

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2018 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

		Attendance Record
Members Present:	Sara Phillips, Acting Chair	6/9
	Jim Burdick	7/9
	Claudia Donegan, MD DNR (Ex Officio)	6/9
	Kurt Riegel	8/9
	Dick Spencer	9/9
	Bob Whitcomb	7/9
Guests and Staff:	Meghan Spencer, AACo. DPW/WPRP	
	Zoe Johnson, Naval Support Activity Annapolis	
Members Absent:	Charlie Kreter, Chair	8/9
	Lex Birney	4/9
	Bill Kardash, Acting Vice Chair	5/9
	Del. Michael Malone, House of Del. (Ex Officio)	3/9
	Daniel Roche	7/9

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Phillips 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.

VIDEO PRESENTATION – “The Septic Detective” by Michael Gonsior (UMD Chesapeake Environmental Service Lab)

Michael Gonsior presented to the Severn River Association. The SRC watched a video recording of the presentation. Gonsior’s presentation covered how septic systems work, protecting and inspecting septic systems, best available technology (BAT) systems, and biological nitrogen removal.

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

PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS

Identifying the source of problems in nitrogen removal/septic systems is critical.

MINUTES

The Minutes for the August 2, 2018, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 2, 2018 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY BURDICK AND SECONDED BY WHITCOMB. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

Phillips drafted two letters in support of the Kyle Road Living Shoreline and the Conowingo Dam Debris Sediment/Washout, and will take comments via email.

OLD BUSINESS

Bulkhead Replacement

Donegan discussed living rip rap projects that have been proposed, consisting of rip rap and plants and constructing living shorelines.

Kyle Road Living Shoreline Project

There was nothing new to report.

Naval Academy Wastewater Treatment Plant

Phillips said that Naval Academy Utilities Director Rodney Miller will speak at the October 2018 SRC meeting.

No Discharge Zone

There was nothing new to report.

Oyster Restoration Activities

Whitcomb said that spat distribution began earlier in the day, and there is enough for 1,860 cages. Sherwood Forest declined to participate while their dock is being rebuilt, but there are new volunteers that resulted in a successful planting. The final count is 48.2 million oysters on 3 different reefs between the bridges. The Oyster Recovery Partnership and Severn River Association are continuing fundraising efforts.

Spencer asked if the state would continue to participate. Whitcomb assumed it was a one time offer. The only future oyster restoration activity for the Severn River is an oyster restoration

management plan. Whitcomb said both he and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) have pressed the state for plans.

Annapolis Yacht Club

Phillips said that the main building construction is complete, but requested to keep the item on the agenda to discuss sediment issues on the Eastport property.

Future Presentations

- Whitcomb requested a presentation on Weems Creek
- Spencer requested a presentation on the St. Mary's living shoreline, Phillips will reach out
- October 2018: Rodney Milley, Naval Academy Wastewater Treatment Plant
- January 2019: Jon Mueller, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Water Access

Whitcomb said the second county owned boat ramp opened at Discovery Village the previous week.

Permit Notifications

There was nothing new to report.

Weems Creek

Whitcomb suggests removing the Weeks Creek portion from the bylaws, as the issues have all been addressed by the County Management Plan. Spencer has the old comments on Weems Creek from the former SRC members, and will review them in case there is anything the SRC may want to address.

Phillips suggested making a note in the biannual report to give leeway to remove Weems Creek from the bylaws in 2019. Kreter is still working with the county law office on the greenway issue. Spencer feels Weems Creek should be removed from the bylaws. Whitcomb suggested keeping current Weems Creek issues on the agenda. Phillips suggested removing Weems Creek from the bylaws following the annual report.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW ITEMS

Greenbury Point

Phillips asked the Naval Academy Environmental Director for an update that will be included in the October 2018 presentation. Spencer hasn't received any information from the Navy Yard in 3 weeks, but knows of the grant request in April 2018. Phillips said the environmental assessment is complete, and there is a request for proposals that will lead to a contract being awarded for the project.

SHA/Jabez Run

Whitcomb requested to remove the item from the agenda, as he only gave a brief update of the project. Burdick noted that construction has begun.

Shiple's Dam Removal

Spencer received a notice from Larry Mathena regarding a public meeting. Spencer said there are existing issues stemming from previous reconstruction downstream of the existing dam. There are two phases of the project, beginning with West Benfield Road, resulting in closure for a significant period of time. Clearance work and utility cable realignment to permit the culvert work on West Benfield Road are complete. There is a project on Bear Branch that feeds into the same general area. Additional work involves generally cleaning up the area that flows into the Severn River headwaters.

Naval Academy Environmental Assessment

Phillips said that a contract will be awarded soon.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 4, 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