

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

		Attendance Record
Members Present:	Sara Phillips, Acting Chair	4/4
	Kurt Riegel, Acting Vice Chair	3/4
	Lex Birney	3/4
	Jim Burdick	4/4
	Bill Kardash	3/4
	Ald. Rob Savidge, City Council (Ex Officio)	3/4
	Dick Spencer	4/4
	Bob Whitcomb	3/4
Guests and Staff:	Zoe Johnson, NSAA	
	Meghan Spencer, ACo. DPW/WPRP	
Members Absent:	Charlie Kreter, Chair	0/4
	Claudia Donegan, MD DNR (Ex Officio)	2/4
	Del. Michael Malone, House of Del. (Ex Officio)	2/4
	Daniel Roche	2/4

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 – Alderman Rob Savidge

Alderman Rob Savidge presented to the commission about the City of Annapolis Initiative. Savidge discussed the Greenvest contract for maintaining and running the city stormwater program. According to current calculations, Savidge said, there will be significant savings to the city. Savidge then discussed two large projects in the city – Back Creek and Truxton Heights. At Phillips request, Savidge will look into the Truxton Heights concept and will keep the SRC members updated on the projects.

The Annapolis Waterways Cabinet recently held the first meeting. The cabinet is chaired by the Director of the Office of Environmental Policy, and made up of members from the Harbormaster, Rec & Parks, and representatives from local watershed organizations. There will be yearly public meetings. The cabinet addressed permitting concerns, stormwater management code, and sediment control enforcement. Savidge will provide minutes to the SRC when available.

Savidge said the SRC can help with support for critical area updates, suggesting a potential work session with the Annapolis Environmental Matters Committee (EMC) prior to any new legislation. An Eastport Sector Study is currently under review. The EMC will meet on April 17 at 3 pm to discuss specific amendments to the sector study. Savidge confirmed that a task force with representatives from the Eastport Civic Association, Annapolis Ward 7, and other interested parties will be formed. The EMC will also be discussing sediment/erosion code, stormwater management code, and plastic bag approaches.

Following the presentation, Savidge answered questions from the SRC.

PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS

None

MINUTES

The Minutes for the March 7, 2019, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 7, 2019 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY RIEGEL AND SECONDED BY WHITCOMB. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Phillips sent a letter in support of the Oyster Management Plan. No correspondence regarding the Clausen property was sent.

Environmental Protection Agency Public Hearing

Phillips said that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be holding a public hearing on the definition of a waterway in response to a presidential request. Phillips sees no changes, as the definition only affects holding retention ponds as opposed to open waters. Riegel noted that the areas in question are primarily in the Midwest United States. Phillips noted that there is no effect on the Severn River, as no natural open waterways are affected. Spencer noted that if the EPA isn't regulating local waters, that the state can regulate as it sees fit. The Army Corps of Engineers will no longer be involved if the decision to regulate is left to the state. Phillips doesn't see any need for SRC involvement, and recommends against it.

Permit Notifications

Burdick said there are no permit notifications to report.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW ITEMS

Severn River Summit

Riegel suggested that all the commissions convene for a day about priorities, issues and needs for assistance. Spencer asked who would put the structure together. Riegel said he is working on putting the summit together. Spencer asked why Riegel is waiting until September 2019 to hold the summit. Phillips said she is not prepared to attend the summit in May 2019. Whitcomb said the Eastport Yacht Club is holding a similar event in May/June 2019. Phillips asked to see the agenda. Whitcomb will provide it when available.

OLD BUSINESS

Annapolis Yacht Club

Phillips requested that this item be removed from the agenda.

Shipley's Dam Removal

Spencer attended a public meeting the previous week, noting weather-related delays, though they won't affect the dam removal. Phillips asked about stormwater runoff. Spencer noted that the filtering system had been installed on the bypass stream created for the new culvert area, which will be completed by approximately June 2019. There is still a delay waiting for Verizon to relocate utilities. Spencer also noted that design work has begun on Bear Branch.

South Annapolis Yacht Center

Kardash said that the South Annapolis Yacht Center (SAYC) began demolition 3 weeks ago. The pilings will eventually be removed and a new marina will be constructed. The lawsuit regarding right of way is still ongoing. The SAYC will begin work at the western end of the property and work their way down to the area in question.

Water Access

Whitcomb said he joined Mike Lofton in testifying in favor of public water access. Whitcomb suggested removing the item from the agenda due to lack of political progress. Phillips suggested drafting a letter of inquiry regarding water access status to the County Executive. Whitcomb said Rec & Parks are progressing regardless of Water Access Committee status. Phillips wants to keep the item on the agenda for future review, and requested that the SRC members review the transition plan documentation.

No Discharge Zone

Riegel wants to help advance the No Discharge Zone (NDZ) application, Birney agrees. Birney noted that the Brick Companies issued another grant to the Back Creek Conservancy (BCC)/Severn River Association (SRA). Kardash said the application was sent to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) 6-8 months ago. DNR Secretary Mark Belton wants to hold public hearings, but they are currently on hold. Riegel said that David Barker (BCC) is working with Donna Morrow (DNR). Phillips asked for an updated report at the next meeting. Riegel will speak with Barker about how to proceed. Birney and Burdick offered their support to the BCC/SRA as well.

Future Presentations

Whitcomb will present at the May 2019 SRC meeting about oyster restoration. Phillips requested additional speaker suggestions. At Phillips' request, speakers will be limited to a 30 minute presentation with additional time for questions.

Savidge suggested a presentation from Greenvest.

Future Projects

Phillips said that Riegel was working on the Severn River Summit. Phillips also requested that future projects be kept relevant to the mission of the SRC and the SRC charter.

SRC Appointments

Phillips and Riegel are working on appointments. Janice Hayes-Williams will assist with the reappointment process for the County Executive.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 2, 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