

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2012 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

	Attendance Record
Members Present:	
Lina Vlavianos, Chair	4/5
Sally Hornor, Vice Chair	5/5
Amy Clements	3/3
Kurt Riegel	5/5
Michael Robinson	5/5
Jeff Schomig	4/5
Bob Whitcomb	5/5
Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	1/5
Guests and Staff:	
George Eberle, AACo. Inspections & Permits	
J. L. Fisher, MD ASLA	
Vernon Hustead, MD ASLA	
Colin MacLachlan, MD ASLA	
Deborah Schwab, MD ASLA	
Brenda Weeks, AACo. DPW/WERS	
Members Absent:	
Joe Rubino	4/5
Sheila Finlayson, City Council (Ex officio)	0/2
John Grasso, County Council (Ex officio)	2/5

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vlavianos called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:02 p.m. in the Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was declared present. Rubino, Grasso, and Finlayson were unable to attend the meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS – No public input.

GUEST SPEAKERS

(1) Mr. Vernon Hustead, Legislative Committee Chairman of the Maryland Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), accompanied by Landscape Architects Ms .Deborah Schwab, Mr. J.L. Fisher, and Mr. Colin MacLachian

expressed their appreciation for SRC's support of legislation relevant to landscape architects to sign and seal grading and sediment control plans within the Severn River watershed. A brief, informative discussion regarding the profession followed.

Mr. Husted expressed the hope, that after understanding what landscape architects do, SRC will use the chapter as a resource on future initiatives. SRC thanked the group.

(2) Mr. George Eberle, County Inspections & Permits, was present to discuss vegetation management plans (VMP). Schomig welcomed Mr. Eberle and noted this is a follow up to previous talks about Critical Area issues, specifically VMPs. Mr. Eberle was asked to address SRC's concern that the cumulative effect of additional vegetative management plans is allowing people to do much more clearing in the buffer than they would normally be allowed using the more strict unwarranted hardship standard. The following was discussed: permit review vegetation removal vs. VMPs, enforcement when more is removed than permission to remove is given, review of executed VMPs, a reviewer's interpretation of a VMP, need for more foresters, pictures before and after VMPs, loss of tree cover, views from land and water, riverkeepers as a source of information, living shorelines, and database for VMPs for public.

Schomig will draft a summary of the points made to Mr. Eberle during SRC's discussion with him at this meeting. SRC thanked Mr. Eberle for his useful input.

MINUTES

The Minutes for the April 12, 2012, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval. The minutes were approved as written.

MOTION: A MOTION, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 12, 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

There were no announcements or correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS

Stormwater Utility Bill 79-11

Councilman Trumbauer has not yet introduced the bill. Hornor will keep SRC updated.

Jabez/SHA

Vlavianos reported that Brenda Reiber (County Executive's office); Ginger Ellis, Ron Bowen (DPW); Cornelius Barmer, Dana Havlik (SHA); Rubino, Riegel, Robinson, Whitcomb, Vlavianos (SRC) visited the Jabez problem areas identified in the 2007 SHA consultants' report. Site #5 was especially an eye opener with extensive erosion south of "Shaffer's Stadium." Vlavianos spoke with Karuna Pujara (SHA engineering) after the site visit to follow up on the findings.

Site #1 needs further study and coordination with the county. Site #2 is impacted by runoff volume coming from upstream areas of Warfield Branch that drain into Shaffer's Stadium. Site #3 corrections are presently in the works. Site #5 will first require addressing upland runoff. On the tour Bowen confirmed the drainage area of Warfield Branch needs to be studied to determine the cause of so much erosion in the intermittent reaches of Warfield Branch.

A number of stormwater management improvements were made by SHA along Route 32 and I-97 recently that should help in reducing pollution and sediment loading into the Severn River. DPW and SHA are in dialogue addressing road runoff problems throughout the county in order to meet the "pollution diet" goals. SRC decided to write SHA a letter stating Sites 1, 2, and 3 are major concerns. Vlavianos will draft a letter for editing.

Whitcomb pointed out that although previously mentioned in a SRC meeting, a site off of Route 178 he is familiar with having problems, was not mentioned on the tour. Since Vlavianos is not familiar with the site, Whitcomb and she will look at it before contacting SHA.

Critical Area

This agenda item was addressed with Mr. Eberle earlier in the meeting.

Annapolis

Riegel noted the parking garage plan at City dock is dead.

Clements reported that complaints were filed with DNR because of violations of the Forest Conservation Act at the Reserve at Quiet Waters.

Oyster Restoration Activities

Whitcomb noted oyster planting is scheduled for June 2. Severn River oyster survival data is not available and is unpredictable.

Slag

Hornor is analyzing data provided by the Army Corps of Engineers on increased leaching in slag sites. She is to draft a letter for SRC's review before mailing.

Septics

Whitcomb reported that the County has money to update septic systems. The amount of grants is based on income.

No Discharge Zone

No response has been received to SRC's February 6, 2012 letter to the Mayor regarding a No Discharge Zone. Riegel will make inquiries.

Bill 15-12 Open Space

The County Council hearing on amended Bill 15-12 Open Space is scheduled for Monday, May 7. SRC will immediately send County Council members a letter repeating its recommendation to not support the amended bill until further study can be conducted by County Planning & Zoning.

Website

Robinson will arrange a web link to the County Department of Inspections & Permits.

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, June 7, 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