

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2014 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

		Attendance Record
Members Present:	Lina Vlavianos, Chair	7/7
	Jim Burdick	5/7
	Kevin Curran	6/7
	Jeff Schomig (conference call)	6/7
	Dick Spencer	6/7
	Bob Whitcomb	7/7
Guests and Staff:	Sheri Lott, AACo. DPW/Heery	
	Brenda Weeks, AACo. DPW/WPRP	
Members Absent:	Sally Hornor, Vice Chair	5/7
	Kurt Riegel	4/7
	Michael Robinson	4/7
	Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	2/7

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.

GUEST SPEAKER

Ms. Sheri Lott, PE, AACo. DPW/Heery, began her presentation by noting the County is spending \$47,488,905 by the end of 2019 on the Severn River restoration projects. This includes: \$11,015,896 in 2014 on public pond retrofits; \$12,554,838 in 2015 on stream restoration (design only this fiscal year), private pond retrofits, and outfall retrofits; and specific projects not fully defined yet in 2016-2019.

The money for 2014 is being spent on three step pool systems, three constructed wetlands, eight infiltration systems, eight wet pond upgrades, 1,500 linear feet of stream, and one large

regional facility. The total drainage area retrofitted to provide water quality treatment in the Severn River watershed in 2014 is 1,390 acres with 407 acres of impervious surface within that drainage area.

If anyone is interested in reviewing a project-by-project breakdown, please contact Ms. Lott at 410-266-3703 ext. 1006 and she will be happy to send you an electronic copy of the presentation. Of note is the North Fork of Bear Branch projects. When the two stream restoration segments, pond and dam decommissions, and step pools are installed at the two pond inlets, the Bear Branch Creek will be fully restored. This work is funded and should be completed in the next 2-3 years.

There was an overview of the reasons for and the challenges of the Shipley's Dam Decommission project. A public meeting on the Shipley's Dam Project with Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Dam Safety and Wetlands and Waterways Divisions is scheduled for Thursday, August 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Central Sanitation Facility Building A off of East/West Boulevard.

Ms. Lott went to the Millersville Post Office with a stream expert and viewed the erosion in the stream segment discussed at the June SRC meeting. She is pursuing funding for that site and hopes to be able to come to one of the next few meetings with some answers. She would like to see how to fund this project now and is working towards that goal.

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

MINUTES

The Minutes for the June 5, 2014, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval and were accepted as written.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 5, 2014 MINUTES AS WRITTEN, WAS MADE BY CURRAN AND SECONDED BY WHITCOMB. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) At the June meeting, Hornor noted because of a previous commitment she will not be at the July meeting. Riegel, Robinson and Hymes were not present.

- (2) A letter was sent to David Goshorn, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), regarding a restoration plan for the Severn Run area. See the “Stormwater Management on Severn Run” agenda item for details.

OLD BUSINESS

Oyster Restoration Activities

A lengthy email discussion ensued after the SRC June meeting as a result of a research paper provided by Spencer on the usefulness of oysters in improving water quality in rivers. In general, scientists and Commission members agree there are no clear answers. Vlavianos highly commended the oyster restoration program and noted it does not get enough publicity.

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

Stormwater Management on Severn Run

SRC’s letter of response dated June 6, 2014 requesting DNR take the lead in preparing and implementing restoration plans to return the Severn Run area to its natural state was sent to David Goshorn, Assistant Secretary for Aquatic Resources, at DNR. Copies of the letter were forwarded to Kristen Saunders, Assistant Secretary of Land Resources, DNR, and Chris Phipps, Director, Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works.

Jabez / SHA

A spread sheet provided by the consultant of targeted dates outlining repairs to Jabez 3 was distributed to Commission members. The next meeting of interested stakeholders will probably be after Labor Day.

Website

Sheri Lott noted a new webpage is being planned on the County Watershed Protection and Restoration Program website showing the individual watershed restoration projects in the different watersheds.

Septics

Anne Arundel County received \$3,000,000 for upgrades of septics for private residences. Previous strict requirements have been eased now permitting all homeowners wishing to upgrade their septics to apply.

NEW BUSINESS

Maynadier Waterski Course / Permit Application Notification

Spencer was made aware one day prior to the end of the comment period of requests to Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and Army Corps of Engineers to move and make permanent a water skiing course that was approved in 1990. He wrote a letter requesting a hearing. MDE responded they have no jurisdiction; the Corps has not responded yet. SRC's concern is lack of concrete information and are puzzled as to why no information was passed directly to the SRC by anyone, private individual or agency, early on in the process. Vlavianos wants to know where the process broke down and how to make sure this does not happen again.

Burdick volunteered to follow up on this by contacting certain individuals to see where the communication has failed and will report back to the Commission. Spencer will provide copies of the MDE's response and keep member informed when he receives the Corps response.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 7, 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