

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2018 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

		Attendance Record
Members Present:	Sara Phillips, Acting Chair	8/11
	Bill Kardash, Acting Vice Chair	7/11
	Lex Birney	5/11
	Jim Burdick	8/11
	Claudia Donegan, MD DNR (Ex Officio)	7/11
	Daniel Roche	9/11
	Dick Spencer	11/11
Guests and Staff:	Meghan Spencer, AACo. DPW/WPRP	
	Zoe Johnson, Naval Support Activity Annapolis	
	Rob Savidge, City of Annapolis City Council	
Members Absent:	Charlie Kreter, Chair	8/11
	Del. Michael Malone, House of Del. (Ex Officio)	4/11
	Kurt Riegel	8/11
	Bob Whitcomb	8/11

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Phillips called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:04 p.m. in the Severn Room, 4th Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present.

GUEST SPEAKER – Rob Savidge, City of Annapolis City Council

Rob Savidge presented to the commission about environmental initiatives proposed by the City Council. He discussed opposition to offshore drilling, coordinating the City of Annapolis departments concerned with environmental restoration and policy, affirming properties of the Stormwater Restoration Fund, as well as removing styrofoam from restaurants and grocery stores. He also discussed the No Discharge Zone (NDZ), which has been unanimously supported by the City Council.

In addition to the aforementioned successful initiatives, the Annapolis City Council has proposed adjustments to the Forest Conservation Act, sediment control laws, and a plastic bag fee or ban. There are also some ongoing projects, such as reconfiguring the storm drain system at the city dock.

Following the presentation, Savidge answered questions from the SRC.

GUEST SPEAKER – Sara Phillips

Phillips contacted the Anne Arundel County Department of Health regarding water quality, spills and emergency closures. She explained the procedures for public notification and how spills of various sizes are addressed.

Spencer doesn't feel the SRC needs to be involved as long as the closure process is adequate. Phillips will follow up with the Department of Health if there are any additional questions.

PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public input.

MINUTES

The Minutes for the October 4, 2018, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 4, 2018 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY SPENCER AND SECONDED BY KARDASH. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

Phillips noted that the City of Annapolis is working reappointments to the SRC for Jim Burdick and Kurt Riegel. Larry Mathena from the Anne Arundel County Watershed Protection and Restoration Program provided the SRC with an update letter on the Shipley's Dam Restoration Project. Spencer provided an additional update letter on the Shipley's Dam Restoration Project.

OLD BUSINESS

Future Projects

Spencer continues support for the nutrient runoff initiative and sea bins for the City of Annapolis. Further discussion of future projects will resume in February 2019.

Millersville Tennis Center

Spencer noted that announcements have run in the Annapolis Capital Gazette regarding events to sponsor the Millersville Tennis Center. Phillips asked if the tennis center would be new construction or use an existing structure. Spencer confirmed the new construction, noting that there would be 8 indoor and outdoor tennis courts, and that the facility is located at the headwaters of the Jabez Run.

South Annapolis Yacht Center

Kardash said that demolition of existing buildings will begin before the end of 2018. There is an issue between Newport Condominiums and the South Annapolis Yacht Center regarding a property line dispute. Spencer asked if the harbor line issue with the City of Annapolis had been resolved. Kardash confirmed that the harbor line issue was resolved, but an issue regarding navigable water remains.

City of Annapolis Stormwater Management

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

Greenbury Point Shoreline Restoration Update

Phillips said the United States Naval Academy (USNA) is currently accepting project bids. Burdick asked if the site was closed to public access. Phillips confirmed that the site is only closed during active shooting drills, and that signs will be posted at the gate, fence line and buoys.

Shipley's Dam Removal

There was nothing new to report.

No Discharge Zone

Burdick said that Debbie Macomber is requesting a phase in time period for the No Discharge Zone (NDZ). Phillips said the City of Annapolis is only involved in the endorsement of the NDZ, but both Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis can decide on enforcement terms after the NDZ is approved. Burdick said the final NDZ application will be written with input from both Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis. Spencer confirmed that the application will be compiled by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), then submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Kardash noted that the state doesn't want to push the NDZ forward without public hearings. Burdick will follow up with Riegel, and Phillips will follow up with David Barker.

Oyster Restoration Activities

On hold until December 2018.

Annapolis Yacht Club

Kardash said the Family Activity Center will be available for use by January 2019. The Sailing Center is complete, but the yacht club is waiting on permits. Phillips asked about stormwater mitigation at the Family Activity Center. Kardash will follow up with Leo Wilson.

Future Presentations

- Whitcomb requested a presentation on Weems Creek
- Spencer requested a presentation on the St. Mary's living shoreline, Phillips will reach out
- Roche requested a presentation from Dr. Muller on the status of the Severn River
- December 2018: Larry Mathena, Anne Arundel County Watershed Protection & Restoration Program, Shipley's Dam Removal
- January 2019: Jon Mueller, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Water Access

On hold until December 2018.

Permit Notifications

Burdick said the Army Corps of Engineers received a permit application to dredge a portion of Spa Creek. The comment period ends at the end of November 2018. According to Burdick, some attachments are missing from the Army Corps of Engineers web site and he will look into it. Phillips asked if there was any environmental concern with the dredging. Burdick confirmed there was only public concern regarding the dredging permit.

Nutrient Runoff Initiative

There was nothing new to report.

Weems Creek

Burdick said that the remittance at the source end of Weems Creek has been completed, and the amount of siltation has been halted or mitigated. Several properties have lost public water access. Burdick will look into it.

Bulkhead Replacement

The Severn River Association (SRA) received funding for a Living Shoreline Homeowners Kit to advise residents about living shorelines. The Clauson living shoreline project is temporarily on hold due to permitting issues with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and are considering a bulkhead instead of the proposed living shoreline. Phillips asked who to contact at MDE to express support of the living shoreline project. Donegan suggested contacting the homeowners to express support. Spencer suggested sending a letter to MDE Secretary Ben Grumbles in support of the living shoreline instead of bulkhead replacement at the Clauson property. Phillips will draft a support letter.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW ITEMS

Acting Vice Chair Election

MOTION: A MOTION TO NOMINATE KARDASH AS THE ACTING SRC VICE CHAIR WAS MADE BY SPENCER. A MOTION TO NOMINATE RIEGEL AS THE ACTING SRC VICE CHAIR WAS MADE BY BURDICK AND SECONDED BY SPENCER. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND RIEGEL WAS ACCEPTED AS THE ACTING SRC VICE CHAIR.

Green Rip Rap

Spencer was referred to US Fish & Wildlife Services by Lou Etgen. Spencer has determined that alternative solutions, specifically utilizing new technology for erosion control, are being considered.

Severn River Association Meeting

Phillips said that Dr. Andrew Muller will be presenting to the SRA on November 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 6, 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