys, a luxury subdivision centered around a golf course. Home sales are anticipated to begin in early 2026. SMRMC toured the site in June 2025 and remains concerned regarding inadequate water retention on site.

SMRMC follows development in the city since both city water treatment facilities discharge into tributaries of the St. Marys River. The [Current Developments Map](#) highlights new planned development and those developments which are currently building out.

Charlton County

GA-DNR evaluated the boat ramp and parking at Camp Pinckney County Park and identified needed repairs including gravel at the ramp apron, identifying a parking area and reverse grading or installing a riverside swale to prevent runoff from the bare dirt into the river, and grading and resurfacing the entrance road. The inspector also suggested increased law

enforcement presence to discourage inappropriate behavior. Once these improvements are made, the site would be eligible for state funding.

There are several timber parcels that are on the recreational market: an almost 900 acre parcel with about 800 feet of deep river swamp frontage recently sold and two smaller parcels south of St. George with sandbar and river swamp frontage are still on the market.

A timber owner was approached by an agricultural neighborhood developer, but it does not appear that proposal is moving forward.

The Conservation Fund purchased the proposed Twin Pines Mine property, approximately 7,770 acres; no next steps have been identified.

Water Quality

State Level

Control of erosion and sedimentation remains a regional challenge. As discussed for the past few years, Florida maintains a 25-foot buffer for wetlands but not waterbodies, while Georgia maintains a buffer for waterbodies but not wetlands. These approaches result in gaps in river protection in both states. Georgia also lacks nitrogen and phosphorus regulations and does not allow local governments to exceed the regulations of the state. However, because Georgia must comply with Florida standards on shared waterbodies Florida standards are effectively in force. SMRMC designed an educational flyer about fertilizer for landscapers and distributed it to hardware stores in Charlton and Camden Counties.

White Oak Conservation hosted a Best Management Practices workshop in May, targeting golf courses and developers, including those at Esplanade at St. Marys. Committee members toured the Esplanade golf course in June, noting that erosion controls and stormwater ponds are in place, but that further review of discharge testing requirements is needed.

EPD completed Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), and chlorophyll-a criteria for 11 of 28 lakes statewide and is assessing the next set of priority lakes. The agency submitted a plan to use chlorophyll-a as the primary indicator for nutrient impacts, rather than relying solely on N and P measurements, which are more complex to interpret and regulate. They are continuing to work with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) on the details.

Baker County

The town of Macclenny is considering the addition of 600 plus units that will be served by their existing Macclenny Water Treatment Facility, which discharges into a Turkey Creek, a tributary of the St. Marys River. At 1.3 MGD and a current flow of .67 MGD, the facility has adequate capacity to treat the waste added by both developments.

Nassau County

In early 2025, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requested that US-EPA remove the dissolved oxygen (DO) impairment for the Little St. Marys River based on the number of exceedances for the sample size.

The town of Hilliard has proposed an addition of almost 700 units (see land use section) all of which will be served by their current wastewater system which discharges to the Little St. Marys and then to the St. Marys River. The current system was upgraded to an integrated surge anoxic mix system in 2013 with growth in mind. It has a capacity of .48 MGD; the current flow is approximately .25 MGD.

Camden County

Kingsland

Within the city limits, nearly all new developments are required to connect to municipal sewer service. Their current Wastewater Treatment Facility, a Sequential Batch Reactor, has a permitted capacity of 4.4 MGD. The current average inflow is 2.0-2.5 MGD in the summer. There are no plans to upgrade the system at this time.

The City currently has no active development proposals within city limits requesting septic system approval. Occasional inquiries in fringe areas are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, but none are presently moving forward.

St. Marys

Both of the City's wastewater treatment plants discharge into waterways that flow to the St. Marys River. The [Current Developments Map](#) highlights new planned development and those developments which are currently building out.

Charlton County

Homeland continues work on their Clay Branch Project funded by a 319 Grant from EPD. SMRMC provided over 100 hours of administrative assistance to the city. Charlton County provided sand for septic repairs; six failing systems have been repaired or replaced. St. Marys Riverkeeper continues with monthly E coli sampling and initiated eDNA sampling. Data indicate expected increase in E coli numbers during warmer months of human origin. The project steering committee published quarterly community newsletters to update citizens and periodically updated Homeland City Council, Charlton County Board of Commissioners, and the other three counties in the St. Marys watershed as well as partner organizations St. Marys Riverkeeper and SMRMC.

The City of Folkston has begun construction of its new Wastewater Treatment Plant (a Sequential Batch Reactor System) which will be permitted for treatment of 1.25 MGD, up from .75 MGD for the old plant. The facility is scheduled to be operational by December 2026, with final completion expected in 2027.

Water Quantity

Baker County

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) has been working on a Vulnerability Assessment for Baker County and the City of Macclenny and received an extension from the Resilient Florida Program through March 31, 2026, to complete the project. Most of the assessment, including the exposure and sensitivity analyses, is already complete, with the remaining elements scheduled to be finalized in early 2026.

As part of the broader effort to enhance resilience in the county, NEFRC has also completed several supporting activities. In March 2025, NEFRC hosted a Green Roadway Design Charrette to gather input from practitioners on the use of bioswales, permeable pavement, and other green infrastructure techniques at four county sites identified by Emergency Management staff as prone to flooding. In summer 2025, NEFRC conducted an analysis of potential tidal inundation along the St. Marys River. Results released in August indicated that even under extreme conditions, tidal inundation would not extend into Baker County.

NEFRC has additionally partnered with Climate Central to use FloodVision technology to develop visual imagery illustrating flood impacts at sites selected based on the Vulnerability

Assessment and known flooding locations. Climate Central conducted a site visit in November 2025, and the results will be presented at a public meeting in Baker County in early 2026.

The City of Macclenny is nearing completion of Phase II of their \$4.8 million sewer line replacement project and anticipates applying for funding for Phase III.

Nassau County

Following the County's 2023 Vulnerability Assessment, DEP awarded funding to develop an Adaptation Action Plan. This plan will identify gaps in the County's readiness for heavy rainfall events and is a required step before pursuing future implementation grants. The county and city of Fernandina are using the same consultant so that the plans are supportive of each other while still honoring their individual priorities. In 2025, The stormwater engineers for the County and City began meeting quarterly to discuss drainage concerns that cross jurisdictions. They feel this arrangement is working well.

The Stormwater and Drainage Department continues to expand its asset inventory, mapping culverts, drainage pipes, stormwater ponds, and related features. To date, 12,773 assets have been documented, enabling staff to identify drainage deficiencies during major rain events. When gaps are identified, the County is working with affected property owners to secure drainage easements that allow the County to install and maintain needed improvements. The Department also completed engineering studies to address drainage needs in the Fiddlers Walk subdivision.

In addition, the Florida Department of Emergency Management has partnered with Florida Atlantic University to map watersheds statewide, with future plans to include the St. Marys River Basin. The resulting products will provide detailed information on inundation depths, critical infrastructure, and special flood-hazard areas.

Fernandina Beach

With support from DEP's Resilient Florida Program, the City is collaborating with Nassau County to develop separate but compatible Adaptation Action Plans. In May, the City began gathering input from residents to shape the plan for the island. Staff continue advancing the stormwater infrastructure mapping and evaluation process and meet quarterly with County partners to coordinate projects of shared interest.

The City is also implementing a separately funded Waterfront Resiliency Master Plan focused on protecting the historic downtown area from high-tide flooding, storm surge, flash floods, sea level rise, stormwater runoff, and subsidence risks. In 2024, the City secured a \$4 million state

appropriation to reconfigure the marina and replace the bulkhead following the demolition of Brett's Waterway Café. The City is pursuing additional money for shoreline stabilization and flood-defense improvements along the remainder of the one-mile waterfront, as well as for downtown beautification and preservation efforts, including streetscape and infrastructure upgrades. The Alachua Street drainage project has been completed, and the engineered pump system proposed for that project will also be used in the upcoming Ashe Street project.

Hilliard

Following her term on the Steering Committee for the Nassau County Vulnerability Assessment, the Town of Hilliard Land Use Administrator, Lee Anne Wollitz, has begun collecting preliminary data for assessing their stormwater system and has received a grant for a Vulnerability Assessment.

Camden County

Camden County completed a Vulnerability Assessment in 2022. In late 2024, the county opened a new Resiliency Operations Center and, in 2025, launched a stormwater infrastructure evaluation project for the unincorporated areas of the county. The project is currently in the data gathering phase.

Kingsland

The City of Kingsland has engaged Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC (GMC) to provide professional consulting services for the project *"First Floodplain, Second Stormwater – Kingsland's Path Toward Increased Resiliency,"* funded through the Cycle 27 Coastal Incentive Grant from the GA-DNR Coastal Resources Division. This work builds on the City's ongoing resiliency initiatives under the Cycle 24/25 CIG project, *"Enhancing Floodplain Management in the City of Kingsland through Entry into the CRS Program."*

St. Marys

The City of St. Marys is preparing to impose stormwater fees based on the stormwater utility approved in 2021. The city has also made some progress on Vulnerability Assessment. They completed a Sea Level Rise Study in 2021 and are in the process of updating their Hazard Mitigation Plan. The City has an updated Stormwater Master Plan with a list of prioritized improvement projects, but they did not do a formal gap analysis and there are no engineered plans for the projects which makes it difficult to obtain funding.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently completed a hydraulic model of the downtown wetland park area known as the Spine. This model will inform ongoing work under the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funded Planning and Design grant for the Spine area.

The Spine is a low-lying, approximately 60-acre drainage basin located in the center of the City and serves a critical role in flood retention. The project is designed to drain stormwater to the north, east, and west, while also absorbing tidal flooding and storm surge at its connection with the St. Marys River.

The Spine has been identified as a high-priority project for the City in the Camden County Resiliency Implementation Workplan, and the City has received National Coastal Resilience funding to support its implementation.

Charlton County

Charlton County has no plans to do a Vulnerability Assessment. EPD contracted Dewberry to produce a Base Level Engineering Map for the state. The data has not yet been uploaded to the state's online viewer for either Charlton or Camden County. When completed it will provide valuable data for local planning and stormwater management. The data has been sent to Charlton County.

The City of Folkston will delay stormwater improvement grant applications until the new wastewater treatment plant is operational.

Regulatory and Planning

State Legislation - Florida

The Florida Legislature approved a \$115 billion state budget, a \$3 billion decrease from the previous fiscal year. The budget includes more than \$1.5 billion for restoration and protection projects and \$130 million for land acquisition.

Water Quality & Quantity

- [SB 492](#): Amends previous laws related to mitigation banks by increasing regulation and stiffening the criteria for property acquisition and permitting.

- [HB 1143](#): Mandates the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to assess environmental risks and apply a balancing test when evaluating drilling permits for petroleum products and prohibits drilling, exploration, or production of some petroleum products near certain national estuarine research reserves.

Land Use Planning & Development

- [CS/CS/HB 209](#): Mandates that state parks must be built with conservation-based recreational use concepts in mind. The definition for this is explicitly described and gives examples of recreational opportunities that are and are not conservation-based. This bill also requires that public hearings if there are updates proposed to land management plans.

Recycling & Pollution

- [HB 295](#): Directs the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop a statewide comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan by July 1, 2026, based on recommendations from its 2020 report. The bill also requires the DEP to convene a technical assistance group to aid in developing the plan and to submit a report to the Legislature upon completion

Habitats & Biodiversity

- [SB 388](#): Revises the statutes governing Florida's wildlife trust funds by expanding the allowable use of the Grants and Donations Trust Fund and the Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund to include law enforcement.

Climate & Natural Hazards

- [CS/CS/SB 180](#): Updates the emergency management plan by limiting regulation on property repairs. Proponents say that this bill will expedite recovery efforts in severely impacted areas. The bill will allow county and municipal governments to ignore permits and requirements that are in place to mitigate construction hazards on a beach.
- [CS/CS/SB 56](#): Limits the modification of weather, temperature, and sunlight in the atmosphere, establishing restrictions on activities that could have environmental impacts.

State Legislation - Georgia

In 2025, Georgia passed legislation which included a temporary moratorium on mining permits near the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, where the headwaters of the St. Marys River are located. There was no direct state environmental law passed regarding the swamp. The purchase of the proposed Twin Pines mining site by The Conservation Fund could postpone additional legislation.

The legislature also enacted The Georgia Courts Access and Consumer Protection Act which requires litigation financiers to register with the state and establishes requirements for their activities.

Comprehensive Plans - Florida

Florida must have a comprehensive plan that covers a period of at least 10 years. They must evaluate their existing plan and submit an Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) to the state at least every seven years and, if necessary, amend their plan to reflect changes in state requirements and local conditions. State funding is only available through a grant process. The most recent Nassau County comprehensive plan is dated 2010-2030 though they have been through the EAR process several times. They are in the visioning stage of a total rewrite of their comprehensive plan now. Baker County's last EAR on their 2040 Plan was submitted in 2020. They will reapply for funding for the next EAR in 2026. The appointed county commissioner for Baker and Nassau Counties updates the committee during their EAR or rewrite processes.

Comprehensive Plans - Georgia

Georgia counties must update their comprehensive plans every 10 years to maintain their "Qualified Local Government" status, which makes them eligible for state grants and loans. They must also update the activities, initiatives, programs, and ordinances to implement the comprehensive plan every five years. The regional commissions provide technical assistance to local governments for comprehensive planning. Camden County (Coastal Regional Commission) last updated its plan in June 2023 and Charlton County (Southern Georgia Regional Commission) their plan in July 2025. SMRMC members attend all public meetings associated with the planning process in Georgia.

County Level Regulations

No Wake Zone

Progress continues toward establishing a No Wake Zone in Nassau County. State and local partners have expressed support, and applications are under review.

Fishing Tournaments

Fishing tournaments on the Florida side of the river were monitored throughout the season. Participation was lower than in past years and no issues arose that warranted comment to law enforcement. SMRMC will periodically monitor tournaments going forward.

Committee Project

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC) completed the design, production, and distribution of new boating safety signs outlining no-wake regulations in both Florida and Georgia, with content approved by the four counties, the Florida Forest Service, and Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement. The signs are being installed at the following boat ramp locations:

- Baker County: St. Marys Cove Landing
 - Nassau County: Ralph Simmons State Forest; Kings Ferry
 - Camden County: Temple Creek Landing; Blue Bridge
 - Charlton County: Traders Hill; Camp Pinckney
-

Committee and Partner Updates

St. Marys Riverkeeper

During the year, St. Marys Riverkeeper concentrated on two primary priorities: implementing a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation–funded watershed resilience initiative and strengthening core programs focused on water quality protection, monitoring, and advocacy.

At the state level, St. Marys Riverkeeper testified at the Georgia Capitol in support of the Okefenokee Swamp and the importance of clean water for sustaining healthy sturgeon habitat.

In Florida, advocacy efforts focused on protecting home rule authority, wetlands, and state parks.

A major conservation milestone was achieved in April when the immediate mining threat to Trail Ridge was resolved when The Conservation Fund acquired more than 8,000 acres from the mining company thus permanently conserving the land and buffering both the St. Marys River and the Okefenokee Swamp. There is still long-term pressure in other parts of Trail Ridge.

St. Marys Riverkeeper continued its partnership with the City of Homeland to monitor Clay Branch and Hatchers Branch for bacterial contamination through a Section 319 grant. Elevated *E. coli* levels were observed following a series of hurricanes in August 2024 but returned to typical levels in subsequent sampling, reinforcing the importance of consistent, long-term monitoring.

In partnership with the University of Georgia, St. Marys Riverkeeper launched a Watershed Resilience Plan that will continue through October 2027. The collaboration expects to advance nature-based solutions to improve river resilience and reduce flooding risks to watershed communities. With support from donors and grant partners, the organization expanded staffing by adding a Community Engagement Coordinator, Water Quality Officer, Communications Coordinator, and an internship program, positioning St. Marys Riverkeeper for sustained effectiveness and long-term impact.

St. Johns River Water Management District

St. Johns River Water Management District's (SJRWMD) historical approach to the St. Marys River has been land acquisition and management. The district owns and partners with the Florida Forest Service to manage Ralph Simmons and John Bethea State Forests.

SJRWMD provided updates on several funding opportunities for counties and cities in Florida and reported expanded water conservation efforts. The district also shared that they had completed the Black Creek Water Resource Project to help with recharge of the Upper Floridan Aquifer.

In the fall of 2025, SJRWMD Board of Directors approved the [2026–2030 Strategic Plan \(PDF\)](#), which establishes four basin-wide priorities: protecting and improving surface water quality through projects that reduce excess and legacy nutrient loadings, including in-field and regional efforts in the Tri-County Agricultural Area; protecting and enhancing submerged aquatic vegetation by investigating conditions affecting SAV in the St. Johns River, continuing long-term monitoring of SAV abundance, distribution, and health, and developing natural systems improvement projects; restoring and enhancing wetlands within the Northern Coastal Basin by

addressing impacts from urban watersheds, coordinating with federal, state, and local partners to evaluate water quality data, trends, and habitats, and implementing projects to restore shorelines, coastal uplands, intertidal systems, and the resilience of coastal marshes; and enhancing flood protection along lakes and rivers, including evaluation of flooding within the Deep Creek basin.

SJRWMD is also working to establish minimum flow levels (MFL) for all priority waterbodies in the district. Since the St. Marys River is in an area where the aquifer is confined, ground water withdrawals from the Floridan Aquifer System will have no measurable effects on the flow of the river. Therefore, the SJRWMD has no current plans to add the St. Mary's river to its MFL priority list. It should be noted that although an MFL is not planned for the river any future proposed withdrawals would have to demonstrate they do not cause harm to the water resources of the St. Mary's River.

Georgia Environmental Protection Division

In early 2025, US-EPA requested additional information from the EPD regarding three proposed rule changes included in the 2022 Triennial Review. In response, EPD updated fish and water consumption values to remove negative consumption assumptions and further refined the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) criteria for waters—such as the St. Marys River—that naturally experience seasonally low DO levels. Under the revised language, if EPD determines that the “natural condition” of a waterbody is lower than the state DO criteria (mean 5.0 mg/L; minimum 4.0 mg/L), the applicable criteria may revert to the natural condition with an allowable 10% deficit, provided aquatic life is not adversely affected. US-EPA also requested additional explanation of the cause-and-effect relationship between nutrient levels and chlorophyll-a. EPD has submitted all required materials and is now awaiting US-EPA's formal response.

