

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2018 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kreter called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:06 p.m. in the Severn Room, 4th Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present.

GUEST SPEAKER – Tom Guay, Severn River Association

Tom Guay of the Severn River Association (SRA) presented to the commission about the SRA and its' goals, the focus on oyster restoration and underwater grass monitoring, fish monitoring surveys, restoration work, and water quality monitoring.

Following the presentation, Guay answered questions from the SRC.

PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS

Kenson submitted a USNA map to the SRC consisting of local and regional approvals, and the map can be public record when it is officially adopted. The USNA is working with conservation groups to identify parcels and submit an application in July 2018.

MINUTES

The Minutes for the January 4, 2017, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 4, 2017 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY WHITCOMB AND SECONDED BY BURDICK. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Letters regarding Clements Creek were sent by residents to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The SRC will continue discussion of Clements Creek in April 2018.
- (2) Proposed bylaw changes will be distributed to the SRC once clarification is received from Lori Blair (AACo Office of Law)

OLD BUSINESS

Yellow Perch Habitat Protection

Spencer stated that Anne Arundel County was sponsoring the Habitat Protection Act and planned to issue a proposal. The proposal has been requested by Jesse Eiliff (South Riverkeeper) and the Chesapeake Legal Alliance (CLA), but no progress has been made. Whitcomb is unsure if the SRC can productively influence habitat protection in this case.

Permit Notifications

Burdick mentioned a permit for a project on Fort Smallwood Road. Spencer asked for the results of the Rugby Hall variance issue. Burdick said he hasn't heard anything but will look into it.

Website

Burdick said that Donegan and Del. Malone were added as members, and Scott Hymes was removed. Burdick requested that the No Discharge Zone (NDZ) letter be posted on the SRC web site. Riegel checked the bylaws and noticed some broken links.

Public Water Access

There was nothing new to report.

Future Presentations

- March 2018: Dan Kane (AACo Inspections & Permits) (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)

Riegel noted that substantial progress on developing an application has been made by the Back Creek Conservancy (BCC) on behalf of the City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. At the request of several Aldermen and Mayor Buckley, a draft resolution was developed regarding the City of Annapolis NDZ application.

Spencer sent an email on February 7, 2018 with observations after the NDZ meeting. Some NDZ meeting attendees were adamant about the negative effect of an NDZ on Type 1 and Type 2 marine sanitation devices (MSD), as well as the cost of modifying boats with existing holding tanks or other NDZ compliant systems. Spencer also raised issues with NDZ education and enforcement.

Riegel noted that enforcement came up frequently, and the value of the NDZ is less in enforcing and more in education & appreciation, and providing convenient ways of being compliant with the NDZ rules, such as free pump outs. Riegel said that most opposition comes from the commercial boating industry, concerned with chasing off large commercial vessels with type 1 MSD, but they are a very small fraction of the boating industry that has issues with compliance.

Annapolis Yacht Club

Annapolis Yacht Club discussion is on hold until March 2018.

Oyster Restoration Activities

Whitcomb is currently planning the next oyster restoration event.

Crownsville Hospital Center

Spencer attended the meeting, and the majority of the discussion was regarding traffic and the impact to the local community, rather than environmental issues. There has been no finalized plan from the Bayhawks, only a projected plan from the Maryland Stadium Authority to analyze the Crownsville Hospital grounds.

Clements Creek/Hockley Branch

Clements Creek/Hockley Branch discussion is on hold until March 2018.

Severn Riverkeeper

Kreter met with Albert Todd, former Executive Director of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (ACB), as well as Severn Riverkeeper Fred Kelly. Kreter noted that Fred Kelly intends to continue as the Severn Riverkeeper.

Riegel expressed concern over the current Severn Riverkeeper license holder fulfilling the terms of the license agreement. Kreter wants to gather more information before the SRC takes any action.

Riegel asked if anyone had spoken with the Waterkeeper Alliance regarding the situation. Whitcomb noted that Lynne Rockenbauch contacted the Waterkeeper Alliance requesting more information about the current Severn Riverkeeper license.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

PUBLIC INPUT/NEW ITEMS

Jabez 3 Update

Spencer attended the Jabez Stakeholders meeting, reporting that there will be four (4) projects involved in restoring the Jabez Run – two (2) projects with the Maryland State Highway Association (SHA), one with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and one with Anne Arundel County. SHA has completed one (1) project, establishing a monitoring baseline for fish and macroinvertebrates, and there may be some work in the future over the next two (2) years. SHA has begun designing 8 BMPs for treating runoff from the interchange. From a construction perspective, all projects are 1.5 years out. Anne Arundel County has completed work on wetland upgrades at the Jabez 3 headwaters in late 2017.

Donegan thinks the SRC should advocate for the 8 BMPs to remain a top priority via a letter to the SHA Secretary.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the Chesapeake Room (2nd Floor), 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD.

Respectfully submitted,

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