

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2018 – 4:00 P.M.
Chesapeake Room, 2664 Riva Road, 2nd Floor

		Attendance Record
Members Present:	Charlie Kreter, Chair	5/5
	Lex Birney	2/5
	Claudia Donegan, MD DNR (Ex Officio)	4/5
	Bill Kardash	3/5
	Del. Michael Malone, House of Del. (Ex Officio)	2/5
	Kurt Riegel	5/5
	Daniel Roche	5/5
	Dick Spencer	5/5
	Bob Whitcomb	4/5
Guests and Staff:	Meghan Spencer, ACo. DPW/WPRP	
Members Absent:	Jim Burdick	4/5
	Sara Phillips, Vice Chair	3/5

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, 2nd Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public input.

MINUTES

The Minutes for the April 5, 2018, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 5, 2018 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY WHITCOMB AND SECONDED BY ROCHE. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

There was no new correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws Review

Kreter submitted the bylaws with amendments from Whitcomb and Spencer. Whitcomb noted there was a reference to the Greenway Strategy for Weems Creek that has no current relevance. Kreter asked if that was part of the initial legislation to establish the SRC, and will look into it.

Whitcomb said the Weems Creek Conservancy (WCC) may no longer exist, and suggested a presentation on the status of the organization. Spencer noted that an ex-officio member from the Annapolis City Council can serve on the SRC, and recommended Jackie Guild. Riegel said that City of Annapolis staff is excluded from participating in commissions, and suggested recommending former City of Annapolis staff members. Whitcomb suggested Diane Butler. Kreter will ask for recommendations.

No Discharge Zone (NDZ)

Kreter said David Barker from the Back Creek Conservancy (BCC) will present to the Severn River Association (SRA) in May 2018. Kreter mentioned that County Executive Schuh will be working with the City of Annapolis to submit the application to the State of Maryland. Application completion is expected by the end of June 2018.

Oyster Restoration Activities

Whitcomb said the initiative is to coordinate planting parties to concentrate all efforts on one reef. Spat planted in the Severn River has significantly increased.

Spencer noted some issues among the watermen if anything other than oyster shell is used as a spat base. Spencer asked if any studies had been done on the possible benefits of ceramic materials as a spat substrate. Whitcomb hasn't heard anything about a study being done. Spencer said that low temperature ceramics survive in the water, and would be interested in using ceramics that resemble oyster shells in a study.

Whitcomb suggested finding a scientist to conduct the experiment, and hopes that other scientists are thinking of new ideas to reduce the cost of oyster restoration.

Annapolis Yacht Club

Kardash spoke with Leo Wilson. The clubhouse on Compromise Street should be completed by the first week of July 2018 for phased in use, and the project is running ahead of schedule. The Eastport Sailing Center and Family Activity Center will be open before the end of 2018, with a goal of opening in late fall 2018. There are some stormwater management issues, but all three properties should be open and functioning by the end of 2018. The Certificate of Occupancy for

the Compromise Street site will be issued by the end of July 2018. The boat show will move in during July, but the restaurant is still unconfirmed due to the retail store backing out last summer. Regarding the issues with flooding and high tides, the Fawcett property has a flow through foundation, and there are only minor issues in the parking lot.

Future Presentations

- Kreter will request a presentation from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation legal team
- Whitcomb requested a presentation on Weems Creek
- Kreter, Spencer and Whitcomb requested a presentation from the Septic Task Force
- Spencer requested a presentation from Betsy Love on the St. Luke's project

Water Access

Donegan said an application for a St. Mary's living shoreline was submitted and reviewed. Whitcomb said the last Public Water Access meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Permit Notifications

On hold until June 2018.

Wroxeter Estate Variance

Spencer attended the last meeting, and the design has changed significantly. There is only one variance. Four residences will replace current building locations, and the last residence will replace a building to the left of the bike trail. There are no current plans for property uphill of the new residences, as well as no critical area development. However, there may be movement on part of the homeowners to add piers to Asquith Creek. Spencer hasn't heard any confirmation of any critical area development.

NEW BUSINESS

Spencer wants the commission to work on innovative approaches for dealing with nutrient runoff, and is aware of a county project using existing sewer lines. Spencer mentioned other environmentally friendly and less expensive approaches, as well as using county systems to identify all outfalls into the Severn River from communities on septic systems. Spencer feels the county should treat any water coming from septic systems before discharging into the Severn River. Spencer wants the commission to investigate the septic issue.

Riegel asked about the possibility of using private property for public water access in exchange for property tax exemptions. Whitcomb said that at least 2 boat ramps are needed on public water access sites, and requested an update on the David Taylor property. Kreter said he hasn't received any updated information.

NEW ITEMS

There are no new items.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 7, 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