

**SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**December 1 2016 – 4:00 P.M.**  
**Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor**

		<b>Attendance</b>
		<b>Record</b>
<b>Members Present:</b>	Charlie Kreter, Chair	9/12
	Sara Phillips, Vice Chair	9/12
	Lex Birney	9/12
	Jim Burdick	9/12
	Bill Kardash	10/12
	Kurt Riegel	9/12
	Dick Spencer	10/12
	Bob Whitcomb	9/12
<b>Guests and Staff:</b>	CAPT Emil Petruncio, USNA	
	Meghan Spencer, AACo. DPW/WPRP	
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Daniel Roche	8/12

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kreter called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:04 p.m. in the Severn Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

CAPT Emil Petruncio of the United States Naval Academy (USNA) presented to the commission on the USNA Sea Level Rise and Extreme Water Level Scenarios. CAPT Petruncio discussed the uncertainties in future sea level rise, plausible sea level rise scenarios through the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and flooding due to storm surge. The main focus was on the USNA and City Dock area of Annapolis. CAPT Petruncio also covered factors affecting global and regional sea level rise, reviewed recent sea level rise studies, discussed various global and USNA sea level rise scenarios, as well as extreme water level scenarios.

CAPT Petruncio then answered questions from the SRC and meeting attendees in response to the presentation. The presentation is available at the SRC office.

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

**MINUTES**

The Minutes for the November 3, 2016, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 3, 2016 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY WHITCOMB AND SECONDED BY PHILLIPS. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE**

(1) There was no new correspondence.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Oyster Restoration Activities**

Kreter met with County Executive Schuh, who expressed interest in pushing the Severn River to be part of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) oyster restoration project.

Whitcomb attended a meeting at DNR with various oyster restoration groups. DNR encouraged the groups to submit applications for sanctuary status. Whitcomb followed up with Don Carren of the Whitehall Bay Conservancy (WBC). WBC have applied for sanctuary status in Whitehall Bay. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) and the Midshore Riverkeepers are pushing DNR to upgrade the percentage of oyster sanctuaries to 30%.

The meeting at DNR on November 14, 2016 was for proposal presentations to the Oyster Advisory Commission. Whitcomb said there is another meeting in December 2016 where there will be a forum for discussion and the SRC letter can be discussed. Whitcomb will send a copy of the letter to all SRC members. Whitcomb met with Delegate Rey, a member of the Oyster Advisory Commission (OAC), on November 22, 2016 to discuss the rivers in Anne Arundel County.

Whitcomb wrote a letter to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) about the status of testing on rivers in Anne Arundel County. He hasn't received a response, and will follow up with MDE. Whitcomb suggested removing the Severn River from the MDE watch list, but doesn't know if it will happen before the next OAC meeting. Spencer wants to keep the Severn River on the MDE watch list as a sanctuary. According to Spencer, the Severn River was placed on the MDE watch list five (5) years ago due to pollution. Spencer doesn't think the pollution status is an issue as long as the Severn River remains a protected sanctuary. Whitcomb disagrees, because MDE is looking at managing risk with the watch list. Based on Whitcomb's conversation with Del. Rey, the OAC prefers to choose rivers without pollution issues as potential sanctuaries for oyster restoration.

**Annapolis Yacht Club**

Kardash says there was a town meeting two weeks ago, and that permits aren't expected to be issued until March or April 2017. The first construction project is the Sailing Center on the Eastport side.

**Naval Academy**

Kreter is in discussions with County Executive Schuh. Some progress has been made on the David Taylor property, and they are ready to vacate the space. Kreter said that County Executive Schuh feels there's an opportunity for open water access on the property.

**No Discharge Zone**

Kreter noted that the No Discharge Zone (NDZ) is a more problematic issue with County Executive Schuh. The Anne Arundel County Maritime Industry Association Board (MIAB) has come out in support of an NDZ for Anne Arundel County waterways with the provision that there is a response on impact to local businesses. County Executive Schuh suggested that a meeting be held between the SRC, the MIAB and the City of Annapolis Marine Advisory Board (MAB) with County Executive Schuh and Mayor Pantelides. Kreter will follow up with the meeting date and time.

Spencer had an email exchange with Donna Morrow (DNR). Spencer said that Morrow explained the state won't entertain a Chesapeake Bay-wide NDZ. Spencer suggested a special meeting with Isabelle Junkin Hardesty, possibly on December 12, 2016.

Riegel says that though it's been alleged that exemptions to an NDZ aren't possible, they are legally able to be granted, and the SRC needs to figure out what exemptions are possible.

Burdick asked about the goal of meeting with the MAB, MIAB, County Executive Schuh, and Mayor Pantelides. Kreter wants to discuss the NDZ with both City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. Spencer wants to compile all info that MDE will need into one document, then circulate and ask for comments. Spencer also suggested holding meetings prior to meetings required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as well as contacting the Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA). Kardash wants to work with the MAB and MIAB on a compromise and write a revised version of the NDZ. Burdick wants the SRC to issue a statement in support of the NDZ.

**MOTION: A MOTION TO CRAFT A STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE NDZ, WAS MADE BY BURDICK AND SECONDED BY SPENCER. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Spencer wants to have the NDZ draft ready before the December 12, 2016 meeting with Isabelle Junkin Hardesty. Birney is meeting with County Executive Schuh on December 13, 2016 and will take the SRC statement to the meeting. Riegel will get a copy of the Annapolis Environmental Commission (AEC) NDZ statement.

**Future Presentations**

- December 12, 2016 – Isabelle Junkin Hardesty (special meeting)
- January – Sheri Lott, Anne Arundel County WPRP
- February – Mary Clemmenssen, Chesapeake Legal Alliance

**Water Access**

On hold until January 2017.

**Permit Notifications**

There was nothing new to report.

**Website**

There was nothing new to report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**PUBLIC INPUT/NEW ITEMS**

There was no public input.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the Chesapeake Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD.

Respectfully submitted,

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