

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2015 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

		Attendance Record
Members Present:	Charlie Kreter, Chair	4/4
	Jim Burdick	5/6
	Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	4/6
	Bill Kardash	1/1
	Sara Phillips	4/4
	Daniel Roche	4/4
	Dick Spencer	6/6
	Bob Whitcomb	6/6
Guests and Staff:	Meghan Spencer, AACo. DPW/WPRP	
Members Absent:	Stephen McHale	2/4
	Kurt Riegel	5/6

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kreter called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:11 p.m. in the Severn Room, 4th Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present.

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

MINUTES

The Minutes for the June 4, 2015, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 4, 2015 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY SPENCER AND SECONDED BY BURDICK. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Bill Kardash has been appointed to the SRC.
- (2) There was no new correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS

Permit Notifications

Phillips and Spencer attended a meeting on the Annapolis Shoreline Project with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The permit request in question was pulled a day prior to the meeting. Spencer located a permit notification process on the MDE web site. Spencer hasn't yet registered for permit notifications, though he spoke with Bob Tabisz, the head of the waterway project group in MDE. MDE currently has three (3) reviewers for tidal wetlands permit requests. Spencer spoke with Tabisz regarding speaking to the SRC in the future.

Stormwater Fees

Kreter noted that the sewer fees were lowered and the stormwater fees are no longer under attack.

Water Access

Kreter discussed the David Taylor Property with County Executive Schuh. County Executive Schuh believes that waterfront access should be included when the site is developed. County Executive Schuh's primary concern is the location of the water access. Phillips stated that the challenge for water access is the water depth at the location in question. Spencer suggested adding a ramp for water access. Phillips will look into the David Property vacancy. Kreter stated there is a time limit for development once the property is vacated. Kreter also noted that residents in the area are vocal about public access to areas in their neighborhood.

Future Presentations

August 2015 – Mike Loftin

September 2015 – Phillips suggested a report on the City of Annapolis Stormwater Management

October 2015 – Dr. Andrew Muller, USNA

November 2015 – Dr. David Kriebel, USNA

December 2015 – Ranger Steve McCoy, Maryland Park Service

Oyster Restoration Activities

Whitcomb reported that the oyster restoration activities in June 2015 went well, and that most volunteers have planted their oysters. The Severn River Association (SRA) is hosting a presentation by Dr. Ken Paynter (UMCES/Paynter Labs) about the Severn River Oysters on Tuesday July 21, 2015.

Crystal Spring

Burdick and Riegel attended a meeting about the Forest Conservation Act in the City of Annapolis. Alderman Jared Littman (Ward 5) presented. The situation is currently up for review by the State's Attorney. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has listed guidelines for reforestation. Burdick says the State's Attorney will rule within the next few days, affecting what the City of Annapolis can do in regard to Crystal Spring.

Annapolis / Annapolis Marine Water Quality

Kreter spoke with Mayor Pantelides and has received minimal response. Burdick spoke with Severn Riverkeeper Fred Kelly. Kreter wants to start building grass roots support from the SRA, local marinas & yacht clubs, etc. Burdick mentioned boats with their own discharge systems. Roche said that all marinas have pump out stations.

Kreter says that through SRC members and other organizations, support for the No Discharge Zone (NDZ) can be established. Kreter said there was no approval of the NDZ fifteen (15) years ago, due to pump outs and retrofits. However, Kreter feels that due to raised environmental awareness, people are more willing to make accommodations. Kreter stated that it will be a slow process to have a bill introduced, passed, and appropriate signage introduced.

Whitcomb requested that Kreter draft a letter to organizations requesting support to implement the NDZ within the city. Burdick said that an NDZ already exists in Heritage Harbor. Kardash requested clarification on the location of the NDZ. Whitcomb stated that the NDZ can't currently extend past the City of Annapolis limits.

Spencer suggested an NDZ be implemented from Chesapeake Landing to the Route 50 bridge. Kreter suggested the NDZ be implemented in Annapolis Harbor, and Whitcomb suggested an NDZ be implemented in all city creeks. Whitcomb would like the local government agencies to petition the Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Kreter requested assistance in compiling a list of organizations and contacts. He also requested that Riegel draft a letter. Spencer requested that the Naval Academy be involved in the NDZ discussion. Phillips said that a City of Annapolis Alderman, preferably Alderman Joe Budge,

Alderman Ross Arnett, and Alderman Jared Littman, be involved in the NDZ discussion as well. Kreter mentioned a possible proposal currently in front of the City of Annapolis City Council.

Hymes requested clarification on what actions should be taken. Kreter suggested signs. Phillips suggested addendums to marina leases, as well as making visitors to the City of Annapolis aware of the NDZ. Phillips will look into boats visiting the Naval Academy.

Kreter requested suggestions for letter recipients. Kardash requested a letter be sent to Vice Commodore Debbie Gosland of the Annapolis Yacht Club (AYC). Kreter will compile a list of letter recipients with recommendations from the SRC. The NDZ letter is temporarily on hold until Riegel is available.

Stormwater Management on Severn Run

There was nothing new to report.

Jabez / SHA

There was nothing new to report.

Naval Academy / Greenbury Point

There was nothing new to report. Phillips says the Naval Academy is currently conducting a living shoreline investigation.

Website

Burdick updated four (4) web pages in June 2015. There are more updates in the future, with a deadline of August 16, 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

Annapolis Yacht Club Green Site

Kardash brought the potential addition of a green site to the AYC expansion to the attention of the SRC. Phillips asked if discussions with MDE have taken place. Roche noted that the process should begin with member approval. Kardash says that member approval has taken place and plans have been drawn. Kardash says that the planning team has hired a local zoning attorney, as well as local architects. Burdick inquired if AYC members were also members of the Spa Creek Conservancy (SCC). Hymes noted that publicity generated through the permit process will also be helpful for project approval.

Phillips said there are lots of opportunities for stormwater management improvement at the AYC. Kardash requested that the SRC help move the process along. Hymes recommends involving the SCC to aid in obtaining funding. Spencer wants the SRC to work with the AYC to help their environmental improvement projects move forward.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 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