

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2012 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

	Attendance Record
Members Present: Sally Hornor, Vice Chair	4/4
Amy Clements	2/2
Kurt Riegel (via conference call)	4/4
Michael Robinson	4/4
Joe Rubino	4/4
Bob Whitcomb	4/4
John Grasso, County Council (Ex officio)	2/4
Guests and Staff: Brenda Weeks, AACo. DPW/WERS	
Members Absent: Lina Vlavianos, Chair	3/4
Jeff Schomig	3/4
Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	0/4

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Hornor 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.

Vlavianos, Schomig, and Hymes were unable to attend the meeting. Riegel participated via conference call.

PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS – No public input.

MINUTES

The Minutes for the March 1, 2012, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval. The minutes were approved as written.

MOTION: A MOTION, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 1, 2012 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SRC AS WRITTEN, WAS MADE BY WHITCOMB AND SECONDED BY CLEMENTS. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Guest speaker George Eberle's, County I&P, visit to discuss Critical Area regulations at this meeting will be rescheduled. He will be invited to SRC's May or June meeting.

(2) Mr. Vernon Hustead, Legislative Committee Chairman of the Maryland Chapter Associate of Landscape Architects, will be present at SRC's May meeting to express appreciation for SRC's support and to have a brief informal discussion about the profession.

(3) Sent SRC's March 2, 2012 letter concerning Bill 15-12 (Zoning, Open Space, Recreational Uses) with SRC's comments via email to all County Council members.

(4) Received via Schomig a letter and a copy of Bill 15-12 from Ann Fligsten, Growth Action Network of Anne Arundel County, requesting input from the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill 15-12 Open Space

SRC members feel the original version of this bill is not in keeping with an objective of protecting the designated Open Space areas throughout the county. The Commission has recommended the County perform additional analysis to determine what impacts to the Open Space areas are implied by the proposed bill, and that this bill as written be defeated pending careful consideration by the Council of the results of the additional analysis.

SRC received a copy of the amended County Council Bill 15-12 to allow active recreation uses in Open Space. The amended bill has changed very little. Since the Commission sent a letter earlier (March 2, 2012) opposing this bill, members felt it was not necessary to send another letter.

No Discharge Zone

Riegel noted he had nothing new to report.

Septics

Whitcomb summarized the State legislation passed last month to reduce the spread of rural development requiring septic systems. County Councilman Grasso noted that he

has introduced a bill that would require property owners who live in the Critical Area to connect to County sewer if their septic system is failing and if the hookup is within 100' of their property line.

Slag

Hornor reiterated the history of the Commission's actions regarding the use of slag. She commented on the recent report from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the analyses of water, sediment and oyster tissue at Mill Hill (Eastern Bay) and the Severn River. Although Hornor has not completed a thorough analysis, she noted that concentrations of toxic metals such as aluminum, arsenic, chromium, lead and cyanide in samples collected from reefs containing slag are generally greater than those seen in areas where slag was not in place. Although most of the metal concentrations are not at levels considered toxic to marine life, they do seem to indicate that there is metal leaching from the slag. In particular, sediments at the Mill Hill site, where slag has been in place for 10 years, had the highest levels of almost all metals that were analyzed. Whitcomb noted SRC needs to continue to emphasize its concern if the data supports it. Hornor will prepare an overview of the report for SRC members and will send a letter to USACE with the Commission's conclusions.

Oyster Restoration Activities

Whitcomb noted that the Severn is one of the top 10 rivers chosen by USACE for oyster restoration in the future. Work will not begin for at least two years. Depending on funding, the goal is to restore 20 tributaries by 2022. Also, several SRA members are visiting piers with oyster trays throughout the Severn mainstem and tributaries to try to determine growth and survival rates in areas with varying salinity.

Annapolis

There will be a Board of Appeals hearing on the proposed subdivision on Forest Drive adjacent to Quiet Waters on Wednesday, April 18, 2012.

Critical Area – There was nothing new to report.

Jabez/SHA

Anne Arundel County DPW, State Highway Administration and SRC are scheduled for a site visit on Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. to walk areas of concern regarding

drainage issues in the Jabez watershed. Everyone will meet in front of the Strayer University building at the intersection of Jabez Road and I-97 underpass. The five areas of concern are identified in the McCormick Taylor I-97 and MD32 2007 report.

Stormwater Utility Bill 79-11

Now that the state is requiring Anne Arundel County to implement a stormwater fee, Councilman Trumbauer's bill may be revisited.

Website

Robinson noted he had nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS - There was no new business.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 3, 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