The 2025 Triennial Review began in April with a public meeting. US-EPA has directed states to develop aquatic life criteria for Aluminum (Al) and several Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS compounds, commonly known as “forever chemicals”), as well as an advisory protocol for blue-green algae. Developing Aluminum criteria will be complex because Georgia soils naturally contain elevated aluminum levels—some bioavailable, some not—and alum is widely used as a flocculant by water treatment facilities. US-EPA has already established toxicity thresholds for blue-green algae in surface waters. To support implementation, Georgia Power developed a visual screening method that reduces the need for daily chemical sampling; dense algal blooms trigger toxin testing, and EPD will issue swim advisories when toxin levels exceed the criteria established by US-EPA.

EPD also continues its long-term effort to establish numeric nutrient criteria (see under Water Quality section).

Conclusion

The St. Marys River Management Committee remains committed to protecting and enhancing the river and its surrounding communities. While challenges persist in stormwater management, water quality, and growth planning, progress continues through inter-county collaboration, community engagement, and strong partnerships with conservation and regulatory agencies.

Appendix 1. Statement of Expenses 2025, Budget 2026

DATE	RECEIVED	PAID	BALANCE	TO/FROM	CHK #	DESCRIPTION	DETAILS/COMMENTS
12/31/2024			\$10,269.73	BALANCE FORWARD			
1/1/2025	\$ -			CHARLTON		ANNUAL FEES	Payment Not received
1/1/2025	\$ -			BAKER		ANNUAL FEES	Payment Not Received
1/1/2025	\$ -			CAMDEN		ANNUAL FEES	Payment Not Received
3/3/2025	\$ 700.00		\$10,969.73	NASSAU		ANNUAL FEES	Payment Received
3/3/2025		\$593.78	\$10,375.95	Claire Feazel	183	Admin Fees	ADMIN Costs for JAN-MAR
8/4/2025		\$674.56	\$9,701.39	Claire Feazel	185	Admin Fees	ADMIN Costs for APR-AUG
9/22/2025		\$403.12	\$9,298.27	Varn Turpentine & Cattle Co.	188	Projects	Reimbursement for Florida Signs
9/22/2025		\$142.56	\$9,155.71	Varn Turpentine & Cattle Co.	189	Website	Reimbursement for Web Hosting
11/3/2025		\$290.25	\$8,865.46	Varn Turpentine & Cattle Co.	187	Projects	Reimbursement for Florida Signs

Appendix 1. 2026 Proposed Budget

Anticipated County Revenue:

Baker	700
Camden	700
Charlton	700
Nassau	700
Total	2800

Allocated Expenses:

Administrative Assistant	2455
Admin Mileage Reimbursement	150
Office Expenses (copies, mailing)	50
Website Hosting	145
Septic Think Tank Meeting	0
E&S Think Tank Meeting	0
Total	2800
Difference	0

Appendix 2. List of Acronyms used in more than one section

DEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
EPD	Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
GA-DNR	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
MGD	Million Gallons per Day
NEFRC	Northeast Florida Regional Council
SJRWMD	St. Johns River Water Management District
SMRMC	St. Marys River Management Committee
US-EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency

Dixie Air & Heating, Inc.
201 Remshart St.
Waycross, GA 31501

Phone: (912) 285-7414
dixieair1@yahoo.com
dixieairandheat.com

Bill to
**Charlton County Board of
Commisioners**
68 Kingsland Dr.
Folkston, GA 31537

Ship to
**Charlton County Board of
Commisioners**
68 Kingsland Dr.
Folkston, GA 31537

Work Summary

This quote includes the purchase and installation of (5) 5-ton commercial split heat pump units with electric heat strips, copper refrigerant line sets, auxiliary pad with emergency float cut off switch, factory programmable thermostats, and the accessories needed. This quote also includes the ductwork needed to tie back into the existing grilles from the new air handlers, to include the G-90 metal, equipment boxes to be lined with 1" blanket liner and all the concealed ductwork to be wrapped with R-8, 3" blanket wrap and R-8 flex. This also includes the high voltage electrical wiring for the condensers and the air handlers, the trade tools, and the regular labor needed to complete the project.

Quote #: q16560

Quote Date: 2/16/2026

Quote Expiration Date: 3/18/2026

Option - Single Phase

Total: \$89,950.00

Description	Amount
Total cost of job- Single Phase	\$89,950.00

Total: \$89,950.00

Option 2- Three Phase

Total: \$94,950.00

Description	Amount
Total cost of job- Three Phase	\$94,950.00

Total: \$94,950.00



HendrixAir, Plumbing & Electrical
5 Church St, Nahunta, Ga 31553
www.hendrixair.com
(912) 462-6794

BILL TO

Charlton County Tag Office
68 Kingsland Drive
Folkston, GA 31537 USA

ESTIMATE
113480560

ESTIMATE DATE
Feb 16, 2026

JOB ADDRESS

Charlton County Tag Office
68 Kingsland Drive
Folkston, GA 31537 USA

Job: 84337

ESTIMATE DETAILS

HVAC ELECTRICAL: RE-FEED NEW HVAC EQUIPMENT, RE WORK EXISTING WIRING TO FIT NEW HVAC EQUIPMENT NEEDS.

SERVICE	DESCRIPTION	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
1	Custom Electrical: INSTALL (1) 3-PHASE PANEL IN ATTIC SPACE FOR NEW HVAC EQUIPMENT. 150 AMP	1.00	\$3,850.00	\$3,850.00
2	Custom Electrical: INSTALL (1) NEMA 3R RATD 3-PHASE PANEL OUTSIDE IN COURTYARD FOR NEW CONDENSER UNITS. 150 AMP	1.00	\$4,350.00	\$4,350.00
3	Custom Electrical: INSTALL PVC AND WIRE APPROXIMATELY 120 FT FROM EXISTING DISC TO FEED AC CONDENSER PANEL	120.00	\$51.00	\$6,120.00
4	Field Supplies: Field Supplies such as staples, wirenuts, connectors, crimps, etc.	5.00	\$15.00	\$75.00
5	Replace Main Breaker 150-200: INSTALL 150 AMP THREE PHASE BREAKER	1.00	\$1,854.00	\$1,854.00
6	High Ladder / Second Electrician Fee: High Ladder Fee, Installing Lights or Fans off a Ladder this high is extremely dangerous and Difficult. Ladder also requires two Electricians. This task is also used any time a second person is required.	2.00	\$226.00	\$452.00
7	15-60 AMP 2-POLE:	2.00	\$350.00	\$700.00

POTENTIAL SAVINGS	\$1,732.65-\$1,740.10
SUB-TOTAL	\$17,401.00
TAX	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$17,401.00
EST. FINANCING	\$217.51

Thank you for choosing HendrixAir. Did you know you could use the invoice number listed above to earn extra CASH by referring friends and family to HendrixAir & Plumbing? Earn up to \$200 for each referral that makes us their HVAC or Plumbing provider. See details @ www.hendrixair.com/referral-program/

CUSTOMER AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize HendrixAir, Plumbing & Electrical to complete the above work in the amount of \$17,401.00 to be performed with the knowledge that this is an estimate and can be changed. Estimates guaranteed for 30 days.

