

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2012 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

		Attendance Record
Members Present:	Lina Vlavianos, Chair	7/8
	Sally Hornor, Vice Chair	8/8
	Tom Lindsay	1/1
	Kurt Riegel	7/8
	Joe Rubino	5/8
	Michael Robinson	7/8
	Bob Whitcomb	8/8
	John Grasso, County Council (Ex officio)	3/8
	Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	2/8
Guests and Staff:	Brenda Weeks, AACo. DPW/WERS	
Members Absent:	Amy Clements	4/6
	Jeff Schomig	6/8
	Sheila Finlayson, City Council (Ex officio)	0/5

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vlavianos called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:01 p.m. in the Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was declared present. Clements, Schomig and Finlayson were not present at the meeting.

Tom Lindsay, the newest County Executive appointment to SRC, was introduced to and welcomed by Commission members. He has lived in Round Bay since 1978 and has had a love for the river for as long as he can remember. Tom has been an active part of his Severna Park community and enjoys spending time with his family.

PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS – No public input.

MINUTES

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

MOTION: A MOTION, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE JULY 5, 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.

CORRESPONDENCE / ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. There was no correspondence.
2. An updated SRC membership list was distributed to Commission members.
3. Schomig's draft letter regarding grading in the buffer will be discussed later in the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill 15-12 Open Space

Grasso reported a new bill is being introduced addressing certain areas of Bill 15-12 that needed clarification. He said Councilman Trumbauer seemed satisfied with the contents of the proposed bill.

Vlavianos requested to make the draft bill available for review for SRC members. Grasso said he will provide a copy.

No Discharge Zone (NDZ)

Riegel reported the Mayor still has not responded to SRC's letter regarding a No Discharge Zone.

Septics

Whitcomb reported flush tax funds are now available in AACo. for anyone wishing to upgrade their septic system using the nitrogen-reducing technology. The county is initiating a marketing strategy to inform the public of availability of funds and assistance. Whitcomb feels the amount of available funds to homeowners should be increased. He will look into how Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is interpreting to whom and how much of the funds are to be allocated.

Slag

There was nothing new to report.

For the benefit of Lindsay, Hornor briefly reviewed the history of steel blast furnace slag, its use as an alternate substrate for oyster reef construction in the Severn River, and SRC's concerns regarding the slag leaching metals.

Oyster Restoration Activities

Whitcomb reported that compared to some other rivers progress with oyster production is being made on the Severn. He also pointed out the Chesapeake Bay is faring much better than the Hudson River in New York where no oysters are now found.

Annapolis

Riegel announced he has been confirmed as a member of the Annapolis Environmental Commission. This Commission is concerned about and will address the environmental issues the City is facing. He will keep SRC updated.

Critical Area

Schomig drafted a well written letter to Inspections & Permits (I&P) and MDE about the Ferry Farms Road property and all members agreed to send it off as written including the pictures downloaded by Hymes from Google showing the site pre-construction and Whitcomb's recent photos showing post-construction. Hymes will locate a MDE contact.

A "buffers of concern file" has been compiled from SRC files which includes examples of buffer disturbance, leaning trees, hardening of shoreline, etc. that the Commission has been struggling with over the past several years.

Whitcomb will coordinate with Schomig and will draft a letter to I&P and Soil Conservation District regarding a follow up to the Severncroft property's vegetative management plan and what, if any, monitoring is being done.

Jabez/SHA

Whitcomb, Vlavianos and SHA will meet August 9 on Rt. 178 near Carriage Hills where some kind of pipe failure seems to have occurred next to the road.

Vlavianos was informed I&P is moving forward in possibly pursuing civil enforcement action against the company that seems to have created a source of off-site erosion and sediment deposition on the steep slope of Warfield Branch.

Stormwater Utility Bill – There was nothing new to report.

Website

Robinson informed the members that SRC's link on the County website is under “AACo. Boards & Commissions” and SRC’s link to I&P will soon be done. He also noted that SRC's resource page has been cleaned up.

NEW BUSINESS

Celebrate the Severn

The Severn River Keeper is hosting a Severn River celebration, their annual fund raiser, on August 30, 2012. Everyone is invited.

Priest Point

The owner of Priest Point is moving forward in implementing the plans agreed upon with the Scenic Rivers Land Trust (SRLT).

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 6, 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