

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2011 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

| | Attendance Record |
|---|------------------------------|
| Members Present: | |
| Lina Vlavianos, Chair | 2/2 |
| Sally Hornor, Vice Chair | 2/2 |
| Charlotte Lubbert | 2/2 |
| Joe Rubino | 2/2 |
| Jeff Schomig (via conference call) | 2/2 |
| Bob Whitcomb | 2/2 |
| Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio) | 1/2 |
| Guests and Staff: | |
| Brenda Reiber, AACounty Executive's Office | |
| Brenda Weeks, AACo. DPW/WERS | |
| Members Absent: | |
| Joel Dunn | 1/2 |
| Kurt Riegel | 1/2 |
| Fred Paone, City Council (Ex officio) | 0/2 |
| Veronica Jagoe for Councilman Benoit (Ex officio) | 0/2 |

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vlavianos called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:06 p.m. in the Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was declared present.

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

MINUTES

The Minutes for the January 6, 2011, regular monthly SRC meeting were presented for approval. The minutes were approved as written.

MOTION: A MOTION, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 6, 2011, REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SRC AS WRITTEN, WAS MADE BY HORNOR AND SECONDED BY RUBINO. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Riegel and Dunn were not present because of other commitments.

- (2) The County Executive's office has submitted a legislative request to the Office of Law for a resolution approving the reappointment of Robert Whitcomb and the appointment of Michael Robinson, both residents of the Severn River Watershed, to serve on the SRC for three-year terms ending January 31, 2014. The proposed introduction date of the legislation to County Council is February 22, 2011. Robinson will fill the vacancy left by Lubbert whose term expired January 31, 2011. The City of Annapolis will be appointing a replacement to fill the vacancy left by Legum whose term also expired January 31, 2011. Legum indicated he did not wish to continue serving. The County Executive's office will notify the Mayor's office about this vacancy.

- (3) A letter dated January 21, 2011 was sent to Margaret McHale, Chair of the Critical Area Commission, inviting her to the March 2011 SRC meeting to revisit Critical Area issues of concern that she addressed at the December 2009 SRC meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Septics

Whitcomb reported SRC's request for information on how many retrofitted septic systems have been installed in the Severn River watershed is being compiled by the County Health Department. At the present time, money for upgrades is strictly limited to residents with failing septic systems in the Critical Area. During the discussion, it was noted that inspection of existing septic systems in the county is not mandatory. Inspections are usually made at the sale of property when problems are discovered and repairs are made. Therefore, many problematic systems cause pollution problems for years before being corrected. Sand and shell filters particularly in South County are of concern but do not qualify for any funding. Whitcomb also noted that DNR is going to upgrade the system at Jonas Green Park.

Oyster Restoration Activities in the Severn River / Slag

Honor reported she has been in contact with the group in New Jersey who is dealing with the slag superfund site. Their tests results on sediment, water, and critters show sky-high levels of lead after 30 years. The White Paper written by the U. S. Army Corps of

Engineers on the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coast also show lead levels above acceptable amounts. Following a lengthy discussion, Hornor will continue to gather information before SRC decides what action, if any, to take.

Annapolis – There was nothing new to report.

Critical Area Legislation (CA)

Commission members discussed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the County Office of Planning & Zoning, Inspections & Permits, and Office of Law agreeing for zoning and land use violations that no abatement actions would be sought if a violation is more than four years old in the Critical Area and more than three years old outside the Critical Area. During the discussion, some members raised concerns, while others see no problems. SRC will wait to hear what Ms. McHale has to say about this issue since the MOU affects the Critical Area Commission's work.

Website

Lubbert reported the SRC website had 1,013 hits in January. Minutes, using, sandbars and beaches, pollution and history were the most popular topics this month.

NEW BUSINESS

Comprehensive Rezoning

It was noted that applications from Districts 1 and 4 will be presented first for hearings on Comprehensive Rezoning. Whitcomb reported that requests in forested areas of Upper Severn Run are problematic. Jabez Branch has eight applications—most are of no serious concern. Whitcomb will seek clarifications on the owners' intentions for two of the requests. Vlavianos is meeting with Mr. Jay Baldwin to find out his intentions on his request for Mixed Use on 10A on southbound Route 3.

Rezoning applications will be heard by the Planning Advisory Board (PAB) on February 16, 2011; introduced to County Council on February 22, 2011; addressed by Council in a work session on March 15; and presented at public hearings on March 21, April 4, April 19 and May 2, 2011.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 3, 2011, at 4:00 p.m., in the Severn Room (4th Floor), 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Weeks
AACo. DPW, Bureau of Engineering
Watershed, Ecosystem & Restoration Services