

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2014 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 2nd Floor

		Attendance Record
Members Present:	Lina Vlavianos, Chair	2/2
	Sally Hornor, Vice Chair	2/2
	Kevin Curran	2/2
	Kurt Riegel	1/2
	Michael Robinson	2/2
	Jeff Schomig (via conference call)	2/2
	Dick Spencer	1/2
	Bob Whitcomb	2/2
	Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	2/2
Guests and Staff:	Charlotte Lubbert, Severn River Association	
	Brenda Weeks, AACo. DPW/WERS	
Members Absent:	Jim Burdick	1/2

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vlavianos called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:02 p.m. in the Severn Room, 4th Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present.

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

MINUTES

The Minutes for the January 2, 2014, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval and were accepted as written.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 2, 2014 MINUTES AS WRITTEN, WAS MADE BY CURRAN AND SECONDED BY WHITCOMB. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

1. Burdick notified the Chair that due to another commitment he will not be at the meeting.
2. Hornor agreed to continue serving as Vice Chair for another year.

MOTION: A MOTION, TO ELECT SALLY HORNOR AS VICE CHAIR OF THE SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION FOR 2014, WAS MADE BY SPENCER AND SECONDED BY CURRAN. THE MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

3. Vlavianos requested the State Highway Administration (SHA) give an update of progress made in addressing the problems on Jabez at the June SRC meeting.
4. A copy of Resolution 60-13 appointing Kevin Curran to the SRC was received.
5. A letter dated January 30, 2014 from SHA Administrator Melinda Peters was received in response to SRC's letter of December 13, 2013 regarding SRC's concerns about the Severn Run and the Jabez 3 subwatershed.
6. An E-Letter of February 3, 2014 was received from the Anne Arundel County Ethics Commission regarding "employee" status for SRC members. This will be discussed under "New Business."

OLD BUSINESS

Jabez / SHA

Curran, Robinson, Spencer and Vlavianos attended the February 8, 2014 Jabez 3 "stakeholders" meeting. Curran will continue to represent SRC at future quarterly meetings. Representatives from EPA, SHA, MDE, SRA, DPW, AACounty, and the governor's office were present. There was general acceptance among the group that there are problems on Jabez 3 that need addressing.

Vlavianos was told by several participants that the SRC's letter of December 13, 2013 to different agencies advising that there is a need for cooperation of all governmental agencies to address the problems associated with stormwater runoff in the Severn Run watershed and in context of the Jabez 3 problems was well received. Vlavianos pointed out that it is in such a way as an advisory body that SRC can make a difference using its long standing credibility. She suggested SRC can continue to play an important role by staying informed and "keeping the different agencies' feet to the fire" since this project will span a number of years. SHA has

already hired a consultant at their expense to develop a Jabez 3 Watershed Restoration Plan. A progress report will be presented at the next stakeholders meeting, tentatively scheduled for April. More details will be available at the June SRC meeting when SHA will be present.

Stormwater Management on Severn Run

Whitcomb is continuing to review the 2002 Severn Run study document. Of 12 areas identified as potential problem areas in the study, Whitcomb has visited one. A photo provided shows similar erosion problems as found on Jabez 3. Whitcomb feels the Severn Run stormwater runoff problems need to be given the same attention as Jabez 3.

Critical Area – There was nothing new to report at this time.

Annapolis/Annapolis Marine Water Quality

Riegel reported that the Annapolis Environmental Commission is looking at how the city's stormwater utility funds were utilized. While the dedicated funds should be used in areas of highest priority for improvement of water quality, it is not clear that is the case. In FY 14 funds are allocated for city dock improvements yet no water quality improvements will result.

Oyster Restoration Activities – There was nothing new to report.

Website

Robinson reported that the membership roster on the website has been updated.

NEW BUSINESS

Ethics Commission

SRC members discussed the February 3, 2014 letter from the AACounty Ethics Commission which the Chair addressed in two parts.

First, whether SRC may actively support a coalition of stakeholders for protection of the Severn River was discussed. Vlavianos suggested that point is now moot considering that as an

advisory body SRC did write the letter of December 13, 2013, urging cooperation between all governmental agencies and stakeholders and has assigned Curran to represent the SRC.

Second, SRC members are no longer considered "employees" as a result of County Council Bill 70-12. After much discussion on implications of the Bill and many questions raised, a motion was made that Schomig will draft a letter to the County Law Office referencing the February 3, 2014 Ethics letter asking for further clarification on the letter and the impact on the SRC Bylaws, which states that SRC members "are bound by and subject to the AACounty Ethics Law." The motion carried with Whitcomb opposing writing the letter and Riegel abstaining.

MOTION: A MOTION, THAT SCHOMIG WILL DRAFT A LETTER TO THE COUNTY OFFICE OF LAW REFERENCING THE FEBRUARY 3, 2014 ETHICS COMMISSION LETTER ASKING FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF THE LETTER AND THE IMPACT ON THE SRC BYLAWS, WAS MADE BY CURRAN AND SECONDED BY SPENCER. THE MOTION PASSED WITH WHITCOMB OPPOSING WRITING THE LETTER AND RIEGEL ABSTAINING.

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, March 6, 2014 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 Protection & Restoration Program