

**SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**June 5, 2014 – 4:00 P.M.**  
**Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor**

		<b>Attendance Record</b>
<b>Members Present:</b>	Lina Vlavianos, Chair	6/6
	Sally Hornor, Vice Chair	5/6
	Kevin Curran	5/6
	Kurt Riegel	4/6
	Jeff Schomig (conference call)	5/6
	Dick Spencer	5/6
	Bob Whitcomb	6/6
<b>Guests and Staff:</b>	Erik Michelsen, AACo. DPW/WPRP	
	Sheri Lott, AACo. DPW/Heery	
	Brenda Weeks, AACo. DPW/WPRP	
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Jim Burdick	4/6
	Michael Robinson	4/6
	Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	2/6

**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, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present. Robinson, Burdick and Hymes were not present for this meeting.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

Erik Michelsen, Administrator, Watershed Protection and Restoration Program (WPRP), Anne Arundel County DPW, was invited to brief SRC on WPRP implementation priorities in the Severn River watershed using stormwater funds.

Mr. Michelsen began the briefing by explaining the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit issued by Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to each county with a population over 100,000 for a 5-year cycle (the newest permit was issued in February 2014). The permit requires treatment of 20% of the untreated impervious area in the county during the permit cycle. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) are a “recommended annual intake” of pollution required by the Clean Water Act based on models created by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These goals were addressed with Watershed Implementation Plans

(WIPs) in two phases: (1) states enumerated broad strategies and mechanisms for implementation, and (2) local governments detailed specific steps and projects they will undertake to achieve load reduction goals, with accompanying information on how they will be implemented.

The county's strategies are to: continue to undertake watershed assessments for each of the county's 12 watersheds started nearly a decade ago and to be completed in 2017; use assessments to drive prioritization for restoration and preservation; stagger restoration based on implementation factors; and use monitoring to drive restoration management decisions. Additional strategies include: stormwater tax credit, stormwater fee credit program, working on a restoration grant program, and exploring the development of a homeowner rebate program.

Commission members expressed concerns about maintenance of projects, dredging, impervious surface, and source reduction. Mr. Michelsen responded to numerous questions and encouraged SRC members to contact him if other questions arise.

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

## **MINUTES**

The Minutes for the May 1, 2014, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval and were accepted as written.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE May 1, 2014 MINUTES AS WRITTEN, WAS MADE BY SPENCER AND SECONDED BY CURRAN. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE**

- (1) Because of a previous commitment, Hornor will not be attending the July SRC meeting.
- (2) Due to the 4th of July holiday, the July SRC meeting will NOT meet on the usual first Thursday; rather it is postponed to the second Thursday, July 10, 2014.
- (3) Sheri Lott, Project Manager overseeing the different aspects of information gathering and evaluating mitigation for stormwater damages utilizing stormwater utility funds will address SRC at the July meeting with information specific to the Severn River watershed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Ethics Commission**

The AACounty Office of Law's response to SRC's question regarding immunity from law suits as a result of County Council Bill 70-12 is as follows: "Nothing has changed regarding the immunity of volunteers for actions taken in the course of their duties as members of boards and commissions."

Ethics Commission as a topic will be removed from future agenda items.

### **Jabez / SHA**

Curran and Vlavianos attended the second stakeholders' meeting for Jabez 3 restoration. A milestone schedule outlining the time line of activity was promised by the consultant but has not yet been received. Curran will follow up with the request and get back to Vlavianos.

### **Stormwater Management on Severn Run**

Whitcomb drafted and circulated a letter for SRC's review written to DNR in response to David Goshorn's letter of April 4, 2014 to the Commission requesting that DNR take the lead in preparing and implementing a restoration plan in the Severn Run area. Spencer felt the letter should not be addressed to Goshorn, Assistant Secretary for Aquatic Resources, but to Kristen Saunders, Assistant Secretary of Land Resources. Vlavianos disagreed since it was Goshorn who responded to the original SRC letter of Dec. 13, 2013 and not Saunders.

Following a brief discussion, SRC members agreed to send the letter to Goshorn as written with copies to Saunders and Chris Phipps, Director, Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works.

MOTION: A MOTION, TO SEND A LETTER OF RESPONSE TO GOSHORN AT DNR WITH COPIES TO SAUNDERS AND PHIPPS REGARDING A RESTORATION PLAN FOR SEVERN RUN, WAS MADE BY CURRAN AND SECONDED BY SPENCER. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### **Critical Area**

Since there is no activity on this topic currently, it will be removed from SRC's agenda.

### **Annapolis/Annapolis Marine Water Quality**

Riegel, Vlavianos and other individuals who are interested in Annapolis met with the Mayor in order to appraise him of issues of environmental concern. It was not a significantly productive meeting. Of interest for several years to the SRC, the marine No Discharge Zone (NDZ) was brought up but no positive reaction was received.

Annapolis would like to increase its tree cover by 50% by 2015. Currently no good tree cover data is available. The LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), a remote sensing method used to examine the surface of the earth, will be utilized to gather information.

### **Oyster Restoration Activities**

Whitcomb reported June will be spat planting month with two additional reefs served.

Whitcomb feels TMDL credits should be considered for the Severn because of the filtration potential of oysters. Spencer will provide a recent publication documenting improvements in water quality in other rivers.

**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 6:30 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 10, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in the Severn Room (4<sup>th</sup> Floor), 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD.