

**SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**February 2, 2012 – 4:00 P.M.**  
**Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

		<b>Attendance Record</b>
<b>Members Present:</b>	Lina Vlavianos, Chair	2/2
	Sally Hornor, Vice Chair	2/2
	Kurt Riegel	2/2
	Mike Robinson	2/2
	Joe Rubino	2/2
	Jeff Schomig (via conference call)	2/2
	Bob Whitcomb	2/2
	John Grasso, County Council (Ex officio)	1/2
<b>Guests and Staff:</b>	Albert Johnston, Greater Severna Park Council	
	Marina Hardy, County Executive's Office	
	Brenda Weeks, AACo. DPW/WERS	
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	0/2

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Vlavianos called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was declared present.

**PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Al Johnston commented on some comprehensive rezoning issues and concerns. At a meeting with P&Z earlier in the week communities voiced a lack of notice in terms of certain aspects of the program. These concerns include: surrounding property owners may not be aware they are part of a rezoning application, adjoining properties owners may not receive sufficient notice of rezoning applications, and the lack of proper notice once amendments are presented. Posting signage similar to variance postings was mentioned as a possible solution. Mr. Johnston proposed an administrative change to County Council to require posting of signage for all zoning applications. He will keep SRC updated.

**MINUTES**

The Minutes for the January 5, 2012, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval. The minutes were approved as written.

**MOTION: A MOTION, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 5, 2012 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SRC AS WRITTEN, WAS MADE BY WHITCOMB AND SECONDED BY HORNOR. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE**

(1) Amy Clements and Kurt Riegel have been appointed as City voting members to SRC. Sheila Finlayson has been appointed ex officio as City Council representative. The Chair has not received any official documents confirming the appointments, only verbal responses.

(2) A brochure giving an overview of the Watershed Stewards Academy was circulated among SRC members (FYI).

(3) Ms. Karuna Pujara of State Highway Administration's (SHA) engineering division will be SRC's guest speaker at the March 1, 2012 meeting. She will discuss stormwater runoff problems relevant to Jabez Branch. A site visit with SHA, SRC and DPW will be arranged for later in March to view the problem areas.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**No Discharge Zone**

Riegel reiterated SRC previously authorized him to follow-up on recommendations made to Mayor Cohen's Transition Committee. These recommendations dealt with water quality having to do with the City's marine no discharge zone and other steps that could be taken by the City to improve environmental performance in Annapolis waterways.

Riegel drafted a letter to the Mayor and forwarded it to SRC members for their input. During the discussion several revisions were suggested to the letter, and any other comments are to be forwarded to Riegel by the end of this weekend so he can finalize the letter under his signature.

**MOTION: A MOTION, TO SEND THE LETTER TO THE MAYOR WHICH SRC AUTHORIZED RIEGEL TO WRITE ON BEHALF OF SRC UNDER HIS**

SIGNATURE REGARDING THE MARINE NO DISCHARGE ZONE, WAS MADE BY ROBINSON AND SECONDED BY WHITCOMB. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### **Septics**

There was a brief discussion about “the flush tax” and its designated uses. This bill created a fund supported by fees on sewer bills and septic systems to be used to help protect the Chesapeake Bay.

Grasso informed SRC he is introducing a County Council bill extending requirements for sewer hook up from 50 feet to 100 feet if a public sewer line is available within the 100 feet.

**Slag** – There was nothing new to report.

**Oyster Restoration Activities** – There was nothing new to report.

### **Annapolis**

Riegel reported there is a proposal to build a new parking garage on an existing playground in the City. Rubino noted that a sub-committee did a feasibility study and came up with some general parameters. If this could be done, it might create opportunities to remove some parking around the immediate vicinity of the city dock and create playground/ public/green space. No concrete proposal has been made as yet.

### **Critical Area**

Schomig stated he will finalize the letter of response to Mr. George Eberle, Inspections & Permits, inviting I&P to continue a dialog on this issue at the April SRC meeting, and to clarify a misperception about the hardship standard that applies to buffer variances. Vlavianos will sign the letter. A copy will be sent to Mr. Robert Hubbard, I&P’s Director.

**MOTION: A MOTION, THAT SCHOMIG WILL FINALIZE THE LETTER TO I&P’S GEORGE EBERLE IN RESPONSE TO EBERLE’S NOVEMBER 22, 2011 LETTER UNDER VLAIVIANOS’ SIGNATURE, WAS MADE BY RIEGEL AND SECONDED BY RUBINO. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

**Comprehensive Rezoning**

Mr. Johnston addressed this agenda item earlier in the meeting.

**Jabez/SHA**

As noted in the announcements, SHA will be at the March meeting to discuss stormwater runoff problems relevant to Jabez Branch.

**Licensing**

Rubino reported that after his research on qualifications for landscape architects and land surveyors he was led to the conclusion that the 1972 Severn River law allowing only professional engineers to certify sediment and erosion control plans in the Severn River watershed was no longer meaningful. Following discussion, Rubino will draft a letter to Pamela Edwards, Director of the Dept. of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, withdrawing SRC's previous reservations regarding certification of such plans. A copy will be sent to the County Executive's office. Because of her interest in this issue, Rubino will apprise Delegate Cathy Vitale of SRC's reversal.

MOTION: A MOTION, THAT RUBINO WILL DRAFT A LETTER UNDER VLAVIANOS' SIGNATURE TO PAMELA EDWARDS THAT THE SRC NO LONGER SUPPORTS EXCLUDING SURVEYORS AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS FROM CERTIFYING SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL PLANS, WAS MADE BY RUBINO AND SECONDED BY HORNOR. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Stormwater Utility Bill 79-11**

Before taking any action, the County is waiting for the State's response to the bill during the General Assembly session.

**Website**

Robinson noted he would be updating the SRC membership list once all new appointments have been confirmed.

Riegel will provide a complete and correct e-mail address list of all SRC members, voting and ex-officio.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Creeks Cleanup**

Whitcomb announced the annual cleanup on the Severn River is scheduled for March 31 on Clements and Luce Creeks.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 1, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. in the Severn Room (4<sup>th</sup> Floor), 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD.

Respectfully submitted,

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