

**SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**May 7, 2015 – 4:00 P.M.**  
**Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor**

		<b>Attendance Record</b>
<b>Members Present:</b>	Charlie Kreter, Chair	2/2
	Jim Burdick	3/4
	Stephen McHale	1/2
	Sara Phillips	2/2
	Kurt Riegel	4/4
	Daniel Roche	2/2
	Dick Spencer	4/4
	Bob Whitcomb	4/4
 <b>Guests and Staff:</b>	Erik Michelsen, ACo. DPW/WPRP	
	Meghan Spencer, ACo. DPW/WPRP	
	Jeff Schomig, former SRC member	
 <b>Members Absent:</b>	Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	2/4

**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.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

Erik Michelsen of the Anne Arundel County Watershed Protection & Restoration Program was invited to make a presentation on Anne Arundel County's Watershed Implementation Strategy.

Michelsen discussed watershed assessment, the use of assessments to prioritize restoration and preservation, and restoration implementation factors. Many problem areas in the Severn River Watershed were identified and restoration priorities were ranked based on weighted prioritization indicators. Weighted prioritization indicators include landscape indicators, stream ecology (habitat & biological assessment), Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) impairments, septic load, Best Management Practices (BMP) treatment, runoff, and modeled pollutant loads.

Michelsen also discussed stormwater pond retrofits, outfall restoration, and stream & wetland restoration. Information was also provided regarding community education, implementation assistance, restoration, minimizing stormwater pollution, and the watershed protection & restoration fee. Michelsen then answered questions from the SRC and meeting attendees in response to his presentation. The digital file of the entire presentation is available at the SRC Office.

**PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS**

Former SRC member Schomig made introductions to the new SRC members and offered his assistance in the future. Schomig also addressed a potential Critical Area violation in the Lakeland community, specifically a significant tree trimming and clear cutting over the weeks prior to the SRC meeting. Schomig said the property owner in question had a permit filed after the tree trimming and clear cutting had occurred. There are no additional details available at this time.

**MINUTES**

The Minutes for the April 2, 2015, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 2, 2015 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY WHITCOMB AND SECONDED BY ROCHE. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE**

- (1) Kreter attended the Anne Arundel County Council meeting on April 6 to address the Stormwater Management Remediation Fee. Kreter presented a letter that had been prepared by the SRC to the County Council opposing changes to the Stormwater Management Remediation Fee. Kreter requested that letters be submitted for revision in advance of future County Council meetings.
- (2) Spencer had prepared an assessment of Senate Bill 863 that was passed. Spencer will provide commission members with a copy of the assessment.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Stormwater Fee Support Letters**

There was nothing new to report.

**Vice Chairman Appointment**

Kreter said that Whitcomb has been temporarily elected Vice Chair and a permanent Vice Chair will be elected in August.

**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**

There was nothing new to report.

**Future Presentations**

Kreter said that Dr. Kriebel has been invited to present to the SRC in June, Mike Loftin will present to the SRC in July, Severn River keeper Fred Kelly will present to the SRC at subsequent meetings in the future, and Dr. Andrew Muller will present to the SRC in October.

**Crystal Spring Development**

Riegel said that the Crystal Spring developers have submitted a revised plan for review.

**Oyster Restoration Activities**

Whitcomb says that there was a meeting regarding Oyster Restoration Activities on May 6, and that oyster planting will take place on June 6. Spencer offered extra oysters for the June 6 planting if needed.

**Annapolis / Annapolis Marine Water Quality**

Discussion regarding water quality has been postponed.

**Stormwater Management on Severn Run**

Whitcomb and Kreter toured Severn Run in April. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) responded to the SRC's letter stating they will do another study. Whitcomb stated that the county is not responsible for restoring Severn Run. Whitcomb suggested giving DNR six months to produce results of the study, and has requested that Matt Fleming speak to the SRC in September.

**Jabez / SHA**

Spencer says that the State Highway Administration (SHA) provided an update with 90 restoration projects within Jabez 3. Spencer expects that SHA will have a final draft report available at the end of May. Spencer states that SHA will then prioritize, fund and begin work; though there are areas that SHA wasn't granted access to by property owners. Spencer feels those areas aren't critical projects – one property is southwest of the I-97 interchange, the second property is near Severn Run. Spencer states that both properties are the recipients of the issues as opposed to the cause. Spencer feels that some projects are major projects; others are pre-planting and clearing invasive plants to replace them with native plant species.

Whitcomb says that the SHA has created large stormwater retention areas along Rte. 32 West.

**Variance Hearing – Hopkins Creek Case**

Discussion regarding the Hopkins Creek Variance Hearing has been postponed.

**Greenbury Point**

Discussion regarding Greenbury Point has been postponed.

**Website**

Burdick has met with Kevin Curran and will start making changes to the SRC web site within the next week. Curran has audited existing pages based on input from Hymes and other SRC members.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Naval Academy**

Spencer asked Phillips about the article re USNA construction in the Capital Newspaper. Phillips responded that this referred to parking facility construction in preparation for the new Cyber Center building construction in the next few years.

Spencer also asked Phillips about the Greenbury Point shoreline restoration project. Phillips says the project is going through final Environmental Assessment and is not yet in the design phase. She expects a contract to be awarded in November.

**Severn River Monitoring Buoys**

Burdick has been contacted regarding 3-5 available monitoring buoys, and asked other SRC members for recommendations on who to contact. Spencer suggested Severn River keeper Fred Kelly, Dr. Andrew Muller of the Naval Academy, and Sally Hornor of Anne Arundel Community College. Riegel asked about buoy parameters. Burdick said the buoys are modular, and asked for numbers of buoys on the Severn River. Kreter and Spencer both stated that there is one buoy at the mouth, and Whitcomb mentioned additional buoys.

**Naval Academy Stormwater Management Project**

Phillips said she will bring information regarding the Naval Academy Stormwater Management Project that is currently in the design phase.

**Agenda/Business Management**

Kreter requested information on how SRC agenda items were chosen. Riegel said that SRC agenda items were interest driven. Former SRC member Jeff Schomig said that projects are mentioned by SRC members, chosen by the chair and assigned to interested SRC members.

**SRC Retreat**

Spencer suggested an SRC retreat to outline and understand issues that members are involved with to look into and work on for the upcoming year.

**No Discharge Zone**

Kreter asked why SRC members haven't pressed the City of Annapolis regarding the No Discharge Zone (NDZ). Spencer said that issues were followed up on based on preferences, thoughts and ideas of the previous chair. According to Spencer, the previous approach was to give the City of Annapolis recommendations only. Riegel said the approach is currently appropriate, as he has spoken with the Annapolis City Council. Riegel stated that the Annapolis City Council has asked for formal input from city departments, and suggests using the Annapolis Environmental Commission (AEC) to push the Annapolis City Council into action. Spencer feels it wouldn't hurt to remind the Annapolis City Council that the SRC is still interested in the NDZ.

**Subcommittees**

Kreter has suggested forming subcommittees on various topics that are of interest to the SRC. Spencer feels that subcommittees were at the discretion of the previous Chair. Kreter suggested forming a Public Water Access Subcommittee. Whitcomb feels that the SRC's challenge is to distinguish themselves from the River Keepers, the Severn River Association

(SRA), and carry on a new role in the community. Roche feels that the SRC needs to have a vision surrounding the entirety of the Severn River. Whitcomb stated that the SRC asks county officials to present regarding program management, influence, and accountability, which distinguishes the SRC from the River Keepers and volunteer-based organizations like the Severn River Association.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 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