Payment is expected on all approved and performed work, according to account terms. Any account found to be delinquent for more than 45 days will subsequently turned over to a collections agency. A collections fee equal to 22% of the outstanding balance will be added to the total amount due. This fee is intended to cover the administrative expenses and other costs associated with pursuing overdue payments. By accepting this estimate, the undersigned agrees to pay this additional fee in full.

Sign here

Date

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Change Orders and Substitutions. During the progress of the work under this Agreement, if Customer should order extra work not specified in the Agreement, Contractor may require such extra work to be considered an agreement separate and aside from this Agreement and may require payment for said extra work in advance. Should Contractor be unable to obtain any material(s) specified in the Agreement or any Change Order, Contractor shall have the right at its sole discretion to substitute comparable materials and such substitution shall not affect the Purchase Price.

Warranty. Customer understands that each manufacturer of products may provide factory warranties governing repair and replacement. Customer understands it is Customer's responsibility to refer to each specific manufacturer's warranty guidelines and that it may be necessary for Customer as the owner to register the equipment with the manufacturer and maintain it according to the manufacturer's specifications.

Additional Work. Contractor is not responsible for any drywall, fixtures, structural, or other damage that may occur or be necessary in order to complete the scope of work or any other damage that may occur as a result of the electrical, plumbing, sewer, or HVAC system, or other problems related to the premises. Contractor is not obligated to correct or repair pre-existing structural deficiencies or problems resulting from existing conditions to the property, or the work of others. For example, unless otherwise specified, Contractor is not responsible for any painting, patchwork, or repair work that may be required following any work, nor for any leveling of tubs, shower bases, or floors; repair of damage occurring; correction or repairs to sewer lines, to include, but not limited to, cutting into drywall/concrete, or roof/gutter repairs; correction to landscaping or property damaged in the normal course of operations.

Zoning, Conditions, Permits. Customer agrees to timely furnish all information necessary for Contractor to secure plans and permits for the work called for under this Agreement, and Customer warrants the work as contracted for does not violate any applicable zoning, classification, and building codes. Customer agrees to disclose to Contractor the location of all property lines, underground restrictions or underground utilities, easements or rights of way, pipes, power lines, septic tanks, utility lines, or drain fields that may impact or affect the planned project, and shall indemnify Contractor and hold Contractor harmless from any loss or liability, including attorney fees and costs, resulting from any suits, claims, disputes, losses, or problems related to the above. In the event that the applicable public authority or other government agency subsequently requires modifications or additional labor or materials that were not included in the Agreement, then the Purchase Price may be adjusted. Contractor is not responsible for any special inspections, analysis, or reports that are not ordinarily provided.

Contractor's Right to Cancel. If Contractor determines that this Agreement cannot be performed as intended due, for example, to incorrect pricing, unforeseen structural defects, or conditions to Customer's property, Contractor may cancel this Agreement, notify Customer in writing, and return all monies paid.

Customer's Representations: Customer(s) represents and warrants that (a) Customer(s) owns the premises where the products and services are being provided by Contractor; (b) Customer(s) will provide Contractor with reasonable access to the premises, including access to electrical as may be required by Contractor; and (c) Customer(s) shall be responsible for the preparation, protection, moving, and reinstalling of all items as required by Contractor under this Agreement.

Condensation, Mold and Related Matters. Customer(s) agrees to indemnify and hold Contractor and its employees, agents, and subcontractors harmless from any claims as to the identification, detection, abatement, encapsulation, or removal of mold, asbestos, lead-based products, or other hazardous substances inside or outside of the property at which work is performed. Contractor does not provide mold testing or remediation services.

HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical and Generator Terms & Conditions

Order Structure and Installation. Customer understands that it is Customer's responsibility that certain specifications with regard to existing electrical box and natural gas or liquid propane must be met to install a standby power generation system. Contractor will aid the Customer, but it is Customer's responsibility to contact the local natural gas or liquid propane service provider to confirm the meter and/or tanks are sufficient to handle the new equipment. Contractor will provide assistance in preparing and filing documentation to obtain permits from the appropriate municipalities. Customer understands that it may be necessary to drill a hole into the house foundation for the electrical and gas connections, and Customer will not hold Contractor liable for any damage to the foundation.

Design Conditions. All HVAC equipment is designed by manufacturers according to the standard design temperatures. Contractor is not responsible for cooling/heating beyond standard design temperatures, high humidity levels, system reaching dew point, ductwork sweating/producing condensate due to home infiltration rates, or any other reason. R-values, structural tightness, ductwork conditions, home infiltration, leakage of ductwork, building materials, and any other factor in the load calculation will be determined by the information the Customer provides to Contractor upon initial consultation. Contractor is not responsible for any problems incurred due to incorrect information provided by Customer at the time of consultation and load calculation. If Customer does not authorize Contractor to conduct its own testing to determine load calculations and all insulation values, Contractor shall size the new HVAC system based on the size of the Customer's existing HVAC system. In such case, Contractor shall not be responsible for problems caused by over-sizing (including without limitation short cycling, humidity control, and mold growth) or under-sizing (including without limitation inability to heat or cool within standard design temperatures).

Performance or Condition of Existing Equipment. Contractor is not responsible for the performance, functionality, or compatibility of existing equipment, ductwork, duct board, controls, or other equipment/materials that are not repaired or replaced during a job installation and that Customer agrees to keep in place.

Existing Line Set. Contractor is not responsible for any problems with heating or cooling due to the existing line set, which may require repair and replacement for an additional cost to the Customer in the event Contractor is unable to pull a proper vacuum on an existing line set.

Existing Gas Pipe. Contractor is not responsible for the condition of any existing gas pipe that is not readily accessible. Customer is responsible for any additional costs incurred if pressure testing is required to identify leaks and necessary repairs.

