

**SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**January 12 2017 – 4:00 P.M.**  
**Chesapeake Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor**

	<b>Attendance Record</b>
<b>Members Present:</b>	
Charlie Kreter, Chair	1/1
Jim Burdick	1/1
Claudia Donegan, MD DNR (Ex Officio)	1/1
Bill Kardash	1/1
Kurt Riegel	1/1
Dick Spencer	1/1
Bob Whitcomb	1/1
<b>Guests and Staff:</b>	
Sheri Lott, AACo. DPW/WPRP	
Meghan Spencer, AACo. DPW/WPRP	
Charlotte Lubbert, Severn River Association	
<b>Members Absent:</b>	
Sara Phillips, Vice Chair	0/1
Lex Birney	0/1
Daniel Roche	0/1

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kreter called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:08 p.m. in the Chesapeake Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

Sheri Lott of the Anne Arundel County Watershed Protection & Restoration Program (WPRP) presented to the commission on the status of the Jabez 3 Stream Restoration. Lott discussed the Jabez 3 restoration effort, as well as provided information on the excessive runoff volumes from impervious surfaces on state, county, and privately-owned properties that are contributing to the channel instability and excessive erosion.

Lott provided information about the team approach to restoration, and the involvement of the Maryland State Highway Association (SHA), Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Anne Arundel County (AACo), watershed groups such as the Severn River Association (SRA) & SRC, private citizens & landholders, and consultants hired by AACo to provide an integrated design effort. According to Lott, DNR is conducting pre-restoration monitoring and has initiated repairs to Stream Reach Segment 2 of the Jabez. AACo is discussing design intent with a hired contractor. SHA is progressing on design with a contractor.

Lott then discussed AACo implementation strategies, provided a current status update, and addressed some of the AACo project design challenges. Following the presentation, Lott then answered questions from the SRC and meeting attendees. The presentation is available at the SRC office.

**PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS** – Charlotte Lubbert walked through Arden on the Severn with Lynn Rockenbauch, and noted the ravine erosion upstream.

## **MINUTES**

The Minutes for the December 1, 2016, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 1, 2016 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY BURDICK AND SECONDED BY WHITCOMB. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

The Minutes for the December 12, 2016, special monthly meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 12, 2016 MINUTES, 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) Kreter received an email from Kate Fritz about a watershed meeting on Friday, January 13, 2017 at Port Annapolis.
- (2) Kreter gave notice of the Community Stormwater Meeting with Maria Broadbent on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at the Pip Moyer Recreation Center.
- (3) Kreter noted there is a meeting of the Marine Advisory Board (MAB) on Tuesday, January 17, 2017.
- (4) Kreter distributed the year-end report for review, and noted that the report is due to County Executive Schuh by the end of January 2017. Kreter noted that his draft covers highlights of the SRC year, and Spencer requested that a copy be sent to Mayor Pantelides.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Permit Notifications**

Burdick noted the permit application for the City of Annapolis headwaters of College Creek behind the police station on Spa Road. According to Burdick, the final site plan is not complete.

Spencer expressed concern about the SRA meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 about the cliffs, noting that he's unclear how the excavation and grading was allowed to take place, and said that the SRC isn't receiving information from the State of Maryland & Anne Arundel County regarding permits.

### **Water Access**

Whitcomb attended a public water access meeting, and the main topic discussed was regarding AACo not permitting swimming at open beaches. Whitcomb noted that County Executive Schuh was petitioned to open beaches to swimming.

### **Future Presentations**

- February – Mary Clemmensen, Chesapeake Legal Alliance
- April – Kevin Smith, DNR; Keeping the Living in Living Shorelines
- Spencer would like a presentation from the Chesapeake Conservancy on the new land use map & precision conservation approach
- Spencer would also like a presentation from Dave Blazer or Jodie Baxter about the DNR Oyster Program; Whitcomb noted that DNR won't comment until the Oyster Advisory Committee (OAC) makes a decision

### **No Discharge Zone (NDZ)**

Kreter will speak to the MAB about NDZ recommendations to County Executive Schuh. Riegel attended the MAB meeting with Birney. Riegel said there was a good discussion regarding the proposal of an NDZ extending outside of Annapolis. Riegel noted there was very strong support of the NDZ, but there was some opposition as well. Riegel noted a lack of pump out facilities in certain areas of Annapolis waters that create a logistical issue for commercial vessels.

Riegel said it was a good meeting overall with all parties involved, and there was a strong feeling to proceed with the NDZ. David Barker from the Back Creek Conservancy (BCC) will work with Birney to develop a list of interested parties to submit an NDZ application. Spencer met with the Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) to discuss the NDZ. According to Spencer, Suzanne Etgen of the WSA feels it's a good opportunity for WSA to take the lead. Spencer noted there is a meeting on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 to discuss the NDZ further, and feels that the WSA is a good choice because there are Watershed Stewards in every waterway in AACo. Spencer assembled a spreadsheet of waterway boundaries & identification of all pump out stations in the county, with the exception of Herrington Harbor.

**Naval Academy**

Kreter requested to remove the item from the agenda.

**Annapolis Yacht Club**

Kardash said that the business property office on the north side of the Eastport property has been vacated. Kardash assumes that demolition will occur in the near future, but noted that no permit has been submitted.

**Oyster Restoration Activities**

Whitcomb said the OAC took in requests for sanctuaries, but is currently at an impasse with Watermen. There has been no progress on choosing a sanctuary for restoration except for the secretary noting that some rivers were recovering so well that no money needed to be spent on oyster restoration. Whitcomb will present on Friday, January 13, 2017 to county delegates about the lack of Anne Arundel County representation.

Spencer wants to view oysters as environmental tools to clean up the Severn River. Whitcomb says the best option is to hope that the OAC chooses the Severn River for restoration.

**Website**

There was nothing new to report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Kreter requested an agenda for the SRC for 2017, noting that the SRC focused on the NDZ for 2016. Kreter proposed public water access and oyster restoration as possible focuses for the upcoming year.

Kreter asked for clarification on the difference between the SRA and the South River Federation (SRF), as well as for more information about the Severn Riverkeeper (SeRK). Riegel said that the SRF is a more mature organization that has collected resources for projects, and that the SRA is an advocacy group. Spencer noted that the SRF has a number of professional staff members. Kreter asked who the South Riverkeeper (SoRK) works with. Riegel said that the SoRK is in the SRF, and noted that the SeRK has no association to the SRA & that unification of the two organizations has proven difficult.

**PUBLIC INPUT/NEW ITEMS**

There was no public input.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the Severn Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD.

Respectfully submitted,

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