

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

	Attendance Record
Members Present:	
Lina Vlavianos, Chair	3/3
Sally Hornor, Vice Chair	3/3
Jim Burdick	2/3
Kurt Riegel	2/3
Michael Robinson	3/3
Jeff Schomig (via conference call)	3/3
Dick Spencer	2/3
Bob Whitcomb	3/3
Guests and Staff:	
Sheri Lott, Heery/AACo. DPW	
Brenda Weeks, AACo. DPW/WERS	
Members Absent:	
Kevin Curran	2/3
Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	2/3

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vlavianos called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:04 p.m. in the Severn Room, 4th Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present.

Ms. Sheri Lott, with the Heery watershed group contracted by County DPW, was introduced. She is a licensed civil engineer working on some of the efforts toward the TMDL goals with the new Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and is gathering information for possible projects in the Severn and South River watersheds.

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

MINUTES

The Minutes for the February 6, 2014, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval and were accepted as written.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 6, 2014 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. Curran notified the Chair he would not be at the meeting.
2. Received a letter dated February 6, 2014, from Secretary Robert Summers, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), in response to SRC's letter of December 13, 2013, regarding SRC's concerns about Severn Run and the Jabez 3 subwatershed.

OLD BUSINESS

Oyster Restoration Activities

Whitcomb reported he attended the annual meeting of the Maryland oyster restoration coordinators. Participants discussed relevant issues such as recruitment of volunteers, government involvement and cooperation. He noted the oyster restoration program continues to grow and expand with great interest.

Annapolis/Annapolis Marine Water Quality

Burdick reported that although funding has been allocated to fix the stormwater-created problems on Housley Road, progress is slow walking through the permitting process.

Riegel reported he spoke in front of the City Council as chair of the Annapolis Environmental Commission in regards to how the city's stormwater utility funds were allocated. Currently the City has \$900,000 available through fees on businesses and residences. Although FY14 funds were set aside for city dock improvements, there will be no improvement in water quality. The argument was made that the dedicated funds should be directed to areas of highest priority for improvement of water quality. Riegel is hopeful that the Aldermen were convinced to direct a shift in prioritizing the annually collected funds to areas where improvement in water quality is needed the most.

Vlavianos will contact Joe Rubino, U.S. Naval Academy, to invite him to the April meeting to give an update on activities on the Naval Academy properties in Annapolis and at Greenberry Point.

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

Stormwater Management on Severn Run

Vlavianos commented that the letter received from MDE regarding Severn Run and Jabez 3 was too general to be meaningful. It was noted that only time will tell if progress is made having all government agencies collaborating in addressing stormwater runoff problems.

Jabez / SHA

State Highway Administration (SHA) may attend SRC's May meeting to give the commission an update on the progress being made in the Jabez subwatershed.

Ethics Commission

Schomig and Vlavianos are still gathering information as to how County Council Bill 70-12 affects the SRC. Schomig contacted Councilman Ladd to seek an explanation and answers from the County Law Office on behalf of SRC. The motion approved at the February meeting to draft a letter to the Law Office still stands and will be sent if necessary at a more appropriate time.

Website

Robinson noted there are only a few minor details he wants to address. He is also planning to review the section about tides and salinity to see if it needs to be revised.

NEW BUSINESS

Spencer reported the University of Maryland through a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) is attempting to reach as many residents in Maryland with a survey on environmental behavior changes. The results of the survey would be used by CBT as a tool for grant funding. While the survey is web based, reaching a large number of Maryland residents is a challenge. Spencer requested ideas how to get the survey out as far and wide as possible.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in the Severn Room (4th Floor), 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD.