

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2024 – 4:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting

		Attendance Record
Members Present:	Jim Burdick, Chair	4/4
	Kurt Riegel, Vice Chair	3/4
	Claudia Donegan, MD DNR (Ex Officio)	2/4
	Lee Meadows	4/4
	William Ozkaptan	4/4
	Lynne Rockenbauch	4/4
	Lisa Rodvien, County Council (Ex Officio)	4/4
	Ald. Rob Savidge, City Council (Ex Officio)	4/4
Guests and Staff:	Meghan Spencer, AACo. DPW/BWPR	
	Jesse Iliff, Severn River Association	
	Grace Weeks, Severn River Association	

Members Absent:

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Burdick called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS

Public Input

There was no public input.

MINUTES

The Minutes for the January 4, 2024, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 4, 2024 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY MEADOWS AND SECONDED BY OZKAPTAN. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

Announcements

Burdick received a comment request from Army Corps of Engineers regarding the replacement of faulty sewage pipes in Back Creek.

Ozkaptan drafted a letter on behalf of the SRC to Capt. Christopher Schwarz, Commanding Officer, Naval Support Activity Annapolis, and NAVFAC Washington, requesting an update on the current status of the proposed Recreational Vehicle Park on Greenbury Point. The letter was sent by email on March 15, 2024.

Correspondence

There was no new correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS

Beaver Dam Webcam Footage & Discussion

There was some discussion regarding trapping and disposal (rather than relocation) of beavers on private property. Currently there's a beaver dam behind Annapolis Middle School near the wellness center. There were some questions regarding funding from the City of Annapolis for a pond leveler.

Film Festival

There was a feature film at the Annapolis Film Festival about Amsterdam and the shift over time from cycling to gas and back.

OLD BUSINESS

Future Presentations

- Chris Eberly, Ornithologist
- BWPR Watershed Assessment Group
- Matt Johnston
- AACo. DPW, Annapolis sewage treatment plant upgrades
- AACo. Fire Chief (PFAS)
- Matt Fleming, City of Annapolis Waterfront
- Underwood & Associates, Jabez 3
- Jesse Iliff, Severn River Action Plan

Future Projects

Greenbury Point Conservation Area
Provinces Park Swim Center
Beaver Relocation
Holly Beach Farm

SRC Appointments

Burdick noted there are two pending SRC appointments.

City Comprehensive Plan

Savidge noted they are waiting on federal money for approval, and that the historic board has approved of the project. Ideally, construction would begin in the fall of 2024. There has been an issue discussed with trees and the boat show, as trees would block the view to the water and hold the potential to complicate events. A continuous barrier has been proposed to prevent flooding around the City Dock, as well as plans to plant trees in the future. The trees per year goal has yet to be finalized. Other goals are to increase the stormwater fee for larger properties to fund forestry programs, as well as coordinating forest management and invasive removal with the school board. Other goals are for resilience, tree canopy expansion, shoreline erosion, food access, biodiversity, and environmental enhancement opportunities. The plan has been given to the City Council for review.

Greenbury Point Conservation Area

Ozkaptan noted that the Navy are still pushing for the golf course, and are attempting to unravel the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by working with lobbyists. Moving forward, Friends of Greenbury Point will be established as a 501C. Mill Creek residents should also be included in discussions in the future.

Jabez Restoration

Burdick suggested working with the Annapolis Capital Gazette on a field visit and potential story, as the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is providing a \$1,000,000 grant for the Jabez Restoration.

Water Access

The legislation regarding public water access would limit usage hours from 7 AM – 10 PM, in response to resident concerns about noise, drinking and traffic. This cuts off live aboard boats on Weems Creek that are within their rights to be there. There are already ordinances in place regarding alcohol in public parks and noise violations, as well as limit load transport of motorized vehicle between dawn and dusk.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Meghan Spencer
AACounty DPW,
Bureau of Watershed Protection & Restoration