

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
July 6, 2017 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

	Attendance Record
Members Present:	
Charlie Kreter, Chair	5/7
Claudia Donegan, MD DNR (Ex Officio)	6/7
Bill Kardash	5/7
Del. Michael Malone, House of Del. (Ex Officio)	3/6
Kurt Riegel	7/7
Dick Spencer	7/7
Bob Whitcomb	5/7
Guests and Staff:	
John Page Williams, Chesapeake Bay Foundation	
Peri Matthews, AACo, DPW/WPRP	
Meghan Spencer, AACo. DPW/WPRP	
Members Absent:	
Sara Phillips, Vice Chair	3/7
Lex Birney	3/7
Jim Burdick	5/7
Daniel Roche	3/7

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kreter called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:17 p.m. in the Severn Room, 4th Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present.

GUEST SPEAKER – John Page Williams; Chesapeake Bay Foundation

John Page Williams of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) presented to the commission about the Oyster Restoration in the Chesapeake Bay. Williams briefly discussed the history of oysters and oyster harvesting in the Chesapeake Bay, then discussed the oyster life cycle and the effect of 3D oyster reefs on currents. Williams led a more in-depth discussion on oyster harvesting in the 19th century.

Williams then discussed scientific studies on oyster populations beginning in the 1980s and the effects of oysters on the ecosystem, as well as the use of concrete reef balls to create oyster bars and the effectiveness of 3D oyster reefs on coastal resilience. Maryland adopted a 10-Point Oyster Restoration Plan in 2009, despite some conflicts with local watermen. Williams says that 3D oyster reefs were once common in the Chesapeake Bay, and should be part of oyster restoration activities. According to Williams, 3D concrete reef balls facilitate more oyster

growth and provide a suitable reef habitat for fish. Williams then discussed citizen activities to support oyster restoration efforts, such as voicing support for oyster restoration to local papers and government officials, volunteering at the CBF oyster center, becoming an oyster gardener, and recycling oyster shells.

Following the presentation, Williams answered questions from the SRC. The presentation is available at the SRC office.

PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public input.

MINUTES

The Minutes for the June 1, 2017, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 1, 2017 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY WHITCOMB AND SECONDED BY KARDASH. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) There was no new correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS

Permit Notifications

Kreter said that Burdick received the permit notifications on June 23, 2017. There were no permit notifications of note.

Water Access

Whitcomb said that BayLand Consultants presented a study of 10 proposed sites for public water access throughout Anne Arundel County. The Water Access Commission approved 6 of the presented sites. There were no site recommendations on the Severn River. Whitcomb considers the approved sites a major step forward for public water access in Anne Arundel County, and that County Executive Schuh is pushing public water access forward.

Future Presentations

- Kreter requested a presentation from Erik Michelsen (WPRP) on future capital projects

- Donegan asked Whitcomb to contact Lisa Gutierrez (DNR) to discuss public water access prior to scheduling a future presentation
- Spencer wants to coordinate a presentation from John & Tom Guay (SRA Monitoring Team), Dr. Tammy Domanski (Anne Arundel Community College/Operation Clearwater), Caroline Donovan (University of Maryland), and Lou Etgen (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay) on monitoring issues; Kreter suggested 1 presenter; Spencer will look into it for the August 2017 meeting
- Donegan said that Kevin Smith can present on living shorelines

No Discharge Zone

Riegel said that the Clean Water Coalition is advancing the No Discharge Zone (NDZ), and that a contribution from The Brick Companies has been made to set up the application process. Kreter asked if there was anything from the City of Annapolis mayoral candidates on the NDZ or water quality. Kardash said that nothing has come up yet. Riegel thinks the Mayor, fearing controversy, is unlikely to act for the city on the NDZ prior to the city election.

Spencer said that David Barker of the Back Creek Conservancy (BCC) is meeting with interns and Donna Morrow from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding the NDZ application process. Kardash asked about a time frame for completion. Riegel said there's no finalized completion date yet.

Annapolis Yacht Club

Kardash said the Compromise Street property received permits 2 weeks ago. The contractor has been selected and construction will begin in 30 days. The expected completion date is August/September 2018, with a time frame of less than 12 months from beginning to completion. For the Eastport properties, the grading permit should be issued by the end of July 2017. Drawings have been finalized, and work will begin in October 2017 with an estimated completion time frame of 12 – 15 months. The former Fawcett Boat Supplies building at 110 Compromise Street will have renovations completed by December 2017 or January 2018. The 40% requirement for maritime-related businesses has been filled, but no decision has been made on the restaurant portion of the property.

Oyster Restoration Activities

Whitcomb said the number of cages is increasing, and the order for spat has been placed. Spencer asked if there would be any additional locations outside of the current oyster reef, perhaps further up the river. Whitcomb said the current focus is on the existing reef.

Millersville Post Office

Donegan said the project is fully funded with a DNR grant, but there is a rare plant on the restoration site that needs attention. The Severn River Association (SRA) is working with Underwood & Associates to design a stream restoration site behind Strayer University on the Jabez Run. St. Luke's church is in the process of applying for a permit with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for regenerative stream conveyance. Ben Grumbles from MDE went on a site visit and approved the permits.

Stream Protection Regulations

There was nothing new to report. Kreter requested to remove the item from the agenda.

Bacterial Monitoring

Kardash has been approached by a group interested in funding bacterial monitoring on Spa Creek, and asked for opinions on SRC involvement as well as potential Operation Clearwater involvement. Whitcomb noted that the community is responsible for retaining Operation Clearwater for monitoring on a biweekly or monthly basis, and that Keith from Stand Up Paddleboarding has initiated a sampling program.

Website

There was nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Septic System Task Force – Spencer wants an ex-officio member from the SRC on the committee and asked if there would be a report released.

PUBLIC INPUT/NEW ITEMS

There was no public input.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 3, 2017 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