

**SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**October 5 2016 – 4:00 P.M.**  
**Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor**

		<b>Attendance Record</b>
<b>Members Present:</b>	Charlie Kreter, Chair	7/10
	Sara Phillips, Vice Chair	8/10
	Lex Birney	8/10
	Jim Burdick	7/10
	Dick Spencer	8/10
	Bob Whitcomb	7/10
<b>Guests and Staff:</b>	Alderman Joe Budge, City of Annapolis	
	Alderman Ross Arnett, City of Annapolis	
	Alderman Jared Littman, City of Annapolis	
	Marc Rodriguez, City of Annapolis	
	Meghan Spencer, AACo. DPW/WPRP	
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Bill Kardash	8/10
	Kurt Riegel	7/10
	Daniel Roche	8/10

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kreter called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:08 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 September 8, 2016, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval.

**MOTION:** A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2016 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY BIRNEY AND SECONDED BY BURDICK. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE**

(1) There was no new correspondence.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Annapolis / Annapolis Marine Water Quality (NDZ)**

Kreter hopes that the City of Annapolis will support the No Discharge Zone (NDZ) application for the harbor and four creeks within the city limits. Kreter realizes that the maritime industry may see a conflict with the NDZ, and noted that the NDZ application process requires those concerns be taken into consideration. Kreter stated that there is an NDZ from Portsmouth, NH to Long Island, NY. Within the State of Maryland, NDZ have been established in Assawoman Bay, Herring Bay, and the Chester River is in the NDZ application process.

Birney noted that he is a member of both the City of Annapolis Marine Advisory Board (MAB) and Anne Arundel County Maritime Industry Advisory Boards (MIAB). The Annapolis Environmental Commission (AEC), MIAB and SRC are in favor of the NDZ. The MAB is against the NDZ. There is some dissention among the Anne Arundel County board members and members of the Annapolis City Council. Birney, as well as the SRC as a whole, expect there to be some form of resolution passed to move forward in an exploratory manner. From the perspective of the County MAB, there have been some concerns expressed about exemptions for users of Type I and Type II marine sanitation devices (MSD) and ensuring that compliant MSD users aren't penalized.

Birney said that, on behalf of the Anne Arundel County MAB and the SRC, residents should be proud that we care enough about our waterways to advertise the desire to establish an NDZ while being sensitive to the needs of existing boaters who are compliant MSD users, as well as educating residents about the NDZ process. There is a difference of opinion between the City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County MABs regarding limiting the NDZ to the City of Annapolis rather than initiating an NDZ in all Anne Arundel County rivers from the beginning. Birney also suggested literature advertising the NDZ rules when entering the City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County waters, as well as pump out boats that run on a regular basis.

Kreter feels that more NDZ enforcement will need to come from the Harbormaster's Office in the future. Spencer wants the SRC to meet with the Chester River Association to discuss the NDZ process. Spencer feels that if a larger area is included in the NDZ application, it's more likely to be approved.

Kreter would like an NDZ fact sheet or booklet to be compiled for the sake of clarity. Spencer noted that there are ways to apply exemptions for local boaters. Kreter feels that finding a compromise that works for all residents and visitors to Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis is important.

**Oyster Restoration Activities**

Whitcomb has distributed a newsletter on behalf of the Maryland Grow Oysters program. The current issue is evolving around the Oyster Advisory Commission (OAC) reinstated by Governor Hogan in summer of 2016 in response to efforts by local watermen to relax the laws governing oyster sanctuaries.

The issue is whether to proceed with the oyster restoration program on Harris Creek, the Little Choptank River and the Tred Avon River. The Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) asked the OAC to decide what to do regarding the Tred Avon River, as well as pick two other western shore tributaries for restoration.

Whitcomb has been advocating for the Severn River to be chosen for oyster restoration by the OAC. Other criteria for restoration are that the selection of the next two tributaries be as economical as possible. The decision has been postponed until possibly April 2017 for further discussion on oyster sanctuaries and oyster harvesting.

Whitcomb says there is a dissolved oxygen issue over the entire Chesapeake Bay which leads to dead zones. However, below the Route 50 Bridge, there is still good dissolved oxygen and water mixing which are conducive to oyster restoration. Spencer noted that substrate is already in place between the bridges in Annapolis. Whitcomb says the existing substrate is the key to convincing the OAC of economical oyster restoration in the Severn River.

At Spencer's request, Whitcomb confirmed that there are no living oysters in the Severn River outside of those planted during oyster restoration. Whitcomb feels that the Severn River is safe from oyster harvesting due to smaller growth than larger oyster reefs closer to the eastern shore.

Whitcomb proposed that the SRC make a decision on what to do and what position the SRC will take. Whitcomb says that the only reason to grow oysters in the Severn River is for ecological purposes only, as the directive has come from the Federal Government to restore oysters in five tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. Ultimately, according to Whitcomb, oyster restoration cleans the water and will bring more wildlife back to the Severn River.

**Live-Aboard Boat Enforcement**

On hold until November 2016.

**Annapolis Yacht Club Green Site**

Birney says that the Compromise Street rebuild was discussed. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) wants to raise the building 18 inches, which isn't within the City of Annapolis guidelines. The structures need to be rebuilt to meet both FEMA and the City of Annapolis requirements. In the short term, rebuilding in a smaller time frame is important, but thinking about the site in the long term after rebuilding is also important. Phillips noted there was a significant effort made on the Eastport side of the property to become a more ecologically friendly site.

**Naval Academy / Greenbury Point**

Phillips is setting up a meeting with Spencer and the United States Naval Academy (USNA).

**Future Presentations**

- Spencer asked Amy Clements from the Spa Creek Conservancy (SCC) to present in November 2016
- Spencer will ask Isabel Junkin Hardesty from the Chester River Association (CRA) to present at a future SRC meeting
- Phillips will ask Dr. Petruncio to present in December 2016

**Water Access**

Whitcomb says that there is an opening launch at Discovery Village on Friday, October 7, 2016. At Whitcomb's request, Philips provided an update on the David Taylor property. Philips said there is still one division that is waiting for a new facility to be completed before they can move their office.

**Permit Notifications**

Burdick said there is one permit in Anne Arundel County on Turkey Point, and a permit for the Army Corps of Engineers to create a living shoreline in the South River. Spencer said there is a state general permit which allows the state to allocate water and shoreline projects.

**Bay Management Strategies**

There was nothing new to report. Chair Kreter requested that the item be removed from the agenda.

**Website**

There was nothing new to report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**PUBLIC INPUT/NEW ITEMS**

There was no public input.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 3, 2016 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