

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2011 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

	Attendance Record
Members Present: Lina Vlavianos, Chair	3/4
Sally Hornor, Vice Chair	4/4
Kurt Riegel	3/4
Mike Robinson	2/2
Joe Rubino	3/4
Jeff Schomig (via conference call)	4/4
Bob Whitcomb	4/4
Veronica Jagoe for Councilman Benoit (Ex officio)	2/4
 Guests and Staff: Albert Johnston, Greater Severna Park Council	
Brenda Weeks, AACo. DPW/WERS	
 Members Absent: Joel Dunn	1/4
Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	1/4
Fred Paone, City Council (Ex officio)	0/4

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vlavianos called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:15 p.m. in the Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was declared present.

PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Al Johnston provided an update on the comprehensive rezoning bill (Bill 12-11). His input is included in the Comprehensive Rezoning item later in the agenda.

MINUTES

The Minutes for the March 3, 2011, regular monthly SRC meeting were presented for approval. The minutes were approved as written.

MOTION: A MOTION, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 3, 2011, REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SRC AS WRITTEN, WAS MADE BY HORNOR AND SECONDED BY WHITCOMB. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) As required of SRC, Vlavianos prepared the 2009-2010 Biennial Report and submitted it to Commission members for their review and input. Hornor, Schomig and Whitcomb provided additional input. The report will be finalized and distributed.

- (2) On behalf of SRC, Vlavianos drafted a letter and sent it to Delegate Robert Costa asking him not to support House Bill 415 allowing professional land surveyors and licensed landscape architects to certify sediment and erosion control plans for construction in the Severn River watershed.

OLD BUSINESS

Election of Vice Chair

Following a brief discussion, Hornor was re-elected as Vice Chair for a three-year term to expire April 2014.

MOTION: A MOTION, TO RE-ELECT HORNOR AS VICE CHAIR FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE APRIL 2014, WAS MADE BY WHITCOMB AND SECONDED BY RIEGEL. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Septics

Whitcomb reported that the county has funds available for the installation of nitrogen-reducing septic systems. Failing systems both within and outside of the Critical Area can now qualify. Whitcomb believes the funds should be directed to properties in the Critical Area only, rather than allowing the limited funds to be spread into other areas.

Oyster Restoration Activities in the Severn River / Slag

Whitcomb noted that because of the shortage of spats, DNR will not be spreading spats in the Severn River this year as in previous years. Other rivers are being given priority.

Hornor reported she has not had an update from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) regarding slag. Following a discussion, Hornor will draft a letter to the ACE and

possibly elected officials expressing SRC's concerns on the topic including: (1) the practice of dumping slag prior to environmental review; (2) refer to the New Jersey designated superfund site as examples of possible consequences; (3) point out that the Severn River was a site for such dumping; (4) request that no further dumping be done in the Severn River and the Bay region until comprehensive reviews are done; and (5) point out that even the ACE's own White Paper on use of slag substrate shows leaching of certain metals into the water column.

Annapolis

No one was present to report.

Vlavianos noted she has not heard from the City about an appointment to fill the vacancy left by Legum.

Critical Area Legislation (CA)

SRC agreed to meet on a regular basis with the Critical Area Commission.

Schomig will prepare a letter to the new County Inspections & Permits (I&P) Director, Robert Hubbard, inviting him to an SRC meeting for the purpose of an introduction, to discuss SRC's concerns with shoreline hardening, buffer management enforcement of Critical Area laws, and a working relationship with the Critical Area Commission; and the purpose and need for a MOU among County I&P, Planning & Zoning and the Office of Law.

Comprehensive Rezoning

Out of forty-nine applications for rezoning submitted in the Severn River watershed, nine are being considered. Councilman Benoit introduced an amendment to downzone eight parcels near Dorrs Corner in Millersville. More amendments are pending. The next public hearing is April 19. SRC members want to know what is included in the base bill.

Jabez

The Department of Natural Resources reported a visual brook trout fry count in the Left and Right Forks of the Jabez. There seems to be a healthy young population of trout, especially in the Right Fork. Historically, the Left Fork was the most productive.

Website

No web count was provided this month. Robinson will provide future monthly counts at each meeting. He will contact the county webmaster.

NEW BUSINESS

HB 415 (SB827)

Since 1972 only professional engineers were permitted to certify sediment control plans within the Severn River watershed. HB415 would have lowered the threshold to include land surveyors and landscape architects despite the fact that Maryland law prohibits landscape architects from performing engineering or land surveying. Vlavianos testified in front of the House Environmental Matters Committee and former SRC member David Mauriello testified in the Senate. The bill died without support. Vlavianos fears a similar bill will reappear next legislative session.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 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