

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
November 3 2016 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

		Attendance
		Record
Members Present:	Charlie Kreter, Chair	8/11
	Jim Burdick	8/11
	Bill Kardash	9/11
	Kurt Riegel	8/11
	Dick Spencer	9/11
	Bob Whitcomb	8/11
Guests and Staff:	Amy Clements, Spa Creek Conserancy	
	Kevin Harris, Capital Stand Up Paddleboarding	
	Meghan Spencer, AACo. DPW/WPRP	
Members Absent:	Sara Phillips, Vice Chair	8/11
	Lex Birney	8/11
	Daniel Roche	8/11

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kreter called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:13 p.m. in the Severn Room, 4th Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present.

GUEST SPEAKER

Amy Clements of the Spa Creek Conservancy (SCC) presented to the commission on the status of the SCC grants and projects. There is a grant of 2.8 million dollars for a project at the headwaters of Spa Creek. The SCC is waiting for approval from the Board of Education and permits from the City of Annapolis. In the Southwoods Community, there is a grant of \$200,000 for bioretention, rain gardens, and pervious parking pads. Clements noted that they are hoping to start the projects in late winter/early spring of 2017, and expect project completion to be within a few months of the start dates.

Clements noted there is a meeting regarding the Chesapeake Children’s Museum on November 14, 2016. Volunteers have already removed invasive plants and trash, and the SCC will be planting trees & shrubs on the property.

Clements also mentioned the Annapolis Stormwater Network (ASN), consisting of the SCC, the Back Creek Conservancy (BCC), and the Severn River Association (SRA). The goal of the ASN is to

find better ways to work on projects with the City of Annapolis.

There is a focus of baseline measurements and follow up measurements after the projects are complete. Clements estimates the cost of testing at \$200/week to cover testing on all project sites.

Clements then answered questions from the SRC in response to her presentation.

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

MINUTES

The Minutes for the October 5, 2016, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 5, 2016 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY BURDICK AND SECONDED BY WHITCOMB. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Arlene Berlin from the County Executive's Office notified Chair Kreter that a county employee could not be the sole person to take the Maryland Open Meeting Act Training. Kreter noted that Vice Chair Phillips will take the training course on behalf of the SRC.

OLD BUSINESS

Permit Notifications

Burdick said the Army Corps of Engineers had 3 permit notifications in October 2016 and 2 in November 2016. Burdick noted that the appeals and applications submitted are usually for hearings on projects that have already begun.

Water Access

Kreter has a meeting with County Executive Schuh on Friday, November 4, 2016, and plans to discuss public water access on the David Taylor Property.

Spencer mentioned a restoration project on Brewer Pond that is sponsored by Anne Arundel County Parks & Recreation. Spencer asked if the property was suitable for limited public water access of kayaks and other small crafts.

Future Presentations

- Spencer will ask Isabel Junkin Hardesty from the Chester River Association (CRA) to present in December 2016
- Phillips will invite Dr. Petruncio from the United States Naval Academy (USNA) to present in December 2016
- Sheri Lott will present in January 2017
- Spencer would like a presentation from a member of the Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP) about the restoration process
- Kreter would like to invite Donna Morrow from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to present at a future meeting

Annapolis / Annapolis Marine Water Quality (NDZ)

Kreter said that Chester River has submitted the No Discharge Zone (NDZ) application, and is waiting for approval from both DNR and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Kreter noted that the main issue is lack of enforcement, and any resistance comes primarily from the commercial sector. Kreter has requested support of the NDZ from the SCC and the Stand Up Paddleboard Industry Association (SUPIA).

Kreter feels that it's beyond SRC's ability to go to the state, and will continue working with Anne Arundel County on the NDZ. Spencer will try and get the State Water Quality Advisory Committee (SWQAC) to address the NDZ. According to Kreter, the City of Annapolis Aldermen want Mayor Pantelides to take the lead on the NDZ in the City of Annapolis, but if County Executive Schuh agrees to the NDZ, it's likely that Mayor Pantelides will follow.

Riegel said that the County Marine Industry Advisory Board (MIAB) is making a recommendation, and that the SRC should consider endorsing the MIAB recommendation if it's consistent with the SRC's recommendation. Kreter wants to wait for MIAB to officially release their NDZ letter before acting.

Kreter will follow up with the SRC after his meeting with County Executive Schuh on November 4, 2016.

Naval Academy / Greenbury Point

On hold until after Spencer's meeting with the USNA.

Annapolis Yacht Club Green Site

There was a brief discussion of the Annapolis Yacht Club (AYC) renovations during Clements' presentation. The SCC has expressed issues with the current state of the project, including the partial use of other materials instead of pervious parking surfaces. The AYC is currently looking into grants and other sources of funding for the renovation projects, and is receptive to using more pervious surfaces for parking areas.

Live-Aboard Boat Enforcement

Kreter requested to remove the item from the agenda.

Oyster Restoration Activities

Whitcomb noted that the local watermen are continuing to lobby for access to oyster sanctuaries. Whitcomb drafted a letter to show SRC support of adding the Severn River to the list for restoration.

Whitcomb said there was a presentation by the Virginia Oyster Restoration Program Manager. Virginia attempts to rotate the oyster harvesting to different locations, but the public oyster bars continue to be wiped out by the local watermen, and the State of Virginia is looking for an alternative solution.

Maryland has a limit of 1100 oyster harvesting licenses. The Eastern Shore has barred oyster harvesting in Heron Bay, the Tredavon River and the Little Choptank River.

DNR reported back on all possible oyster sanctuaries in Maryland for restoration, identifying 8 candidates, including the Magothy River, the Severn River and the St. Mary's River. DNR will spend the month of November 2016 analyzing the 8 options for restoration, and will present a scientific view of which tributaries should be considered.

Whitcomb drafted a letter to show SRC support of adding the Severn River to the restoration list. Whitcomb also expects a letter of support from Dr. Andrew Muller early next week.

There is a meeting on Friday, November 04, 2016 to discuss the matter with DNR. Whitcomb will discuss bring other parties into the process, not just those on the committee, as well as suggesting listening to the local oyster growers.

Whitcomb thinks the SRC needs to show reasons why the Severn River needs to be picked as one of the next two tributaries for restoration in a support letter to DNR.

Spencer wants to stick to the plan introduced by the Army Corps of Engineers rather than focusing on the area between the Severn River Bridges.

Kreter asked for a vote on the support letter to DNR.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SUPPORT LETTER TO DNR, WAS MADE BY BURDICK AND SECONDED BY SPENCER. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE LETTER WAS APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

Website

There was nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC INPUT/NEW ITEMS

There was no public input.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 2016 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