

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2017 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

		Attendance Record
Members Present:	Lex Birney	1/2
	Jim Burdick	2/2
	Bill Kardash	2/2
	Kurt Riegel	2/2
	Daniel Roche	1/2
	Dick Spencer	2/2
Guests and Staff:	Meghan Spencer, ACo. DPW/WPRP	
Members Absent:	Charlie Kreter, Chair	1/2
	Sara Phillips, Vice Chair	0/2
	Claudia Donegan, MD DNR (Ex Officio)	1/2
	Del. Michael Malone, House of Del. (Ex Officio)	0/1
	Bob Whitcomb	1/2

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Riegel called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Severn Room, 4th Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present.

GUEST SPEAKER

Jackie Guild, Mary Clemmensen and Molly Brown of the Chesapeake Legal Alliance (CLA) presented to the commission about the mission and vision of the CLA while providing details regarding how the CLA operates. The CLA works with individuals, community groups, environmental & conservation organizations, home owners associations, as well as state and local government. The CLA offers legal assistance in litigation, permit review, legal analyses, strategic advice & support, regulations, legislation, advocacy, corporate needs and citizen training & information. Guild reviewed types of issues that the CLA addresses, including the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) portion of the Chesapeake Bay Clean Up, shoreline protection & stream restoration, stormwater, and wildlife/habitat protection.

Following the presentation, Guild and then answered questions from the SRC and meeting attendees. The presentation is available at the SRC office.

PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public input.

MINUTES

The Minutes for the January 12, 2017, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval. Riegel addressed an issue with a portion of the minutes, and requested to hold voting on minutes until the March 2017 meeting.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 12, 2017 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY SPENCER AND SECONDED BY BURDICK. THERE WAS NO VOTE ON THE MOTION, AND THE APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 12, 2017 MINUTES IS ON HOLD UNTIL THE MARCH 2017 MEETING.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Riegel announced Del. Michael Malone's appointment to the SRC by County Executive Schuh.

OLD BUSINESS

Oyster Restoration Activities

On hold until March 2017.

Annapolis Yacht Club

There was nothing new to report.

No Discharge Zone (NDZ)

Riegel said that the Severn River Association (SRA) adopted a resolution in support of resolutions from the SRC and the Annapolis Environmental Commission (AEC), and that the SRA is in favor of advancing the NDZ initiative.

Spencer met with David Barker from the Back Creek Conservancy (BCC). Spencer said he's started building a spreadsheet containing the geography of inlets and pump out locations. Spencer is working with David Barker to get an update on Maryland boat registration information. Spencer suggested that a county-wide organization is needed to interact with the State of Maryland and other organizations for data validation. Suzanne Etgen told Spencer that she would address the issue before the Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) board of directors.

Riegel said that David Barker had spoken about a confederation of watershed organizations working together to find someone to write the NDZ application. Burdick suggested starting with Jackie Guild from the CLA.

Spencer said the focus behind the NDZ has changed since the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wrote the Clean Water Act. According to Spencer, the focus is now on nutrients and other substances not affected by sewage treatment systems.

Future Presentations

- Burdick mentioned the Annapolis Watershed Improvement Plan meeting on January 17, 2017, and wants Maria Broadbent to repeat her presentation to the SRC within the next 3 months
- Spencer has contacted the Chesapeake Conservancy about presenting in March on the new land use map & precision conservation approach
- Roche wants the Severn Riverkeeper Fred Kelly to present about Pines on the Severn
- Spencer wants Underwood & Associates to present about Living Shorelines (ties into Donegan's suggestion about contractors or Kevin Smith from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) presenting on living shorelines)

Water Access

There was nothing new to report.

Permit Notifications

There was nothing new to report.

Website

Burdick said the web site is almost completely up to date.

NEW BUSINESS

Spencer said that Anne Arundel County is lacking a consistent county-wide organization that can work with the County Council and County Executive to represent all watersheds. The SRC is the only group that Spencer knows of with any formal advisory relationship to the County Executive regarding environmental issues. Spencer suggested that the SRC create a county-wide organization that is representative of the entire watershed. Riegel asked if Spencer was suggesting an Anne Arundel County Environmental Commission, and requested that Spencer write a proposal to present to the SRC.

PUBLIC INPUT/NEW ITEMS

There was no public input.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the Severn Room (2nd Floor), 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD.

Respectfully submitted,

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