

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2015 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

		Attendance Record
Members Present:	Lina Vlavianos, Chair	2/2
	Jim Burdick	1/2
	Kurt Riegel	2/2
	Dick Spencer	2/2
	Bob Whitcomb	2/2
Guests and Staff:	Dr. Ken Paynter, University of Maryland Paynter Laboratory Meghan Spencer, ACo. DPW/WPRP	
Members Absent:	Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	1/2

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vlavianos called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:07 p.m. in the Severn Room, 4th Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present.

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Ken Paynter of the University of Maryland Paynter Laboratory was invited to make a presentation on the Oyster Restoration Monitoring of the Severn River.

Dr. Paynter discussed the effect of oyster reproduction on the Severn River and Chesapeake Bay as a whole. He also discussed the necessary environmental conditions for oyster reproduction, as well as the effect of oysters on water quality. According to Dr. Paynter, the current oyster population of the Chesapeake Bay is non-functioning in an ecological sense, and a large-scale oyster reef restoration is required to reconstitute the coupled benthic-pelagic energy flow of nutrients between the bottom sediments and overlying water column.

PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS – Charlotte Lubbert confirmed the Jabez Stakeholder Meeting was scheduled for April 8, 2015.

MINUTES

The Minutes for the January 8, 2015, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval and were accepted as written.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 8, 2015 MINUTES AS WRITTEN, WAS MADE BY SPENCER AND SECONDED BY WHITCOMB. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Vlavianos will be absent from the March 2015 SRC Meeting.
- (2) Vlavianos has provided a draft of the 2013 – 2014 SRC Biennial Report for review.
- (3) Whitcomb was nominated by Burdick and has been elected as the temporary Vice Chair of the SRC.

OLD BUSINESS

Website

Burdick will rewrite old SRC web site entries and send to AA County Office of Information Technology (OIT) staff for updates. Curran will provide Burdick with a list of entries to be changed. Burdick will attempt to secure SRC access to the web site to make updates as needed.

Oyster Restoration Activities

There was nothing new to report.

Annapolis / Annapolis Marine Water Quality

Riegel and Burdick have no new updates. Riegel's recommendations to Crystal Spring were commented on by Annapolis Environmental Commission (AEC), but no changes to the plans have been made by developers. Riegel will email AEC comments on Crystal Spring to the SRC.

Stormwater Management on Severn Run

There has been no response to the letter sent on January 12, 2015.

Jabez / SHA

The Jabez Stakeholder Meeting is scheduled on April 8, 2015. Spencer followed up with Charlotte Lubbert on the draft report, which has not been received. Charlotte Lubbert has not received a reply from Stantec. Vlavianos is not expecting to receive a requested copy of the draft report from Stantec.

NEW BUSINESS

Variance Hearing – Hopkins Creek Case

Vlavianos thinks the case needs attention due to the number of things that could be considered precedent-setting policy issues, and that the appeal will need to be filed within 30 days of January 22, 2015. At this time, Vlavianos is unsure if an appeal will be filed.

Spencer says that the other alternative on the grounds that the hearing office has cited is a legal issue, and it may be possible to move the case to the courts. Spencer believes that they are trying to do the right thing; the place the residents want to build is the logical place and the variance requested was to protect wetlands on the property.

Vlavianos thinks the definitions were discussed by the hearing office and is concerned about the legal language restricting what can be built on the lots in question. Burdick says the 50 foot easement policy was in place when the property was purchased. Spencer says that if the residents moved back 50 feet, they would be in critical area that can't be cleared and the issue is that the residents can't comply with the requirement and asked for a variance as a result.

Vlavianos is concerned that it would set precedence for variance requests. Whitcomb says that because the hearing office denied the variance, there is nothing for the SRC to do. Vlavianos says no action can be taken unless there is an appeal, though the hearing officer granted a time variance to redesign the design plans.

Greenbury Point

Spencer attended the public Greenbury Point Shoreline Restoration meeting. Spencer stated that there are two projects for Greenbury Point – a dredge spoil dump & the Mill Creek/Fossil Point erosion restoration. According to Vlavianos, the projects will take place over an 8 year period. Spencer suggested SRC send a letter supporting the Greenbury Point Shoreline Restoration Project. Spencer will prepare a draft letter for SRC review.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Severn Room (4th Floor), 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD.

Respectfully submitted,

Meghan Spencer
AACounty DPW, Bureau of Engineering
Watershed Protection & Restoration Program