Existing Attic Access Stairs. In the event Customer's existing stairs/attic access cannot be safely utilized for the removal and installation of equipment, an alternate method or access may be required. Contractor is not responsible for (a) the replacement or repair of steps, stairs or panels that must be removed to complete removal or installation work; and/or (b) any property damage resulting from the removal of access steps, stairs, or panels.

Condensate Line. These services do not warranty any condensate or water leaks related to existing plumbing issues, PVC joints that separate, or due to improper slope of condensate lines between cooling coil and plumbing. It is understood and agreed to by Customer that the condensate lines are part of the plumbing system and that over a period of time dirt, sludge, and debris can accumulate in the condensate line. Under no circumstances does the Contractor warranty any part of a building's existing condensate piping and related plumbing; or damages related to existing condensate piping.

Drain Clearing. Should any drain cleaning cable become stuck in the line it is the responsibility of the Customer for removal and/or additional repairs. If a sewage spill occurs, including one deemed hazardous material, the cost of cleanup is the responsibility of the Customer.



HendrixAir, Plumbing & Electrical
5 Church St, Nahunta, Ga 31553
www.hendrixair.com
(912) 462-6794

BILL TO

Charlton County Tag Office
68 Kingsland Drive
Folkston, GA 31537 USA

ESTIMATE
112634374

ESTIMATE DATE
Jan 29, 2026

JOB ADDRESS

Charlton County Tag Office
68 Kingsland Drive
Folkston, GA 31537 USA

Job: 84044

SERVICE	DESCRIPTION	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
1	5 Ton Economy Split System: 5 Ton Economy Split System 14.3 SEER2 Heat Pump Single Speed Outdoor Unit Single Speed Indoor Unit Honeywell 5000 Digital Thermostat Full System Code and Safety Upgrades Drain Pan Drain Safety Switches Outdoor Pad 2 New Plenums Safety Disconnect 10 Manufacturer Part Warranty 1 year Labor Guarantee 1 year Total Care Club Membership	5.00	\$11,893.00	\$59,465.00
2	Economy Horizontal Install 3.5-5: Horizontal HVAC Install	5.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3	Lineset: Replace lineset up to 50 feet.	5.00	\$900.00	\$4,500.00
4	Electrical Task: Run power wire from panel(s) to indoor and outdoor units. Run new thermostat wires to each unit.	5.00	\$1,694.00	\$8,470.00
5	Miscellaneous Task: Equipment Rental	2.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
6	HVAC Labor Warranty:	1.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Labor warranty covers the labor associated with a failure due to normal system operation. Labor warranty does not cover maintenance related failures such as dirty filters, dirt, growth, and debris on equipment components, drain pan, and drain lines. Labor warranty does not cover the function and condition of preexisting ductwork. The system is required to be properly maintained annually for warranty to remain valid. Please contact HendrixAir & Plumbing for necessary maintenance needs. Labor Warranty does not apply to unforeseen circumstances such as lightning strikes, floods, tornadoes, or any other natural disasters.

7	Supply Duct Replacement: Replacement of Supply Ductwork (per drop price), re-using existing boots.	15.00	\$507.00	\$7,605.00
8	Additional Return Duct: Adding a return line, including cutting in a new return boot.	4.00	\$984.00	\$3,936.00
9	Duct Modifications: Modifying and extending existing return duct and connecting with new systems.	12.00	\$457.00	\$5,484.00
10	Dehumidifier: Whole Home Air Dehumidifier - Designed to deliver exceptional indoor air quality by providing dedicated moisture control. - Whole home dehumidifier of up to 3000 sq. ft. - Includes adding dedicated return - Multiple installation application	1.00	\$4,459.00	\$4,459.00
11	Discount: Multi-system Discount	1.00	-\$2,500.00	-\$2,500.00
12	RunTru 5 Ton Heat Pump 14.3 SEER2 Trane A5HP4060A1000	5.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13	RunTru 06__D Ton Air Handler 3.5 - 5 Ton Trane A5AHC006A1D30A	5.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
14	Heat Strip; Use with all TEM AHUs Trane BAYHTR1510LUGB	5.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
15	120 pint Whole Home Ventilating Dehumidifier Trane EDHUM120AH1MNA	1.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

POTENTIAL SAVINGS	\$2,552.25
SUB-TOTAL	\$93,419.00
TAX	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$93,419.00
EST. FINANCING	\$1,167.74

Thank you for choosing HendrixAir

CUSTOMER AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize HendrixAir, Plumbing & Electrical to complete the above work in the amount of \$93,419.00 to be performed with the knowledge that this is an estimate and can be changed. Estimates guaranteed for 30 days.

Payment is expected on all approved and performed work, according to account terms. Any account found to be delinquent for more than 45 days will subsequently turned over to a collections agency. A collections fee equal to 22% of the outstanding balance will be added to the total amount due. This fee is intended to cover the administrative expenses and other costs associated with pursuing overdue payments. By accepting this estimate, the undersigned agrees to pay this additional fee in full.

Sign here

Date

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Change Orders and Substitutions. During the progress of the work under this Agreement, if Customer should order extra work not specified in the Agreement, Contractor may require such extra work to be considered an agreement separate and aside from this Agreement and may require payment for said extra work in advance. Should Contractor be unable to obtain any material(s) specified in the Agreement or any Change Order, Contractor shall have the right at its sole discretion to substitute comparable materials and such substitution shall not affect the Purchase Price.

Warranty. Customer understands that each manufacturer of products may provide factory warranties governing repair and replacement. Customer understands it is Customer's responsibility to refer to each specific manufacturer's warranty guidelines and that it may be necessary for Customer as the owner to register the equipment with the manufacturer and maintain it according to the manufacturer's specifications.

Additional Work. Contractor is not responsible for any drywall, fixtures, structural, or other damage that may occur or be necessary in order to complete the scope of work or any other damage that may occur as a result of the electrical, plumbing, sewer, or HVAC system, or other problems related to the premises. Contractor is not obligated to correct or repair pre-existing structural deficiencies or problems resulting from existing conditions to the property, or the work of others. For example, unless otherwise specified, Contractor is not responsible for any painting, patchwork, or repair work that may be required following any work, nor for any leveling of tubs, shower bases, or floors; repair of damage occurring; correction or repairs to sewer lines, to include, but not limited to, cutting into drywall/concrete, or roof/gutter repairs; correction to landscaping or property damaged in the normal course of operations.

