

**SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**April 2, 2015 – 4:00 P.M.**  
**Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor**

		<b>Attendance Record</b>
<b>Members Present:</b>	Charlie Kreter, Chair	1/1
	Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	2/3
	Sara Phillips	1/1
	Kurt Riegel	3/3
	Daniel Roche	1/1
	Dick Spencer	3/3
	Bob Whitcomb	3/3

**Guests and Staff:** Erica Jackson, AACo. DPW/WPRP  
Sheri Lott, AACo. DPW/WPRP  
Meghan Spencer, AACo. DPW/WPRP

<b>Members Absent:</b>	Jim Burdick	2/3
	Stephen McHale	0/1

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kreter called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:05 p.m. in the Severn Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present.

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

**MINUTES**

The Minutes for the February 5, 2015, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval. Following discussion, members agreed to revise the February 5, 2015 minutes to reflect a temporary election of the Vice Chairman for the March 2015 SRC Meeting.

**MOTION:** A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REVISED FEBRUARY 5, 2015 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY SPENCER AND SECONDED BY WHITCOMB. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WILL BE REVISED AS APPROVED.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE**

- (1) County Executive Schuh has an award for former Chair Vlavianos. Riegel suggested an award presentation before the County Council.
- (2) County Executive Schuh has appointed Charles Kreter as the SRC Chair.
- (3) Dr. Andrew Muller will present at the Maryland State Water Quality Advisory Committee (SWQAC) Meeting on April 17.
- (4) As the previously discussed microbead bill passed & the Senate will likely pass the bill with most amending language desired, and the plastic bag ban was pulled by sponsors due to a paper bag fee, letters regarding plastic bags & microbeads are moot. The original microbead ban was 10 years, and has been changed to 5 years. The language of the bill was changed for accuracy to represent the environmental community. Riegel speculates that plastics in water is a result of plastic bags. Whitcomb stated that any product using microbeads is subject to regulation.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Greenbury Point**

A letter was submitted in support of Greenbury Point.

**Variance Hearing – Hopkins Creek Case**

There was an appeal filed on the Hopkins Creek Variance Hearing according to Hymes, and the County Board of Appeals is the main point of contact. Whitcomb is unsure if the Hopkins Creek Variance Hearing is SRC business. Spencer discussed the lack of critical area issue due to the easement that states no trees can be cut down in the critical area. Kreter states that the easement was within 100 feet of the waterline. Spencer says that's the reason for the variance. Hymes says the SRC is in a good position to suggest law and code changes as needed. Kreter says the SRC will follow up on the Hopkins Creek Variance Hearing as needed.

**Jabez / SHA**

The Jabez / SHA Meeting is scheduled on April 8, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. Hymes will attend as a representative for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Spencer will attend as a representative for the SRC.

**Stormwater Management on Severn Run**

Whitcomb wants more information regarding the restoration plans above the Jabez Run. Kreter wants Hymes to be responsible for following up with DNR. The SRC has sent two letters to David Goshorn, and has received no response. Whitcomb feels that DNR has not acknowledged any responsibility for mishandling stormwater on the Severn Run. Whitcomb wants new SRC members to know that the stormwater fee and county staff identifies pieces of Severn Run which are county responsibility and are taking that responsibility seriously. Jackson said that DNR will be at a meeting between DNR & Millersville on April 8, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. Carrie Decker is the DNR representative to Severn Run.

Whitcomb has requested a Watershed Restoration Plan for Upper Severn Run. Spencer also requested a walk through Severn Run with DNR representatives. Hymes will follow up with DNR. Whitcomb says there is continuous erosion and is concerned with the volume of stormwater being pushed down Severn Run.

**Annapolis / Annapolis Marine Water Quality**

Riegel said the SRC has made recommendations to the City of Annapolis regarding the watershed. Recommendations included surveying reliability of pump out services in Annapolis waters, a waiver of the \$5 pump out fee charged in the City of Annapolis for recreational vehicles, and a formal application by the City of Annapolis to designate Annapolis waters as a No Discharge Zone (NDZ). The Annapolis Environmental Committee (AEC) made a formal recommendation to Mayor Pantelides and the Annapolis City Council, who are attempting to move the NDZ forward, though pushback from the marine industry is taking place regarding existing devices.

Kreter wants more information regarding the basic water quality of the City of Annapolis. Riegel stated that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has declared the water quality status. Whitcomb said that MDE has outlawed commercial crabbing & oystering in the Severn River. Riegel says that an attempt to push forward is being made by Mayor Pantelides and the Annapolis City Council.

