

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2011 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

		Attendance
		Record
Members Present:	Sally Hornor, Vice Chair	12/13
	Kurt Riegel	10/13
	Mike Robinson	10/11
	Joe Rubino	10/13
	Jeff Schomig (via conference call)	12/13
	Bob Whitcomb	12/13
Guests and Staff:	Brenda Weeks, AACo. DPW/WERS	
Members Absent:	Lina Vlavianos, Chair	11/13
	John Grasso, County Council	1/2
	Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	6/13

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Hornor called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:35 p.m. in the Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was declared present. Vlavianos, Grasso and Hymes were not present.

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

MINUTES

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Riegel will move from a County to a City seat filling the vacancy left by Dunn. The replacements for Legum and Paone (ex officio) are awaiting City approval.

(2) Received a November 16, 2011 letter and requirements for licensure as a professional engineer, professional land surveyor, and landscape architect in Maryland from Pam Edwards, Executive Director, Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

(3) Received a response to SRC's letter of November 3, 2011, to Robert Hubbard, Director, AACo. Inspection & Permits (I&P), regarding county-approved buffer clearing.

OLD BUSINESS

No Discharge Zone (NDZ)

Riegel reported he met with the Annapolis harbormaster and is working on a draft policy paper for the SRC.

Septics

Whitcomb has not received the quarterly statistical reports for the Severn River Watershed for the Bay Restoration program for the past two quarters. He has contacted the Health Department and is waiting for a response.

Slag

Honor reported that Vlavianos has encouraged Councilman Grasso (SRC ex officio member) to speak with County Executive Leopold about this issue. The County Executive did not receive SRC's August letter concerning slag. The letter written to Mr. Leopold regarding slag dumping in our rivers has been resent to Alan Friedman of the County Executive's office and to Councilman Grasso.

Oyster Restoration Activities – There was nothing new to report.

Annapolis – There was nothing new to report.

Critical Area

The Commission members discussed the letter SRC received from George Eberle, Assistant Director of I&P, in response to SRC's November 3, 2011 letter to

Robert Hubbard, Director of I&P, regarding buffer clearing. SRC sees this letter as an attempt to minimize the Commission's concern about variances in the Critical Area (CA).

Part of the letter refers to the legal use of the term hardship. Schomig was asked and agreed to review the letter. The SRC will continue to pursue this issue with I&P and will not be deterred by the letter. It is not clear to SRC what standard is used to determine if removal of vegetation is permitted in the CA and SRC would like to get a clear statement on this point.

Comprehensive Rezoning

Robinson feels that there should be a requirement that owners of properties asking for rezoning should post that request on their properties the same way that variance requests are posted. Although comprehensive rezoning is now another 10 years away, this issue needs to be addressed while it is still fresh in people's minds. Is this issue better handled by the community or the river associations? Robinson will look into the process required to change this aspect of rezoning.

Jabez/SHA

Riegel noted that DNR forested land in the upper Jabez will not be turned over for the veterans cemetery expansion as requested in a prior administration.

SHA personnel and SRC are arranging a site visit to the large areas of erosion and discharge from outfalls off I-97 affecting Jabez Branch. Robinson suggested that SRC bring along an engineer who is familiar with erosion and land use issues who can help respond to comments from SHA engineers while at the site.

Website

Robinson reported the SRC website had 770 hits in November. History was the most popular topic this month.

Licensing

The documents from Pam Edwards, Executive Director of Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, outlining the steps required for licensure of landscape architects, land surveyors and professional engineers were distributed at the meeting. Because these documents are quite detailed, SRC will wait until the January meeting to discuss these

documents after everyone has had a chance to review them. The documents will be forwarded electronically to all SRC members. Rubino agreed to take the lead in reviewing the documents for SRC since he is familiar with the training required for professional engineers.

Stormwater Utility Bill 79-11

Following a lengthy discussion, SRC members unanimously voted to support this bill at the County Council hearing on December 5, 2011. A copy of the bill and SRC's letter in support of the last version of the bill written to County Executive Janet Owens in 2005 were distributed to members. Hornor agreed to represent the SRC at this hearing.

MOTION: A MOTION, TO SUPPORT STORMWATER UTILITY BILL 79-11 AND APPOINT A SPOKESPERSON TO EXPRESS THAT SUPPORT AT THE COUNTY COUNCIL HEARING ON DECEMBER 5, 2011, WAS MADE BY WHITCOMB AND SECONDED BY RIEGEL. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

NEW BUSINESS – There was no new business.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 5, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. in the Severn Room (4th Floor), 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD.

Respectfully submitted,

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