

**SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**September 6, 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	9/10
Sally Hornor, Vice Chair	10/10
Amy Clements	6/8
Michael Robinson	9/10
Bob Whitcomb	9/10
Jeff Schomig (via conference call)	8/10
<b>Guests and Staff:</b>	
Brenda Weeks, AACo. DPW/WERS	
<b>Members Absent:</b>	
Tom Lindsay	1/2
Kurt Riegel	8/10
Joe Rubino	5/10
Sheila Finlayson, City Council (Ex officio)	0/7
John Grasso, County Council (Ex officio)	3/10
Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	2/10

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Vlavianos called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:10 p.m. in the Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was declared present. Rubino notified the Chair he was unable to attend the meeting. Lindsay, Riegel and Finlayson were not present at the meeting.

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

**MINUTES**

The Minutes for the August 2, 2012, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval and were approved as written.

**MOTION: A MOTION, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 2, 2012 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SRC AS WRITTEN, WAS MADE BY WHITCOMB AND SECONDED BY HORNOR. THE MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.**

**CORRESPONDENCE / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Sent a letter dated August 21, 2012 to all County Council members regarding SRC's support of Bill 69-12.
2. Sent a letter dated August 9, 2012 to AACo. Inspections & Permits (I&P) and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) regarding the Ferry Farms Road property.
3. Received a response dated August 16, 2012 from Inspections & Permits regarding the Ferry Farms Road property.
4. Received a response dated August 20, 2012 from Maryland Department of Natural Resources to SRC's June 2012 letter regarding use of slag.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Stormwater Utility Bill**

Pending future action, this item will remain on the agenda.

**Jabez/SHA**

A Jabez watershed walk is planned for November 14, 2012. The State Highway Administration (SHA) requested SRC to identify up to a maximum of three areas of interest where SHA and AA County might cooperatively make improvements within the Jabez sub-watershed. Since funds are very scarce, a joint project seems more realistic to get approvals and get the "biggest bang for the bucks." Vlavianos shared some ideas with members but more information is needed before prioritizing suggestions from SRC.

**Critical Area**

Regarding SRC's August 9, 2012 letter to I&P and MDE about the Ferry Farms Road property, Schomig reported he had very good discussions with MDE regarding the apparent buffer clearing and alteration. MDE's responsibility rests with activity in the tidal area and a living shoreline permit was granted. The homeowner has cooperated with MDE.

In a response, to the same August 9 letter to I&P, on August 16 I&P states that it is responsible for inspecting compliance to the grading plan issued and is not the approving

agency for issuance of the plan itself. I&P suggests that the Soil Conservation District (SCD) and/or Planning & Zoning (P&Z) be contacted to find out the rationale for permitting such significant disturbance of the buffer.

Whitcomb reintroduced the Severncroft Road buffer stripping. Two years or so later, the buffer is still not re-vegetated and appears as it was initially constructed. Concerns were raised about erosion now observed on the adjoining properties. It was suggested that the appropriate party(ies) be invited to explain. After considerable discussion, SRC members decided to send a letter to I&P and SCD regarding the Severncroft Road property. Vlavianos will deliver the letter to SCD personally and will invite Jim Stein (District Manager) to SRC's October meeting to discuss both properties.

### **Annapolis**

There was nothing new to report.

### **Oyster Restoration Activities**

Whitcomb noted he is preparing for the next spat distribution event on September 15/16. Seven distribution areas have been set up on the Severn River. Signs are being readied to be placed on piers of cooperating pier owners with oyster cages.

### **Slag**

Honor reported DNR's response of August 20, 2012 is disappointing since only Severn River results were looked at ignoring Mill Creek data where ten years ago slag placed in the creek seems to show higher toxic level leaching. SRC agreed another one or two independent expert opinions may be helpful to see if there is significant difference in toxic metal leaching between the Severn River and Mill Creek. Honor will make contact and provide any additional information at the October meeting.

### **Septics**

Whitcomb reported that 2.97 million was allotted to AA County for the installation of nitrogen-reducing septic systems. Fund amounts are based on the number of septics in the Critical Area.

**No Discharge Zone** – There was nothing new to report.

**Bill 69-12 Open Space**

The Open Space bill passed County Council by unanimous vote. Lindsay testified on behalf of SRC expressing SRC's unanimous support for Bill 69-12 and encouraged all Council members to support the bill.

**Website**

Robinson has cleaned up and improved the links of the SRC website. Relevant topics such as living shoreline, reporting violations, permit compliance information, and monthly litigation reports now are linked to the SRC website.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Jonas Green Park Signs**

Honor reported, as a follow up, she has been working with the artist on the educational signs to be displayed at the Park describing exhibits (living shorelines, nitrogen-reducing septic systems, oyster reefs, rain gardens, etc.). The signs are taking longer than anticipated but will be fantastic when finished.

**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, October 4, 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