

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2018 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kreter called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:07 p.m. in the Severn Room, 4th Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present.

GUEST SPEAKER – Dr. Matt Ogburn, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

Dr. Matt Ogburn of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) presented to the commission about the collaboration with the Rhode Riverkeeper to restore water quality in the Rhode River. Dr. Ogburn discussed the background and motivation behind the project in the Rhode River, as well as the project's objectives. Dr. Ogburn then discussed the effects of shellfish sanitation on bacteria, as well as the effects of bacteria on human health and safe water conditions and addressing bacteria sources.

Following the presentation, Dr. Ogburn 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 November 9, 2017, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 9, 2017 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY KARDASH AND SECONDED BY WHITCOMB. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WILL BE REVISED AS APPROVED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) The SRC received an email from a resident regarding the Bayhawks proposal for the Crownsville Hospital Center Property.

OLD BUSINESS

Yellow Perch Habitat Protection

There was nothing new to report.

Permit Notifications

Kreter referred to an email sent by Tom Guay regarding Priest Point, and plans to invite Dan Kane (AACo Inspections & Permits) to the February or March 2018 SRC meeting. Donegan asked about easements on the Severn River, and Whitcomb noted that there were possibly a few easements.

Public Water Access

Whitcomb said that Anne Arundel County is proceeding with the Shadyside project construction, and that Quiet Waters has been proposed as a new public water access facility. There was also a suggestion that Anne Arundel County develop a water sports facility. As there was a public water access study done without any sites on the Severn River, Whitcomb requested to remind County Executive Schuh to not exclude the Severn River from future public water access studies.

Future Presentations

- February 2018: Tom Guay (SRA) (Kreter)
- February/March 2018: Dan Kane (AACo DPW) (Kreter)
- Donegan asked Whitcomb to contact Lisa Gutierrez (DNR) to discuss public water access prior to scheduling a future presentation
- Kreter will request a presentation from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation legal team

No Discharge Zone (NDZ)

Kreter asked David Barker from the Back Creek Conservancy (BCC) about fundraising, and hasn't received a response. Kardash noted that Barker has received contributions.

Riegel has met with the City of Annapolis Mayor Buckley, and he is still supportive of the NDZ. He heard the possibility that Alderman Ross Arnett may oppose the NDZ, Kardash said he hadn't heard about that possibility, though there is still some opposition from Debbie Gosselin (Annapolis Yacht Club). Barker is working to secure guests for the NDZ meeting in February 2018 at the Pip Moyer Recreation Center. As the Marine Trades Association is sponsoring the event, Kardash asked if the SRC would be willing to sponsor the NDZ Meeting as well.

MOTION: A MOTION TO SPONSOR THE NDZ MEETING AS LONG AS THE SRC CHARTER WAS NOT VIOLATED, WAS MADE BY KARDASH AND SECONDED BY DEL. MALONE. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE SRC WILL SPONSOR THE NDZ MEETING.

Annapolis Yacht Club

Kardash hasn't had a chance to speak with Leo Wilson, the architect on the Annapolis Yacht Club (AYC) project, but all three (3) sites are currently under construction, with the goal of being completed as soon as possible.

Oyster Restoration Activities

Whitcomb said the Severn River was not chosen as an oyster sanctuary, and has contacted the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for more information without success. Whitcomb believes the SRC should advise the Severn River Association (SRA) to undertake oyster restoration privately.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

PUBLIC INPUT/NEW ITEMS

Clements Creek/Hockley Branch

There was some concern expressed regarding a project in Clements Creek, especially the possibility of beaver removal. Donegan noted that DNR was funding the project. Whitcomb suggested speaking with Sarah Caldes. Donegan will invite Kevin Smith (DNR) to discuss the project at the February 2018 SRC meeting.

Severn Riverkeeper

Spencer asked for an update on the Severn Riverkeeper, and suggested contacting the organization that hires and licenses the river keepers, as well as speaking with Lynne Rockenbauch for a status update, then form a strategy.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 8, 2018 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