Zoning, Conditions, Permits. Customer agrees to timely furnish all information necessary for Contractor to secure plans and permits for the work called for under this Agreement, and Customer warrants the work as contracted for does not violate any applicable zoning, classification, and building codes. Customer agrees to disclose to Contractor the location of all property lines, underground restrictions or underground utilities, easements or rights of way, pipes, power lines, septic tanks, utility lines, or drain fields that may impact or affect the planned project, and shall indemnify Contractor and hold Contractor harmless from any loss or liability, including attorney fees and costs, resulting from any suits, claims, disputes, losses, or problems related to the above. In the event that the applicable public authority or other government agency subsequently requires modifications or additional labor or materials that were not included in the Agreement, then the Purchase Price may be adjusted. Contractor is not responsible for any special inspections, analysis, or reports that are not ordinarily provided.

Contractor's Right to Cancel. If Contractor determines that this Agreement cannot be performed as intended due, for example, to incorrect pricing, unforeseen structural defects, or conditions to Customer's property, Contractor may cancel this Agreement, notify Customer in writing, and return all monies paid.

Customer's Representations: Customer(s) represents and warrants that (a) Customer(s) owns the premises where the products and services are being provided by Contractor; (b) Customer(s) will provide Contractor with reasonable access to the premises, including access to electrical as may be required by Contractor; and (c) Customer(s) shall be responsible for the preparation, protection, moving, and reinstalling of all items as required by Contractor under this Agreement.

Condensation, Mold and Related Matters. Customer(s) agrees to indemnify and hold Contractor and its employees, agents, and subcontractors harmless from any claims as to the identification, detection, abatement, encapsulation, or removal of mold, asbestos, lead-based products, or other hazardous substances inside or outside of the property at which work is performed. Contractor does not provide mold testing or remediation services.

HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical and Generator Terms & Conditions

Order Structure and Installation. Customer understands that it is Customer's responsibility that certain specifications with regard to existing electrical box and natural gas or liquid propane must be met to install a standby power generation system. Contractor will aid the Customer, but it is Customer's responsibility to contact the local natural gas or liquid propane service provider to confirm the meter and/or tanks are sufficient to handle the new equipment. Contractor will provide assistance in preparing and filing documentation to obtain permits from the appropriate municipalities. Customer understands that it may be necessary to drill a hole into the house foundation for the electrical and gas connections, and Customer will not hold Contractor liable for any damage to the foundation.

Design Conditions. All HVAC equipment is designed by manufacturers according to the standard design temperatures. Contractor is not responsible for cooling/heating beyond standard design temperatures, high humidity levels, system reaching dew point, ductwork sweating/producing condensate due to home infiltration rates, or any other reason. R-values, structural tightness, ductwork conditions, home infiltration, leakage of ductwork, building materials, and any other factor in the load calculation will be determined by the information the Customer provides to Contractor upon initial consultation. Contractor is not responsible for any problems incurred due to incorrect information provided by Customer at the time of consultation and load calculation. If Customer does not authorize Contractor to conduct its own testing to determine load calculations and all insulation values, Contractor shall size the new HVAC system based on the size of the Customer's existing HVAC system. In such case, Contractor shall not be responsible for problems caused by over-sizing (including without limitation short cycling, humidity control, and mold growth) or under-sizing (including without limitation inability to heat or cool within standard design temperatures).

Performance or Condition of Existing Equipment. Contractor is not responsible for the performance, functionality, or compatibility of existing equipment, ductwork, duct board, controls, or other equipment/materials that are not repaired or replaced during a job installation and that Customer agrees to keep in place.

Existing Line Set. Contractor is not responsible for any problems with heating or cooling due to the existing line set, which may require repair and replacement for an additional cost to the Customer in the event Contractor is unable to pull a proper vacuum on an existing line set.

Existing Gas Pipe. Contractor is not responsible for the condition of any existing gas pipe that is not readily accessible. Customer is responsible for any additional costs incurred if pressure testing is required to identify leaks and necessary repairs.

Existing Attic Access Stairs. In the event Customer's existing stairs/attic access cannot be safely utilized for the removal and installation of equipment, an alternate method or access may be required. Contractor is not responsible for (a) the replacement or repair of steps, stairs or panels that must be removed to complete removal or installation work; and/or (b) any property damage resulting from the removal of access steps, stairs, or panels.

Condensate Line. These services do not warranty any condensate or water leaks related to existing plumbing issues, PVC joints that separate, or due to improper slope of condensate lines between cooling coil and plumbing. It is understood and agreed to by Customer that the condensate lines are part of the plumbing system and that over a period of time dirt, sludge, and debris can accumulate in the condensate line. Under no circumstances does the Contractor warranty any part of a building's existing condensate piping and related plumbing; or damages related to existing condensate piping.

Drain Clearing. Should any drain cleaning cable become stuck in the line it is the responsibility of the Customer for removal and/or additional repairs. If a sewage spill occurs, including one deemed hazardous material, the cost of cleanup is the responsibility of the Customer.



704 Osborne St.
St. Marys, Ga. 31558
912-882-3495
www.sampickrenair.com

To: Charlton County Commissioners
Address: Senior Bld.
City: Folkston Ga. 31537
Date: 2/27/18

To whom it may concern:

The estimate listed below will consist of the following:

1. To remove and replace existing 7.5 ton Lennox split system with a Carrier 4 ton and 3.5 ton 14 seer heat pump. We will remove existing lennox system and go back with 2 air handler paired together and tie them back to existing duct work. The only access point to the attic is thru a regular attic pull down, which means we will have to cut existing unit up in small pieces to get out, but of course we can't cut the new units up to put them back so we have to go with something that will fit back to thru attic access. Even though there will be 2 systems they will still operate as one and will work off one thermostat. The upside to doing this is if one unit goes down you will have some redundancy until unit is brought back on line.
2. To install new Carrier thermostat
3. To install copper refrigerant lines which will be covered with a shroud down the outside wall
4. To install secondary drain pans under both of the indoor units
5. To install an additional pad next to existing pad for condensers, both won't fit on existing pad
6. To tie back to existing duct work
7. To install safety switches in the drain lines and the drain pan
8. To install new condensate lines
9. And to dispose of the old equipment and to clean up once completed

Installed Price:

13,263.62 (1 yr. parts 5 yr. compressor 1 yr. labor warranty)

(This price doesn't include high voltage wiring, I can get you amp draw or breaker size for units, but electrician will need to make adjustments to electrical for this to work.)

