

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2014 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

		Attendance Record
Members Present:	Lina Vlavianos, Chair	12/12
	Sally Hornor, Vice Chair	10/12
	Jim Burdick	10/12
	Dick Spencer	11/12
	Kevin Curran	10/12
	Jeff Schomig	10/12
	Kurt Riegel	7/12
Guests and Staff:	Sheri Lott, AACo. DPW/WPRP	
	Meghan Spencer, AACo. DPW/WPRP	
Members Absent:	Bob Whitcomb	9/12
	Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	4/12

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vlavianos called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:07 p.m. in the Severn Room, 4th Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS – There was no public input.

MINUTES

The Minutes for the November 6, 2014, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval and were accepted as written.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 6, 2014 MINUTES AS WRITTEN, WAS MADE BY SPENCER AND SECONDED BY BURDICK. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) SRC sent a letter to the Naval Support Activity Annapolis (NSAA) on November 12, 2014.
- (2) Mike Robinson has resigned from the SRC.
- (3) Jim Burdick will take over Mike Robinson's duties as the SRC Webmaster.
- (4) Dick Spencer will confirm the date of a meeting regarding the Conowingo Dam.

OLD BUSINESS

Severn Water Quality Monitoring

Spencer discussed with Fred Kelly & Sarah Caldes, who are working on a program with the Naval Academy and Andrew & Diana Muller. Hornor said that Andrew Muller, head of Oceanography at the Naval Academy, will be picking up Pierre Henckart's stations for monitoring. Hornor will contact Muller regarding a presentation to the SRC on January 8, 2015 or February 5, 2015.

Jabez / SHA

Curran noted several indications on a map of the Jabez, including areas where permission was not granted to enter the properties behind Strayer University. Spencer said there was a meeting on Tuesday December 2 with Spencer, Charlotte Lubbert, Lee Meadows, Ken Hatch, and other Jabez Stakeholders to discuss their options with the State Highway Administration (SHA). Spencer also said Lubbert plans to call the two land owners to set up a meeting to obtain permission for stream assessment on the properties in question.

Curran will ask for an updated schedule from Stantec, and he expects the final report from SHA in the middle of March 2015. Spencer will ask Charlotte Lubbert for a copy of the SHA presentation, as well as receiving the draft report from SHA at the end of December. Curran wants SHA to directly send a copy of all future Jabez presentations to the SRC in the future.

Lott recommends that SHA start the permit process while the Watershed Protection and Restoration Program (WPRP) completes upland restoration on the Jabez. Schomig wants the SRC to have the opportunity to review the final report, ask questions and request more information from SHA as necessary. Vlavianos states that the SRC can make Lott's recommendation to the SHA once the SHA final report has been reviewed.

Stormwater Management on Severn Run

Whitcomb is not present to provide an update. Spencer was unable to contact and follow up with Bruce Michael.

Annapolis / Annapolis Marine Water Quality

Riegel says that the Crystal Spring developers' attorneys are being combative, and have requested everything from the City of Annapolis and the Annapolis Environmental Commission (AEC) Members. According to Riegel, the City of Annapolis attorney is backing up the AEC's position on which items must be disclosed under the Maryland Public Information Act, with personal communications of private citizens excluded. The Mayor remains firm on limiting the area of development and encouraging preservation of as much of the existing forest as possible, and reforestation to compensate for trees removed.

Riegel said that the AEC voted 8-1 in favor of the No Discharge Zone (NDZ). The NDZ vote is going forward to the Annapolis city council, the Environmental Matters Committee (EMC) and all relevant City of Annapolis departments. Riegel expects strong pushback from the Marine Advisory Board (MAB), a board comprised of marine business-oriented members. Hornor mentioned grandfathering type 1 and type 2 sanitation devices in the City of Annapolis. Riegel said that grandfathering of the sanitation devices is prohibited by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Spencer mentioned the previous SRC meeting discussion regarding Stuart Cheney's involvement. Riegel says that Cheney will testify in favor of the NDZ as required. According to Riegel, the City of Annapolis Department of Neighborhood & Environmental Programs (DNEP) and the Annapolis Harbormaster will be involved in the approval process for the NDZ.

Oyster Restoration Activities

Whitcomb was not present to discuss Oyster Restoration Activities.

Website

Burdick is taking over as the SRC Webmaster.

NEW BUSINESS

SRC Enabling Legislation / Bylaws

Vlavianos said that any amendments proposed must be written and introduced after SRC review, and stated the following:

- There is inconsistent wording in Article 3.
- The language of Section 2 needs clarification regarding SRC appointments.
- Is a quorum needed for an emergency meeting?
- Are ex-officio members held to the attendance standard of 3 consecutive meetings or 5 yearly meetings?
- Is member absence counted for regular meetings only or are emergency meetings included?
- The vacancies section is irrelevant, as the County Executive makes appointments as necessary.
- Do members continue to serve on the SRC after term expiration until new appointments are made?

Schomig stated that members with expired terms should not vote or otherwise participate in SRC until reappointed. Vlavianos will contact County Executive Steve Schuh regarding the SRC vacancies, expired terms and appointments. Spencer stated that the SRC, as directed by the bylaws, should be able to make a recommendation to the County Executive regarding vacancies and expired terms. Schomig suggested writing a letter to the County Executive with recommendations to fill the SRC vacancies. Burdick said that writing two separate letters for expired terms and voluntary vacancies would be more efficient.

Burdick stated that a quorum is required for any meeting, emergency or not. Hornor stated that in Article 6, Section 1, the Vice Chair should be appointed in March. Hornor suggested removing the last sentence of Article 5, Section 2. Spencer mentioned that there should be a set of rules in the bylaws regarding appointment times.

Schomig recommends removing the last sentence of Article 5, Section 2 or replacing it with the following language:

The officers of the SRC should consist of a Chair, a Vice Chair, and such other officers as the SRC may from time to time determine. The County Executive and Mayor will appoint the Chair. The Chair shall then appoint the Vice Chair and any remaining officers. The Chair can choose to hold an election or appoint the Vice Chair and the remaining officers unilaterally.

Vlavianos revised the last sentence of Article 5, Section 2 to the following:

The Chair shall appoint the Vice Chair and remaining officers.

Hornor suggested changing the language of Article 6, Section 1. Vlavianos revised the language to the following:

The regular meeting held in the month of March each year shall be the annual meeting. The Commission shall also review its activities since the last annual meeting.

Spencer recommended keeping language in the bylaws specifying a date for appointing the Vice Chair and other members. Schomig said that if the appointment is unable to be made on the specified date, it is considered a violation of the bylaws. It was decided not to specify a date for the SRC appointments.

Schomig says that the wording of Article 3 is misleading in terms of community involvement. Hornor pointed out that the SRC is available to assist County, City and State government organizations. Schomig says the point where SRC involvement is an issue is when the SRC has acted outside of the Enabling Legislation. Schomig states that the SRC should only be making recommendations to the County, City and State government, per Enabling Legislation.

Vlavianos will review the language of the aforementioned articles.

PUBLIC INPUT/NEW ITEMS – There was no public input.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Severn Room (4th Floor), 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD.

Respectfully submitted,

Meghan Spencer
AACounty DPW, Bureau of Engineering
Watershed Protection & Restoration Program