

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2019 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

		Attendance Record
Members Present:	Sara Phillips, Acting Chair	1/1
	Kurt Riegel, Acting Vice Chair	1/1
	Jim Burdick	1/1
	Del. Michael Malone, House of Del. (Ex Officio)	1/1
	Bill Kardash	1/1
	Daniel Roche	1/1
	Ald. Rob Savidge, City Council (Ex Officio)	1/1
	Dick Spencer	1/1
	Bob Whitcomb	1/1
Guests and Staff:	Jon Mueller, Chesapeake Bay Foundation	
	Meghan Spencer, AACo. DPW/WPRP	
Members Absent:	Charlie Kreter, Chair	0/1
	Lex Birney	0/1
	Claudia Donegan, MD DNR (Ex Officio)	0/1

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Phillips called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:02 p.m. in the Severn Room, 4th Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present.

GUEST SPEAKER – Jon Mueller, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Jon Mueller presented to the commission about the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) Litigation Team. Mueller gave an overview of the CBF Litigation Team's background and mission, working with the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, The Bay Blueprint and the Total Maximum Daily Load for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment (TMDL), followed by the mission to support and defend the Bay through litigation. Mueller gave a brief background of the litigation that led to the current Chesapeake Bay Blueprint. The blueprint consists of TMDLs requiring reductions of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment, and Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs).

Mueller provided some basic information about the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and then discussed dead zones and related side effects, as well as pollution sources to the Bay. He then discussed the Chesapeake Bay Agreements and the Clean Water Act, which lead to the Chesapeake Bay Blueprint. Mueller then discussed cases involving the Chesapeake Bay Watershed appearing before both District and Supreme Courts. Following that, Mueller

discussed Clean Air Act cases that affect the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, such as the Maryland Clean Air Act Section 126 Petition regarding upwind air pollution, and natural gas development via the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Mueller also discussed environmental equity/justice, specifically equal protection from environmental hazards for all individuals and groups. Mueller also addressed development, critical area, the Conowingo Dam, and climate change.

Following the presentation, Mueller 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 December 6, 2018, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 6, 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

Alderman Rob Savidge was appointed as an Ex Officio member from the City of Annapolis.

OLD BUSINESS

State of the Severn

Spencer emailed the slides from Dr. Muller's presentation to the Severn River Association (SRA). To allow for review of the presentation from SRC members, this item is on hold until February 2019.

SRC Appointments

Kardash and Spencer's terms expire at the end of January 2019. Phillips will contact Boards & Commissions staff to discuss reappointment.

Future Projects

In lieu of a guest speaker in February 2019, the SRC will discuss the Commission's future direction. Phillips encouraged the SRC members to review the bylaws and mission statement.

Millersville Tennis Center

Phillips noticed the Millersville Tennis Center on the list of topics for the Infrastructure Transition Team. Spencer has nothing new to report.

South Annapolis Yacht Center

Kardash received photographs of an oil slick on the South Annapolis waterfront, which he forwarded to Amy Clements of the Spa Creek Conservancy (SCC). Clements reached out to Matthew Waters with the City of Annapolis. The leak was a result of leftover barrels containing waste oil from boat winterization, possibly left behind by a contractor. The South Annapolis Yacht Center (SAYC) received a fine from the City of Annapolis and the oil barrels were removed.

Kardash said the marina is now vacant. The lawsuit between Newport Condominiums and the SAYC is pending, with a court date of February 4, 2019 to decide if the case will proceed. Demolition was scheduled to begin January 2019, and is currently on hold due to legal proceedings.

City of Annapolis Stormwater Management

Riegel deferred to Savidge on the matter. Savidge said a resolution has been proposed to the Annapolis City Council instructing staff to apply laws properly, particularly regarding stormwater management. Local jurisdictions can require new development to apply more extensive stormwater management, also offering credits towards city TMDLs for stormwater management over the minimum amount. Until the resolution passes, the City of Annapolis will offer encouragement. The resolution has passed the Environmental Matters Committee, and will go before the City Council in January 2019. Phillips said that the SRC will offer support in the future. Riegel will draft a support letter. Savidge asked for recommendations in other future legislation. Phillips asked for the draft language. Savidge will send the resolution to the SRC members.

Greenbury Point Shoreline Restoration Update

Phillips has no new information. The construction contract is still in procurement, and has yet to be awarded.

Shipley's Dam Removal

Spencer has nothing new to report. Verizon has moved their lines on a temporary basis to begin work on the area in question.

Naval Academy Wastewater Treatment Plant

There was nothing new to report, and the item will be removed from the agenda per Phillips.

No Discharge Zone

Riegel has nothing new to report. The No Discharge Zone (NDZ) application completion is currently on hold while public meetings are held. Savidge said the City of Annapolis allocated funds for NDZ education. Burdick said the NDZ was addressed at the City of Annapolis Environmental Matters Committee (EMC). Phillips is concerned the NDZ Application has been stalled due to lack of endorsement and sponsorship. Spencer clarified that the official application is filed by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and noted the delay is due to required public meetings. Riegel will contact David Barker regarding the application status.

Oyster Restoration Activities

Whitcomb said that DNR is not sponsoring the Severn River for oyster planting in 2019, but the contracts have been approved with the Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP) to continue restoration. A DNR press release said that the ORP restoration will continue on behalf of DNR for various oyster restoration activities in 5 designated tributaries, but the Severn River is not one of them. DNR will also continue oyster restoration projects in other areas, including the Nanticoke and Severn Rivers. Phillips asked if the Severn River wasn't chosen for restoration was related to the State of the Severn report. Whitcomb thinks it's a result of the Fiscal Year 2019 budget, and DNR is restoring sanctuaries that would benefit most.

Annapolis Yacht Club

Kardash has nothing new to report, but will follow up with Leo Wilson regarding stormwater management. The Sailing Center is due to be completed in January 2019, with the Family Center completion date in February 2019. Kardash estimates the Family Center will be complete in March 2019 if the February completion isn't met.

Future Presentations

- Whitcomb requested a presentation on Weems Creek
- Spencer requested a presentation on the St. Mary's living shoreline, Phillips will reach out
- Phillips asked for recommendations of future guest speakers

Water Access

Whitcomb has nothing new to report. Spencer said water access is a topic for the Transition Team.

Permit Notifications

Burdick said the permit for Spa Creek is on the south shore beginning at Spa Road and ending on Acton Drive. The purpose of the work is to open an 800 foot channel for access to 9 docks.

Nutrient Runoff Initiative

Spencer read an article about University of Maryland working with algae growth in high nitrogen conditions and using it as a fuel source.

Weems Creek

Burdick has nothing new to report. Kardash said that Priest's Point has been sold and will be developed at the mouth of Weems Creek on the north side. Kardash will look into new ownership details.

Bulkhead Replacement

This item is on hold until February 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW ITEMS

Transition Team

Birney provided the final infrastructure transition team report. Phillips said there are several good starting points for the February 2019 meeting, but suggested speaking with the environmental transition team about missing topics. Savidge will address environmental issues with the City of Annapolis Environmental Matters Committee (EMC). They are currently focusing on forest conservation, changes in Inspections & Permits, stormwater management, and sediment control. Savidge noted there are also sub-committees to address climate change and water resources.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 7, 2019 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