

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2019 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

| | | Attendance Record |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Members Present: | Sara Phillips, Acting Chair | 2/2 |
| | Kurt Riegel, Acting Vice Chair | 2/2 |
| | Lex Birney | 1/2 |
| | Jim Burdick | 2/2 |
| | Claudia Donegan, MD DNR (Ex Officio) | 1/2 |
| | Daniel Roche | 2/2 |
| | Dick Spencer | 2/2 |
| Guests and Staff: | Zoe Johnson, Naval Support Activity Annapolis | |
| | Meghan Spencer, AACo. DPW/WPRP | |
| Members Absent: | Charlie Kreter, Chair | 0/1 |
| | Del. Michael Malone, House of Del. (Ex Officio) | 1/2 |
| | Bill Kardash | 1/2 |
| | Ald. Rob Savidge, City Council (Ex Officio) | 1/2 |
| | Bob Whitcomb | 1/2 |

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Phillips called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:07 p.m. in the Severn Room, 4th Floor, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public input.

MINUTES

The Minutes for the January 3, 2019, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 3, 2019 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY BURDICK AND SECONDED BY RIEGEL. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

Spencer sent an update on the Shipley's Dam Removal to the SRC. In addition, Spencer contacted the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) about oyster restoration proposals. DNR has approved three (3) contracts and will continue the Maryland Grows Oysters program, oyster sanctuary restoration, and restoring sanctuary rivers that are not part of the five (5) major oyster sanctuary restorations.

FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION

Phillips asked for input from SRC members on the main priorities of the SRC in the future. Spencer requested clarification on where the SRC responsibility lies with local, state and federal governments, as well as partner organizations.

Birney suggested returning to the original SRC mission for reference. Riegel agreed, additionally suggesting a return to advising local, state and federal government organizations. Roche mentioned providing advice, coordinating & promoting active community involvement in the environmental matters of the Severn River Watershed.

Phillips asked if the SRC should continue to be focused on specific projects, be more engaged with legislators, or participate in both activities as well as work with partner organizations, like the Severn River Association.

Donegan requested briefings from elected officials on items relevant to the Severn River.

Phillips proposed reorganizing the agenda, specifically organizing items into relevant groups. Birney suggested adding the mission statement to the agenda, and removing items that don't fit in with the mission statement.

Burdick suggested reorganizing the agenda into six (6) categories: Development & Redevelopment, Shoreline Restoration, Water Access, Air & Water Quality, Data & Infosystems, Forests, Native Vegetation & Wildlife, and Administration.

Roche suggested living shorelines as a main focus for the SRC. Spencer suggested coordinating with partner organizations to ensure that multiple organizations aren't working independently on the same project. Phillips noted that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) recognizes issues with legislative bodies and are currently reviewing priorities, as conflicts can be resolved through the legislative process.

Spencer suggested addressing issues related to the living shoreline permitting process.

OLD BUSINESS

Future Presentations

Spencer requested presentations from the following speakers:

- Erik Michelsen, future Watershed Protection & Restoration Program (WPRP) projects and objectives for 2025 goals
- Susan Shingledecker, Chesapeake Conservancy programs
- Rick Anthony, AA County Rec and Parks projects, Millersville Tennis Center
- Matt Johnston, role as AA County environmental policy specialist

Millersville Tennis Center

Spencer requested that Rick Anthony from AA County Rec and Parks speak to the SRC about the project. Donegan said the Jabez Run permit package has been submitted for approval and may need SRC support in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW ITEMS

BGE Infrastructure Update

Spencer said the update crosses Severn Run and will replace existing fixtures with monopoles to support needs that weren't being met by aging infrastructure. According to Spencer, all work will be done in an already cleared area, but wants to ensure that no dumping or additional deforestation occurs. Phillips will draft a response letter.

Severn River Summit

Riegel met with David Barker of the Back Creek Conservancy (BCC) about interested parties meeting to discuss committee missions and priorities in regards to the Severn River watershed.

Transition Team

Birney said the transition team reports will be issued on February 8, 2019.

Rugby Hall Project

Spencer noted that the plan outline has been modified, and only four (4) residential lots are included in the final plans. There will be a public meeting on February 13, 2019 at the Severna Park Library from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 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