

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2013 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

		Attendance Record
Members Present:	Lina Vlavianos, Chair	8/10
	Sally Hornor, Vice Chair	10/10
	Michael Robinson	9/10
	Jeff Schomig	9/10
	Dick Spencer	9/10
	Bob Whitcomb	9/10
Guests and Staff:	Kate Charbonneau, Critical Area Commission	
	Margaret McHale, Critical Area Commission	
	Brenda Weeks, AACo. DPW/WERS	
Members Absent:	Jim Burdick	1/2
	Kurt Riegel	4/10
	Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	6/10

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vlavianos called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:05 p.m. in the Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was declared present. Burdick, Riegel and Hymes were not present.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Ms. Margaret McHale and Ms. Kate Charbonneau from the State Critical Area Commission (CAC) were welcomed and introduced to SRC members. Ms. McHale opened the discussion by thanking SRC for inviting the CAC to a meeting again this year. She noted that SRC is very committed to the health and well-being of the Severn River and the watershed and that getting together from time to time is very beneficial to both sides.

During the discussion, Ms. Charbonneau reminded SRC that a comprehensive review is required every six years by Critical Area (CA) jurisdictions to update their CA ordinance. Bill 76-13 reflects changes to bring the County Code up to State regulations.

Ms. McHale and Ms. Charbonneau reviewed and clarified information regarding State critical area law and State CAC requirements, grounds for standing to appeal, grandfathering of certain provisions, certain COMAR references, certain permitted uses in the RCA, conditions for granting a variance and reapplication in the CA, technical changes, shoreline erosion, living shorelines, and building in and removal of trees in the buffer. Numerous questions were answered regarding past and present CA regulations and plans for the future. According to CAC and the Attorney General's office, new CA legislation becomes effective after the CAC approves it. SRC members thanked CAC for their valuable and informative input.

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

MINUTES

The Minutes for the August 1, 2013, regular monthly meeting as revised and the September 5, 2013 regular monthly meeting as written were presented for approval and were accepted as written.

MOTION: A MOTION, TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 1, 2013 MINUTES AS REVISED AND TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2013 MINUTES AS WRITTEN, WAS MADE BY WHITCOMB AND SECONDED BY HORNOR. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

1. Tom Lindsay tendered his resignation letter. Vlavianos was informed there are several possible replacements; however, the County Executive wants to interview all potential candidates. It may be some time before an appointment will be made.
2. Received a September 14, 2013 email response from SHA to SRC's inquiries regarding progress that has been made to correct the problems identified in the I-97/Route 32 Report of 2007. See Jabez/SHA under Old Business for details.

OLD BUSINESS

Jabez/SHA

Vlavianos reported that State Highway Administration (SHA) responded via e-mail on September 14 to SRC's inquiries whether progress has been made to correct the problems identified in the I-97/Route 32 Report of 2007. (Everyone received a copy of the

response.) Subsequently Vlavianos spoke to Sonal Sanghavi and was surprised to be questioned about SRC's priority now and if the priority has shifted from the Jabez to the Benfield blowout. Vlavianos assured Sanghavi that the SRC never took a position on the Benfield blowout, only discussed it as a problem area. It seems that SRC's name has been linked with the blowout so much so that Speaker Busch is now involved and as a result engineering must now divert about \$1,000,000 from other Severn River improvement projects to fix something that SHA does not consider a priority at this time.

Vlavianos was left with the impression that SRC may be viewed now by SHA as an activist organization rather than as an advisory body. She did her best to assure Sanghavi that SRC is NOT an activist organization but functions as an advisory body speaking for the Severn River in that capacity. Vlavianos cautioned Sanghavi that there may be attempts by individuals, riverkeepers or organizations to pull SRC into an activist role but assured Sanghavi that while she is chairman that will not happen. It is obvious SHA is frustrated with the many voices attempting to speak for the river yet no coordinated effort to speak as one voice. As the Commission discussed this, it confirmed that in fact there is no one voice speaking for the river.

Critical Area

Based on the presentation by CAC's Margaret McHale, Spencer will contact Councilmen Ladd and Walker to get input on the amended critical area bill in front of the County Council.

MOTION: A MOTION, THAT SPENCER WILL SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE SRC IN FRONT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL SUPPORTING BILL 76-13, WAS MADE BY SCHOMIG AND SECONDED BY WHITCOMB. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Annapolis / Annapolis Marine Water Quality

There was nothing new to report. Riegel was unable to attend this meeting due to campaign commitments.

Oyster Restoration Activities

Whitcomb reported spat cages were distributed successfully with the Annapolis Yacht Club participating actively.

Stormwater Management on Severn Run

Based on the August 1 meeting discussion and questions raised, Vlavianos spoke with Planning & Zoning (P&Z) about Odenton Town Center (OTC). She reported that Phase I roads are under construction now and plans are approved for two buildings under the old Stormwater Management (SWM) code with ponds included. This is a small part of the overall OTC plan. Phase II includes the rest of the OTC. Vlavianos was told that although plans were submitted to P&Z also using ponds, the plans were sent back to be modified under the new code. All discharge must be handled on site and no additional runoff will be permitted to leave the site.

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 6:40 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 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