

**SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**March 8, 2018 – 4:00 P.M.**  
**Chesapeake Room, 2664 Riva Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

		<b>Attendance Record</b>
<b>Members Present:</b>	Charlie Kreter, Chair	3/3
	Sara Phillips, Vice Chair	2/3
	Lex Birney	1/3
	Jim Burdick	3/3
	Claudia Donegan, MD DNR (Ex Officio)	3/3
	Kurt Riegel	3/3
	Daniel Roche	3/3
	Dick Spencer	3/3
<b>Guests and Staff:</b>	Kevin Smith, Maryland Department of Natural Resources	
	Meghan Spencer, AACo. DPW/WPRP	
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Bill Kardash	1/3
	Del. Michael Malone, House of Del. (Ex Officio)	1/3
	Bob Whitcomb	2/3

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kreter called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:08 p.m. in the Chesapeake Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present.

**GUEST SPEAKER – Kevin Smith, Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

Kevin Smith of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) presented to the commission about the Hockley Branch/Clements Creek stream restoration project. He discussed the sedimentary movement into Hockley Branch through tributary headwaters, as well as the physical and biological conditions within the stream. Smith then discussed the design plans for the upper and lower sections of Hockley Branch.

Following the presentation, Smith 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 February 8, 2018, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 8, 2018 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY ROCHE AND SECONDED BY RIEGEL. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE**

- (1) Kreter sent a letter to DNR Secretary Mark Belton in support of the St. Mary's living shoreline project.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Severn Riverkeeper**

Kreter noted that Lynne Rockenbauch of the Severn River Association (SRA) asked that any correspondence be left in her hands. Fred Kelly is in the last year of his riverkeeper term, and wants to complete projects before letting his license go. Kreter expects more details in the summer.

Riegel said that the SRA has applied for a riverkeeper license. Spencer spoke with Jeff Schomig, and the current riverkeeper has been involved in stream restoration projects, which the SRA does not want to continue. The SRA will continue monitoring as the current riverkeeper does, in addition to running pump outs and other tasks.

**Clements Creek/Hockley Branch**

After the presentation and subsequent discussion, there was nothing new to report.

**Crownsville Hospital Center**

Kreter has nothing new to report. Spencer stated that there is still concern over fairgrounds, as County Executive Schuh has expressed interest in the county taking over the fairgrounds.

**Oyster Restoration Activities**

Spencer said that the SRA and other organizations have formed a partnership group, and have a plan to put 10 billion oysters in the bay (in Maryland and Virginia) outside of the tributaries currently under restoration.

**Annapolis Yacht Club**

Burdick said the project has been temporarily paused on both Eastport sides while an erosion issue is being corrected.

**No Discharge Zone (NDZ)**

Kreter asked if there was any evidence of County Executive Schuh supporting the NDZ.

Riegel said that the Back Creek Conservancy (BCC) has nearly completed the NDZ application that will be submitted on behalf of the City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County designating an NDZ. According to Riegel, the best way to garner support is to have organizations receive, review and endorse the NDZ application before forwarding the application to city and county governments for formal endorsement.

Spencer asked why other organizations were part of the application process. Riegel said that other organizations are involved to show the governments there is broad support for the NDZ. Spencer feels the point of the NDZ application is to have it submitted by the state. Riegel said the application was being submitted by the city and county through the state to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Kreter requested confirmation from David Barker (BCC) of the applicant information.

**Future Presentations**

- April 2018: Sara Caldes (Clements Creek/Hockley Branch & possible Riverkeeper)

MOTION: A MOTION TO DELAY THE APRIL 2018 PRESENTATION TO THE SRC BY SARA CALDES WAS MADE BY SPENCER. THE MOTION WAS NOT SECONDED, AND THE MOTION FAILED.

- 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
- Birney requested an update on the Eisenhower Golf Course, Kreter said that it's outside the Severn River Watershed

**Water Access**

On hold until April 2018.

**Permit Notifications**

Burdick noted a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers for better stormwater management on their

**Wroxeter Estate Variance**

Spencer said the variance hearing scheduled in November 2017 has been postponed indefinitely. There is a public meeting the following week at the Severna Park Library. Spencer noted one of the issues with the variance application is the lack of public meeting on the project, and expressed concern regarding the building of homes on waterfront property that is not allowed under the Critical Area Law. Spencer requested a presentation from those in opposition of the project in April 2017 instead of a presentation on Clements Creek. Kreter requested to have a presentation on the Wroxeter Estate Variance in May 2017.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**NEW ITEMS**

**Bylaws Review**

Spencer has an issue that the Mayor of the City of Annapolis can appoint two (2) non-voting members to the SRC, and suggested an increase in the number of ex-officio members from 3-4 to 6-7. Kreter will ask the Anne Arundel County Office of Law to review the revised bylaws.

**Election of Vice-Chair**

MOTION: A MOTION TO NOMINATE PHILLIPS AS THE SRC VICE CHAIR WAS MADE BY KRETER AND SECONDED BY RIEGEL. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND PHILLIPS WAS ACCEPTED AS SRC VICE CHAIR.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the Severn Room (4<sup>th</sup> Floor), 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD.

Respectfully submitted,

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