

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 1984, Legislative Day No. 39

Resolution No. 130-84

Introduced by Ms. Clagett, Acting Chairman
(by request of the County Executive)

By the County Council, November 19, 1984

A RESOLUTION
Entitled

1 A RESOLUTION concerning: The Severn River Commission

2
3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Severn River Commission.

4
5 WHEREAS, in 1971, the General Assembly of the State of Maryland
6 recognized that the Severn River is notable for fine scenery and its
7 rich historic heritage, for its many ecologically important sites, and
8 for varied recreational opportunities, and consequently designated the
9 Severn River as one of Maryland's "Scenic Rivers"; and

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11 WHEREAS, the policy established for the State's Scenic Rivers is to
12 preserve and protect the natural values for these rivers, enhance the
13 water quality, and fulfill vital conservation purposes by wise use of
14 resources within the surrounding environment; and

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16 WHEREAS, in 1983, the Severn River Advisory Board in conjunction with
17 the Scenic Rivers Staff of the Maryland Department of Natural Re-
18 sources completed a study of the Severn River entitled "Maryland
19 Scenic Rivers: The Severn"; and

20
21 WHEREAS, the study proposes several recommendations as to how the
22 Severn's natural, scenic, and cultural heritage may be protected; and

23
24 WHEREAS, in 1982, a study entitled "A Greenway Strategy for Weems
25 Creek", conducted by the National Park Services in cooperation with
26 the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Weems Creek
27 Conservancy, presents a resource inventory and analysis and sets forth
28 options for alternative management strategies for the conservation of
29 Weems Creek; and

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31 WHEREAS, as in 1978, the Anne Arundel County Council adopted the
32 General Development Plan which established the policy of protecting
33 and enhancing the scenic qualities of the Severn River.

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35 WHEREAS, the City of Annapolis has within its boundaries approximately
36 eighteen miles of waterfront along the Severn River and its tributaries
37 which constitute an environmental resource of inestimable value to
38 County and City residents and visitors to the area; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1984, the General Assembly created the Chesapeake Bay
2 Critical Area Protection Program to protect the natural habitats and
3 water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, which include
4 the Severn River; and
5

6 WHEREAS, Section 8-403(g) of the Natural Resources Article of the
7 Maryland Annotated Code as amended provides that a political subdivision
8 may establish a scenic river advisory board to further the aims of the
9 Scenic and Wild Rivers Act; and
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11 WHEREAS, the formation of an advisory body to provide counsel and
12 advice on the stewardship of the Severn River watershed in accord with
13 the Act, the studies, and the plans, is a goal which is mutually
14 desirable to Anne Arundel County, Maryland and to the City of Annapolis.
15

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COUNCIL that
17 a Severn River Commission be and it is hereby established. For the purposes
18 of defining the jurisdiction of the Commission, the boundaries of the
19 Severn River shall include the entire watershed, in consonance with both
20 the study entitled "Maryland Scenic River: The Severn", and with the
21 boundaries defined in the Anne Arundel County Watershed Management Program
22 as shown on the map attached to this Resolution and made a part hereof.
23

24 AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COUNCIL that the
25 purpose and membership of the Commission shall be as follows:
26

27 A. The Commission shall provide counsel and advice to Anne Arundel
28 County, the City of Annapolis, and the State of Maryland. The duties of
29 the Commission shall be:
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31 1. To adopt policies, procedures and bylaws governing the
32 conduct of business and the mandatory attendance requirement of its member-
33 ship.
34

35 2. To initiate and recommend policies and regulations to enhance
36 and protect the natural, historic and scenic quality of the Severn River
37 watershed.
38

39 3. To review studies, policies, and rules formulated by federal,
40 state and local government agencies that concern the Sever River watershed,
41 and to comment on such proposals as appropriate.
42

43 4. To review and make recommendations concerning the implementa-
44 tion of the studies entitled the "Maryland Scenic River: The Severn" and
45 "A Greenway Strategy for Weems Creek".
46

47 5. To review and make recommendations on federal, state, county
48 and local programs, regulations, and public and private projects, including
49 land use and development proposals, which the Commission believes may have
50 an impact on the Severn River Watershed.
51

52 6. To prepare a written report outlining the activities, goals
53 and accomplishments of the Commission. This report shall be submitted to both

1 the Anne Arundel County Council and the Annapolis City Council in January
2 of 1987 and again in January of 1989.

3
4 B. Membership.

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6 1. The membership of the Commission shall consist of nine voting
7 members and five ex officio, nonvoting members.

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9 2. The County Executive, in consultation with the Mayor of the
10 City of Annapolis, shall appoint a Chair from among the nine voting members.

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12 3. Members shall serve for a term of three years from the date
13 of appointment. The initial term of the voting members shall be as specified
14 in subsection C.

15
16 4. A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

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18 5. Members shall serve without compensation.

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20 6. If a vacancy occurs, the new appointment shall be made in the
21 manner described herein for the position vacated and for the balance of the
22 unexpired term of the preceding member.

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24 C. Voting Members.

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26 1. Subject to the confirmation by the City Council, the Mayor of
27 the City of Annapolis shall appoint two City residents as members. For the
28 initial term, one shall be appointed for one year and one for two years.

29
30 2. The County Executive shall appoint seven members. For the
31 initial term, two shall be appointed for one year, two for two years, and
32 three for three years. Of the seven members, at least five shall be
33 residents of the Severn River Watershed.

34
35 D. Ex Officio, Nonvoting Members.

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37 1. The County Executive, in consultation with the Chair of the
38 County Council, shall appoint a County Councilman to serve "ex officio".

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40 2. The Mayor of the City of Annapolis shall appoint a member of
41 the Annapolis City Council to serve "ex officio".

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43 3. In consultation with the Mayor of the City of Annapolis, the
44 County Executive shall invite a member of the Maryland State Senate and a
45 member of the House of Delegates, each representative of the Severn River
46 Watershed, to serve "ex officio".

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48 4. The County Executive shall invite the Secretary of the
49 Department of Natural Resources to appoint a representative to serve "ex
50 officio".

1 E. Subject to the appropriation of funds, the County and the City
2 shall provide professional and technical staff assistance to the Commission
3 in performance of its duties.
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COUNCIL that this
6 Resolution shall become effective from and after the date upon which a
7 substantially similar and essentially compatible resolution is adopted by
8 the Annapolis City Council, and thereafter shall remain in effect so long
9 as the City's similar and compatible resolution shall remain in effect but,
10 in any event, shall stand repealed on December 31, 1989, unless re-adopted
11 by the County Council.

Severn River Watershed