**Oyster Restoration Activities**

Whitcomb says that the annual meeting sponsored by DNR was last week, and all program sponsors throughout the Chesapeake Bay were in attendance, including 30 oyster program managers. The Severn River Association (SRA) oyster sanctuary has been planted for five (5) years in a row, and will be planted again in June 2015. Dr. Ken Paynter of Paynter Laboratory at

University of Maryland presented to the SRC regarding Oyster Restoration Monitoring in February 2015.

According to Riegel, the 2015 oyster restoration activities are as follows: The Maryland Grows Oysters (MGO) program starts with spat on shell grown by Horn Point Laboratory on the eastern shore near Cambridge. The Oyster Recovery Partnership puts spat on shell in bags and delivers to seven (7) Severn River distribution points. Volunteers hold spat on shell in cages at docks and will plant the oysters in June 2015.

Riegel wants updates regarding oyster poaching at sanctuaries. Whitcomb says there are some watermen who have been caught and fined for oystering in sanctuaries. Whitcomb also says he has heard nothing about oyster poaching on MGO oysters. Part of DNR's role on behalf of the Coast Guard and Homeland Security is to electronically watch the bay with satellite technology for terrorism, drug activity, and oyster poaching. Spencer says that the same technology has been used to track rockfish poaching.

### **Website**

There was nothing new to report.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Stormwater Fee Letters to County Council**

Spencer based his original letter to the County Council on a version that was put out by the Maryland State Legislature. Spencer received comments from Whitcomb & Kreter. Spencer's draft was also circulated to former SRC member Schomig, who also commented. The SRC should stress to the County Council that a dedicated revenue stream to deal with stormwater in Anne Arundel County needs to exist. Spencer will be at the County Council meeting on Monday April 6, 2015. Riegel wants to send the letter before the County Council meeting. Whitcomb feels that Kreter should read the letter to the council ahead of public testimony. Kreter says that the County Council has declined to recognize former SRC Chair Vlavianos ahead of public testimony in the past.

Spencer wants to know what will happen if funding requirements are not met. Roche feels it is the SRC's responsibility to bring this to the County Council's attention, but commenting on how the projects are funded is outside of the SRC's scope. Phillips says that the SRC's mission is the health of the river and how it is funded is not the SRC's concern. Spencer feels it's within the SRC's right to say that the SRC is concerned if there is no plan for the dedicated stormwater fund. Riegel says that the projects were funded through the general fund in the past and it was unsuccessful. Kreter agrees that the SRC wants a dedicated fund but is divided on how it should

be funded. Spencer is concerned that if the bill to halt the stormwater fee in July 2015 is passed, all projects will cease. Kreter says that, theoretically, the County Executive is required to fund the projects. Spencer is concerned that the bond funding will not be available without the dedicated revenue stream. Phillips thinks the SRC can't take the position that fees are the only way to fund the dedicated revenue stream. Kreter feels the letter needs to be modified before final presentation, and that it should include requests for transparency and fiscal responsibility.

Riegel moves that the letter with the change discussed be finalized and sent for a vote. Whitcomb says there are no bylaws for electronic voting. Spencer moves that an email consensus will suffice. Whitcomb seconds.

MOTION: A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE LETTER AS WRITTEN WITH THE EXCEPTION OF STRIKING THE SENTENCE IN QUESTION, WAS MADE BY RIEGEL AND SECONDED BY WHITCOMB. MOTION PASSED 4-1 WITH KRETER ABSTAINING AND ROCHE OPPOSING.

**SRC Vice Chair**

MOTION: A MOTION FOR WHITCOMB TO REMAIN AS VICE CHAIR FOR 3 MONTHS, WAS MADE BY SPENCER AND SECONDED BY RIEGEL. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, WITH WHITCOMB ABSTAINING.

**2013 – 2014 Biennial Report**

Discussion regarding the 2013 – 2014 Biennial report has been postponed to allow new SRC members to review the report in question.

**Water Access**

Discussion regarding water access has been postponed.

**Presentations to the SRC**

Anne Arundel County Watershed Protection & Restoration Program Administrator Erik Michelsen will present to the SRC in May 2015.

Mike Loftin will present to the SRC in June 2015.

Kreter would like additional recommendations for presenters to the SRC at future meetings.

**Crystal Spring**

Whitcomb opposes taking a position as Crystal Spring is not in the Severn River Watershed. Riegel can organize a presentation on Crystal Spring. Spencer would prefer a briefing on the issues regarding the City of Annapolis and State of Maryland. Whitcomb says the May SRA meeting is on forest conservation.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Severn Room (4<sup>th</sup> Floor), 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD.

Respectfully submitted,

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