

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
July 5, 2012 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

	Attendance Record
Members Present: Lina Vlavianos, Chair	6/7
Sally Hornor, Vice Chair	7/7
Kurt Riegel	6/7
Michael Robinson	6/7
Jeff Schomig	6/7
Bob Whitcomb	7/7
Guests and Staff: Brenda Weeks, AACo. DPW/WERS	
Members Absent: Amy Clements	4/5
Joe Rubino	4/7
Sheila Finlayson, City Council (Ex officio)	0/4
John Grasso, County Council (Ex officio)	2/7
Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	1/7

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.

Clements and Rubino were unable to attend the meeting because of other commitments.

PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS – No public input.

MINUTES

The Minutes for the June 7, 2012, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval and were approved as written.

MOTION: A MOTION, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 7, 2012 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. County Council members confirmed the appointment of Mr. Thomas Lindsay to fill the County vacancy left when Riegel was re-appointed to fill a City vacancy. Vlavianos spoke with Lindsay and he plans to attend this meeting.
2. Sent a letter, dated June 13, 2012, to Mr. John Griffin, Secretary of Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), strongly recommending that steel blast furnace slag be eliminated as an alternate substrate for oyster reef construction in the Severn River and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Copies of the letter were sent to the County Executive and US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).
3. Sent a thank you and follow-up letter, dated June 15, 2012, to Mr. George Eberle, Assistant Director of County Inspections & Permits (I&P), regarding the discussion at the May SRC meeting that focused on the criteria used by the County for its issuance of vegetative management plans (VMPs), inspection of property to insure that VMPs are properly followed, and resources available to conduct such follow-up inspections.

OLD BUSINESS

Stormwater Utility Bill – Hornor noted she has no new information on the bill.

Jabez/SHA

Vlavianos reported that the County has delineated the boundaries of the “big dig” subwatershed area to try to locate the source of the runoff. Robinson will follow up with Ron Bowen, Director DPW, on the apparent discharge into Warfield Branch from the Badger industrial vacuum site.

Whitcomb, Vlavianos and SHA will view the problem area on Generals Highway near Carriage Hills sometime in August.

Critical Area

Riegel expressed his appreciation to Schomig for the well written letter he drafted to I&P with the very clear policy recommendation action.

Schomig will draft a short letter to the County Executive with SRC's recommendations for removal of mature trees and restoration of inspector positions.

A suggestion was made to create a binder recording shoreline hardening and buffer clearing to use as examples in future dialogue with I&P.

Annapolis

Riegel will speak to the Mayor about Sheila Finlayson's continuous absence from SRC meetings.

Oyster Restoration Activities

Whitcomb reported that the Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP) has already planted 17 million spat on the oyster bars in the Severn River between the bridges. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) will be planting 3.5 million spat underneath the Jonas Green fishing pier on July 6. He noted it seems more spat is being planted in the Severn River than other locations.

Whitcomb invited SRC members to attend the Severn River Association meeting on July 17, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at the Annapolis Maritime Museum for a screening of "Shellshocked: Saving Oysters to Save Ourselves."

Slag

Hornor noted that no response has been received from DNR to SRC's June 13 letter regarding the use of slag.

Septics – Nothing new to report.

No Discharge Zone (NDZ)

Riegel reported the Mayor will be responding to SRC's February 12, 2012 letter addressing the NDZ.

Bill 15-12 Open Space

Schomig reported that Ann Fligsten, Growth Action Network (GAN), and County Planning & Zoning (P&Z) are reviewing how best to implement the recently passed county ordinance. SRC will be given an opportunity to review the draft as it is available.

Website

Robinson reported SRC is difficult to find on the county website. He will gather information how to improve the search for the site.

Commission members gave Robinson permission to use his good judgment to clean up irrelevant and outdated information on the SRC website.

NEW BUSINESS – There was no new business.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 2, 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