

## **St. Johns County Roundtable Minutes January 11, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** 34

**GUEST:** Michael Shirley, Ph.D Environmental Administrator Guana Tolomato Matanzas Research Reserve

**DECEMBER MINUTES:** Motion to Approve and carried

**TREASURERS REPORT:** \$2,472.80 No change in members

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Linda Oakley thanked the Committee that updated the member list and called Homeowners and Condominium Associations to ask for their participation in the monthly meetings. Jim McLane thanked Linda for the great job she did organizing the project.

Government Committee. Sunshine Law. If the Sunshine Law is violated, it is a criminal felony. There is discussion to get away from the legal relationship from the ARB's or Homeowner Boards.

The Sawgrass group met with Sheriff David Shoar on noise from the local restaurant. They are working on a noise ordinance.

Dr. Shirley's goal is to bring science to management. It is part of a national program through science and education. The Research Reserve is part of 27 other reserves. Funding is split equally, not based on size. 50% of funding comes from the Federal Government and 50% comes from the State.

GTM is part of the Florida Coastal and Aquatic Managed areas...this funding comes from the state. This organization is made up of a 22 member management group, 50% community folks, 50% other agencies. GTM totals 73,414 acres and 25,000 acres of Ocean in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The Mission Statement of GTM is to achieve conservation of natural bio-diversity and cultural reserves by using the results of research to understand science based study.

Cold weather now will result in potential fires in the summer.

GTM Reserve programs are split into three programs, Scientific Research, Stewardship, and Environmental Education.

GTM manages by Adaptive Management which includes Performance based Accountability, Long Term Goals, Short Term Objectives, Strategies and Annual Assessment.

The Management plan focuses on five areas: Public Use, Habitats and Species Management, Watershed Land Use, Cultural Resources and Global Processes.

There are over 300 volunteers at GTM.

The Matanzas Basin is 100,000 acres and is located in both St. John and Flagler Counties.

This area is one of the most pristine areas in Florida with less than 5% impervious surface. If all building was accomplished it would be over 25% impervious surface. At a 10%-20% rate, issues such as water quality and species reductions are common.

To upcoming meetings that Dr. Shirley suggested we attend include:  
Whitney Lab at Lohmann Auditorium  
9505 Ocean Shore at Marineland 1/13/2010 @ 1 pm.

Meeting on Rule Making  
Outstanding Florida Water Meeting  
Hall Lightner Building 1/19/2010 @ 7pm

Please visit the GTM web site at: [www.gtmnerr.com](http://www.gtmnerr.com).

Ken Bryan spoke on the 2010 Census. He was appointed to be the Census Chair. The first census was in 1790. Duval and St. Johns counties have lost millions in revenue due to lack of interest in filling out the census form.

St. Johns County can get up to \$1,400 for each form filled out. The count is for both Citizens and Non Citizens. Census Day is April 1, 2010. The Census form asks 10 questions and takes 10 minutes to complete. The Patriot Act restricts the Census form from selling or giving specific info to any other government agency.

Federal funding for communities will total 400 billion dollars per year. The count will take 4-6 months. Outreach is the primary objective for success for St. Johns County. St. Johns County has allocated \$40,000 to market and communicate the importance of filling out the census form.

What can the Roundtable do?  
Have a rep actively involved.  
Provide presentation to your community  
Display posters and flyers  
Attend the meeting 1/12/2010 Room 1A/B @ 1 pm at the County Building

Airport authority meeting today 1/11/2010 at 4 pm at the Administration building.

Meeting adjourned at 11 am. Next meeting at The Record is February 8, 2010.