Sincerely,
Justin Paulk
Construction Manager
(912)882-3495



Fire & Emergency Medical Services Mutual Aid Agreement

This document serves as an agreement between **Camden County Fire Rescue** and **Charlton County Volunteer Fire Department and Charlton County EMS** to provide mutual aid, each to the other, in the event that an emergency occurs in which required resources and personnel are beyond the capabilities of the requesting service. The stipulations of this agreement are:

1. Subject to available resource at the time of the request.
2. All services render under this agreement shall be rendered without reimbursement of either party or parties. For any extended deployment the requesting agency shall provide fuel, food and other immediate needs at the scene or staging area. Patients will be billed by the transporting agency.
3. Neither party hereto nor, except in cases of willful misconduct, gross negligence, or bad faith, the employees, agents, or representative of any such party, nor any unpaid trained personnel or member of any agency engaged in any mutual aid activity pursuant to this Agreement, shall be liable for the death of or injury to person or for damage to property as a result of such activity. The parties agree that no provision of the Agreement intended, nor shall it be construed, as a waiver by the parties hereto of any government immunity, including sovereign immunity, provided under any applicable law. The parties hereto hereby expressly reserve all immunities available to them under all laws. The foregoing shall not affect the right of any person to receive benefits or

compensation from his/her employer to which he/she might otherwise be entitled under the workers compensation laws of the state of Georgia.

4. It is hereby expressly acknowledged and agreed between the two parties that neither this agreement nor its terms shall be construed or applied so as to create or impose any "first response" duty or responsibility with regard to emergencies within each other's respective jurisdictions.
5. All responding apparatus shall remain under the control of the responding agency. Any apparatus that responds, however, should integrate with the requesting agency's Incident Command Structure.
6. There is no special duty imposed by this Agreement on either Party, or its respective agents and/or employees, to respond to emergency calls or requests for aid pursuant to this Agreement. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to create an employment or agency relationship between the agents and employees of the Party providing aid and the Party receiving aid. No agent or employee of a Party shall be deemed to be an employee or agent of the other Party because of any action or incident arising pursuant to this Agreement. All damages or repairs to any equipment or apparatus shall be the responsibility of the Party that owns such equipment or apparatus, provided however that for any incident in which state or federal aid is provided to the Party requesting aid, such funds shall be distributed to the party providing aid in proportion to the level of actual involvement incurred while providing mutual aid. No Party under this Agreement will otherwise be required to pay any

compensation to the other Party under this Agreement for services rendered pursuant to this Agreement.

7. In reference to communications interoperability between Camden County and Charlton County, the Parties agree to the following:

- a. Exchange of technical information such as encryption keys, radio identification, frequencies, code plugs, and/or talk groups necessary for each Party to have the ability to communicate with the other while providing mutual aid for normal operations where the use of national interoperability channels are not preferred.
- b. Each Party:
 - i. Agrees information will not be released or loaned to any third party without agreement from both Parties.
 - ii. Maintains reasonable security from loss or theft, and unauthorized use of any technical information needed to operate on the other Parties radio system.
 - iii. Maintain reasonable security from loss or theft, and unauthorized use for all radio communication equipment operating on the agencies system.
 - iv. Report immediately to the other agency any incident that causes loss of control of any radio communication equipment capable of operating agency's system.
 - v. Submit a list indicating the radio identification number along with the unit which it is assigned to so that in the case above the radio maybe cut off from the system so it neither can transmit or receive radio traffic.

- vi. Update the opposite agency when frequencies or any other updates to the system which may make the other agency's radio equipment inoperable.
- vii. Agrees to provide talk-group and standardized alias naming convention to prevent confusion when operating with the other agency.
- viii. Has the capability to program their radio with talk-group from within their jurisdiction.
- ix. Should maximize interoperability and program agreed upon statewide, regional and event mutual aid talk-group into their radios.

This agreement becomes effective this ____ day of _____ and will remain in effect for a period of two (2) years or until both parties mutually agree to terminate this agreement.

Camden County

Charlton County

Camden County BOC Chairperson

Charlton County BOC Chairperson

Printed Name

Printed Name

Camden County Fire Chief

Charlton County Fire Chief

Printed Name

Printed Name

State of Georgia
County of Charlton

RESOLUTION

Establishing a Temporary Burn Ban in Charlton County

WHEREAS, Charlton County has adopted a Burn Ordinance regulating open burning within the county in order to protect life, property, and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, periods of dry weather, drought conditions, and increased fire activity create an elevated risk of uncontrolled fires that may threaten public safety and cause undue fire danger; and

WHEREAS, the Charlton County Board of Commissioners is authorized under the County Burn Ordinance and applicable state and local laws to restrict or prohibit open burning when conditions warrant; and

WHEREAS, local fire and emergency officials have determined that current conditions make open burning unsafe at this time;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Charlton County, Georgia, as follows:

1. Burn Ban Established

A temporary burn ban is hereby declared for all unincorporated areas of Charlton County. All forms of open burning are prohibited while this burn ban is in effect.

2. Scope of Prohibition

This burn ban includes, but is not limited to, the burning of yard debris, land clearing debris, fields, ditches, and any other outdoor open burning that could result in the spread of fire.

Authorized exceptions, if any, shall be only those expressly allowed under the Charlton County Burn Ordinance and applicable state law, and only when conducted without causing undue fire danger.

3. Effective Date and Duration

This burn ban shall take effect immediately upon adoption of this resolution and shall remain in effect until conditions improve and the ban is lifted by official action of Charlton County, based on a determination that it is safe to resume open burning.

4. Enforcement

This resolution shall be enforced by Charlton County Fire/Rescue, the Charlton County Sheriff's Office, and any other authorized agency. Violations of this burn ban may result in penalties as provided by the County Burn Ordinance and applicable law.

5. Public Notice

The County shall make reasonable efforts to notify the public of this burn ban through available communication channels, including but not limited to local media, the county website, and social media platforms.

6. Purpose

The purpose of this burn ban is to reduce the risk of wildfires, protect emergency

responders, and safeguard the lives and property of the citizens of Charlton County during hazardous burning conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is in the interest of public safety and shall take effect immediately upon adoption and shall remain in force until officially rescinded.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Board of Commissioners of Charlton County, Georgia has caused this Resolution to be adopted on the 22nd day of February, 2026.



Alpha Bennefield, Chairwoman