

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2013 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

	Attendance Record
Members Present: Lina Vlavianos, Chair	3/3
Sally Hornor, Vice Chair	3/3
Amy Clements	3/3
Michael Robinson	3/3
Kurt Riegel	2/3
Jeff Schomig (via conference call)	3/3
Dick Spencer	2/3
Bob Whitcomb	3/3
Diane Jennings for Councilman Ladd (Ex officio)	3/3
Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	2/3
 Guests and Staff: Jim Burdick, City of Annapolis	
Brenda Weeks, AACo. DPW/WERS	

Members Absent: Tom Lindsay 2/3

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. Jim Burdick from the City of Annapolis was introduced.

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

MINUTES

The Minutes for the February 7, 2013, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval. The minutes were approved as written.

MOTION: A MOTION, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 7, 2013, REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION, WAS MADE BY RIEGEL AND SECONDED BY ROBINSON. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE ACCEPTED AS WRITTEN.

CORRESPONDENCE / ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. A letter dated February 8, 2013 was sent to County Council expressing SRC's support of revising Anne Arundel County's critical area regulations through Bill 93-12.
2. A letter dated February 19, 2013 was sent to County Council expressing SRC's strong support for Bill 2-13 Stormwater Management – Watershed Protection and Restoration Special Revenue Fund and Program.
3. Vlavianos noted a study that appeared in a journal entitled "Science of the Total Environment" reported that reproductive abnormalities have been detected in yellow perch in several rivers including the Severn River. In February 2002 and September 2004, DNR freshwater fisheries personnel gave presentations to the Commission on their findings in the upper reaches of the Severn which consisted in reduction of young-of-year over the course of their study. This recent publication seems to suggest an even further deterioration in the perch reproduction. It was agreed that Vlavianos will request DNR to update the Commission on its recent findings.
4. State Highway Administration (SHA) contacted Vlavianos requesting SRC's support to eradicate invasive species such as the common Bradford Pear along SHA roads and replant the areas with native species. After discussion, it was agreed the Commission does not object to the removal of invasive species and in SRC's advisory capacity recognizes the benefits of such eradication practices within the Severn River watershed. Vlavianos will make that known to SHA.

OLD BUSINESS

Annapolis Marine Water Quality

Riegel reported that because there is no information available about nitrogen loading in the Annapolis waterways, the City's Environmental Commission is gathering sound information to help ascertain the need for establishing a No Discharge Zone (NDZ) within its waters, and just how aggressively should the City pursue establishing more pump-out facilities.

Septics – Whitcomb noted there was nothing new to report.

Oyster Restoration Activities – There was nothing new to report.

Annapolis

Riegel called SRC's attention to concerns about the Crystal Spring project and its effects on the City, the watersheds and the Severn River. The debate surrounding Crystal Spring development may lead to policy issues that could affect the Severn River. While the Mayor is in support of the development, many residents are opposed. Riegel will keep SRC updated.

Critical Area

Bill 93-12 passed with a large number of amendments. Overall the passed bill is an improvement over the previous bill. It was noted time will tell if positive results are noticeable. A suggestion was made to invite Margaret McHale, Critical Area Commission (CAC), in November to give the Commission an update.

Jabez/SHA

Vlavianos, Whitcomb, SHA and Ginger Ellis met to discuss joint restoration efforts in the Jabez watershed. Whitcomb felt there was little prior sharing of information between SHA and the county while Vlavianos thought efforts are being made leading to sharing. SHA provided a map showing all their stormwater facilities, in place and proposed, in the watershed while the county had a map of their stormwater "bundling" concept for addressing problems--namely, identifying an entire specific subarea in need of corrective action. SHA and the county will overlay both maps so everyone sees the "big picture" of where the problem areas are and then proceed to prioritize work needed to be done. By April overlay maps should be available.

Furthermore, SHA recognizes that Warfield Branch north of I-97 is a problem area and is evaluating possible corrections. SHA is also interested in correcting a problem area near Najoles Road but may run into a permitting problem with DNR.

Stormwater Utility Bill

It was noted that Councilman Trumbauer suggested holding the bill for two weeks to review concerns on fee structure as expressed by constituents at the public hearing.

Councilman Ladd will brief SRC on the stormwater utility bill at the April meeting.

Website – There is nothing new to report. The membership list will be updated.

NEW BUSINESS

Jonas Green Park

Whitcomb reported that signs for Jonas Green Park have been approved and should be installed in April.

Creeks Cleanup

The annual creeks cleanup organized by Whitcomb will take place April 6. Volunteers are needed on Luce and Maynadier Creeks off the Severn River.

Surplus Properties

After Hymes described the Crownsville Conservancy's purpose and charge to acquire small, substandard and/or unbuildable county-owned lots in the Crownsville area for preservation, the Commission agreed it was in the best interest to protect such lots from possible future activity. Hymes will speak in front of the County Council expressing the Commission's endorsement.

Earth Day

Spencer noted an Earth Day Festival is scheduled for April 20, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Severna Park Middle School.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. in the Severn Room (4th Floor), 2664 Riva Road.