

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2013 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

	Attendance Record
Members Present:	
Lina Vlavianos, Chair	5/7
Sally Hornor, Vice Chair	7/7
Tom Lindsay	6/7
Michael Robinson	6/7
Kurt Riegel	4/7
Jeff Schomig	7/7
Dick Spencer	6/7
Bob Whitcomb	6/7
Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	6/7
Councilman Dick Ladd (Ex officio)	5/7
Guests and Staff:	
Parimal Bachubhay, AACo. DPW	
Randy Bruns, Magothy River Association	
Kelly Krinetz, AACo. OPZ	
David Mauriello, Public	
Chris Phipps, AACo. DPW	
Larry Tom, AACo. OPZ	
Courtney G. Wilson, AACo. OPZ	
Bruce Wright, AACo. DPW	
Brenda Weeks, AACo. DPW/WERS	
Members Absent:	
Amy Clements	4/7

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vlavianos called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:03 p.m. in the Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was declared present. Due to another commitment, Clements will not be at the meeting.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Staff from Anne Arundel Office of Planning & Zoning (P&Z) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) were welcomed and introduced. At the request of Vlavianos, P&Z and DPW attended the meeting and spoke about the environmental review process within each department.

Mr. Larry Tom, Planning & Zoning Officer, along with Ms. Kelly Krinetz and Ms. Courtney Wilson of his staff opened the presentation. The development review process is authorized through the County code. P&Z staff felt the recently passed Bill 93-12 Critical Area (CA) legislation will permit more stringent review of applications prior to approval. P&Z has a team assigned to do only CA reviews. Monthly meetings are held with the Critical Area Commission (CAC) and CAC is currently in the process of reviewing Bill 93-12 for approval. If the bill is not approved, unresolved issues will have to be re-addressed by the County Council.

P&Z staff noted environmental review is divided into two areas: private and commercial. The Development Division of P&Z has four review teams: CA (Kelly Krinetz's team – reviews critical area); Regional (Courtney Wilson's team – reviews commercial, mixed use and high density residential); and North and South (reviews general residential development). SRC raised the question of buffer clearing and "leaning trees" and were told CAC is working with Salisbury University studying alternatives to clearing. It was pointed out since Bill 93-12, Inspections & Permits (I&P) foresters are looking more closely at root structure of leaning trees based on their own observations rather than depending on the word of owners of the property or their engineers. I&P recommendations are further reviewed by P&Z's Critical Area team. Foresters are now with I&P and are divided into inspections and enforcement.

Regarding shoreline hardening, MDE will be releasing maps showing Maryland's shoreline where hardening will be allowed based on erosion factors vs. no hardening allowed where minimum erosion is occurring. P&Z is hoping to get good guidance based on the mapping. CAC, P&Z and MDE all are involved when shoreline hardening applications are reviewed. MDE's approval comes first prior to P&Z's.

When development requests are submitted for review outside the Critical Areas, the P&Z team looks at all environmental features on the site such as impact on soils, steep slopes, wetlands, forest cover, etc. The allowable disturbance is determined on NET property after environmental features and mitigation requirements are considered, NOT on GROSS property square footage.

SRC requested that P&Z make available a listing of sensitive areas and waterfront properties that have requested permits. Currently SRC is finding it difficult in searching the generic listing on the web. Mr. Tom suggested SRC tell P&Z what is wanted within certain parameters and he will see if SRC's request can be accommodated. Schomig will contact Mr. Tom to discuss the possibilities.

Mr. Chris Phipps, Acting Director of DPW, and his staff, Bruce Wright and Parimal Bachubhay addressed the environmental review of Picture Spring Branch Odenton sewage line as an example of a Capital Improvement Project that had peaked SRC's interest.

Mr. Phipps explained that prior to the start of construction of the sewage line, MDE and DNR did their own reviews which includes: 1. NPDES Permit checklist. 2. Non-tidal wetland authorization. 3. Water and sewage construction permit (to show the project is consistent with the state master plan). 4. Rare and endangered species.

The County review includes: 1. DPW must show no impervious areas are created. 2. Stormwater management is evaluated using P&Z's check list plus internal DPW's checklist for such projects. DPW would like to have P&Z sign off on the stormwater management review but at this time the project engineer must sign off on the plans. 3. P&Z does non-tidal wetland/floodplain disturbance review as does MDE.

Mr. Phipps was agreeable to sharing information with SRC on pending capital improvement projects within the Severn River watershed.

To help with public relations, SRC suggested identifying capital improvement projects with signs to let the public know what is going on.

P&Z suggested whenever questions arise about projects, the Planner of the Day is the resource to contact for information.

Ginger Ellis' Land Use Office has been dissolved for some time. Her team no longer plays a regulatory role but is a resource and part of the Watershed Protection Division.

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

MINUTES

The Minutes for the June 6, 2013, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval and were accepted as written.

MOTION: A MOTION, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 6, 2013, REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION, WAS MADE BY SPENCER AND SECONDED BY HORNOR. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE ACCEPTED AS WRITTEN.

CORRESPONDENCE / ANNOUNCEMENTS

No correspondence was sent or received.

OLD BUSINESS

Stormwater Management on Severn Run – There was nothing new to report.

Annapolis Marine Water Quality – There was nothing new to report.

Oyster Restoration Activities – There was nothing to report.

Annapolis – There was nothing new to report.

Critical Area

Schomig has heard nothing from Jennifer Ottenberg from Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) regarding SRC member(s) accompanying MDE as observers of a problem property in the Downs. Schomig will re-contact Ms. Ottenberg for an update.

Vlavianos will invite Critical Area Commission's Margaret McHale to discuss the AACounty updated and passed Critical Area legislation.

Vlavianos will invite Ginger Ellis, AACounty DPW, to explain how Stormwater Utility Funds will be used in the "bundling of projects" specific to the Severn River watershed and how areas are prioritized.

Jabez/SHA

Vlavianos was informed by State Highway Administration (SHA) 300 outfalls between Route 50 and I-895 are being inspected for possible remediation. Funding for the study has been approved and the task will be completed within the next few months. The I-97/Benfield Road "outfall" is included in the study. Vlavianos was asked to be the contact person between SHA and SRC.

Website – There was nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS – There was no new business.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 1, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. in the Severn Room (4th Floor), 2664 Riva Road.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Weeks
AACounty DPW, Bureau of Engineering
Watershed, Ecosystem & Restoration Services