

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2025 – 4:00 P.M.
Finance Room, 2662 Riva Road, 4th Floor

		Attendance Record
Members Present:	Kurt Riegel, Chair	5/6
	William Ozkaptan, Vice Chair	4/6
	Jim Burdick	3/6
	Lee Meadows	6/6
	Lynne Rockenbauch	6/6
	Lisa Rodvien, County Council (Ex Officio)	6/6
	John Zarkowsky	5/6
Guests and Staff:	Meghan Spencer, AACo. DPW/BWPR	
Members Absent:	Claudia Donegan, MD DNR (Ex Officio)	3/6
	Matt Liptak	2/6
	Ald. Rob Savidge, City Council (Ex Officio)	3/6

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Riegel called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS

Public Input

There was no public input.

MINUTES

The Minutes for the May 1, 2025, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 1, 2025 MINUTES, WAS MADE BY ROCKENBAUCH AND SECONDED BY MEADOWS. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

Announcements

There were no new announcements.

Correspondence

There was no new correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OLD BUSINESS

SRC Membership

Burdick will follow up on Bob Vom Saal's membership status, as it was under review in December 2024.

Anne Arundel County Update

Rodvien noted the vote on the final version of the FY26 budget took place on June 13, 2025. The budget includes a handful of environmental efforts such as the expansion of the electric bus fleet, contributions to the city's feasibility study for public transit. The City of Annapolis is considering electric street cars and buses, and is looking to expand public transportation routes beginning at Main Street and West Street.

Highway Widening Projects

Riegel wrote a letter for SRC review on the Route 3 and Route 97 widening projects. Ozkaptan wrote a letter regarding the Route 2 widening project, as well as the Greenbury Point RV Park.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SEND THE GREENBURY POINT RV PARK COMMENT LETTER, WAS MADE BY BURDICK AND SECONDED BY ROCKENBAUCH. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE LETTER WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SEND THE ROUTE 2 WIDENING PROJECT COMMENT LETTER, WAS MADE BY BURDICK AND SECONDED BY ROCKENBAUCH.

Ozkaptan asked for technical input and support for other components of the project such as sidewalks and American Disabilities Association (ADA) Accessibility. Meadows asked about the project addressing current runoff. Ozkaptan noted there was no mention of stormwater runoff

mitigation, but stated that the project as in such an early phase that is hasn't been addressed yet. Meadows requested to include a recommendation for environmental assessment on current runoff to ensure it will be treated properly. Meadows also requested language regarding stormwater treatment be added to the letter. Following the discussion, the letter was approved unanimously with the requested additions.

Riegel consolidated input from the SRC members into a comment letter on the Route 3 and Route 97 widening projects, and asked for a motion to approve and send. Meadows noted that the State Highway Association (SHA) hasn't finished the proposed treatment of the Jabez. Burdick suggested adding feedback regarding the Jabez Branch and the impact of the potential project. Meadows noted that SHA has best management practices to follow. Suggestions to mitigate additional traffic are ramp metering via traffic lights as well as lower speed limits. Meadows noted there may be missing information regarding past expenditures. Riegel and Meadows will make some amendments, then send it to Rodvien for review before bringing it before the SRC again and distributing.

MOTION: A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SEND THE ROUTE 3 AND ROUTE 97 WIDENING PROJECT COMMENT LETTERS WAS MADE BY ROCKENBAUCH AND SECONDED BY BURDICK. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY, AND THE LETTER WILL BE PROVIDED TO RODVIEN AND DISTRIBUTED BEFORE THE SRC FOR REVIEW PRIOR TO DISTRIBUTION.

Greenbury Point Conservation Area

Ozkaptan said the Naval Support Activity Annapolis (NSAA) filed a permit request to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to limit access to the navigable waterways surrounding the Greenbury Point. The USACE has been conducting an environmental assessment regarding the permit request spanning nearly two years, and recently made a recommendation. Ozkaptan said the environmental assessment and recommendation have been circulating through the Baltimore District Office in preparation to send to the Headquarters for a final decision. Ozkaptan submitted a Freedom of Information Act request on May 7, 2025 and was granted preliminary approval. However, the request was ultimately denied under an exemption allowing the "Baltimore District to withhold documents that are 'inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters' which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency". The right to appeal was noted.

Ozkaptan wanted to see the environmental assessment and recommendation because of the large amount of public concern regarding the limiting of access to navigable waterways in the Annapolis area. Riegel asked about the appeal process. Ozkaptan noted that the USACE Headquarters decision would eventually become available to the public. Ozkaptan also noted that an \$11,500,000 contract was issued in the Fall of 2024 to rebuild the rifle range baffle. However, once the baffle is rebuilt, there should be no reason for NSAA to limit access to navigable waterways due to danger from the rifle range. There was some discussion about engaging with Congresswoman Elfreth's staff about this and other Greenbury Point related issues. Ozkaptan offered to draft a letter to Congresswoman Elfreth regarding the current situation on and around Greenbury Point.

NEW BUSINESS

Future Presentations

AACo. Bureau of Watershed Protection & Restoration
Arundel Rivers Federation
AACo. DPW, Annapolis sewage treatment plant upgrades
AACo. Fire Chief (PFAS)
Captain Schwartz (NSAA), Greenbury Point Conservation Area

Round Robin

Rockenbauch mentioned a property of Veteran’s Highway, just south of West Benfield Road called Albert’s Farm. The property is currently up for development, but 1/3 of the property is in the critical area. The property is close to I-97. The proposal is for 144 apartments in 6 buildings with 124 parking spots at the head of the Severn River. Rockenbauch noted that the development hasn’t been discussed with neighboring communities, and there was never an official meeting regarding the development. Riegel asked what decision the authorities involved plan to make regarding the development, and what the SRC would have to do to provide input on the development.

Rockenbauch noted that the public comment period on the current meeting ends the week following the SRC meeting, and requested that the SRC members draft a comment regarding the development project. Rockenbauch also confirmed that the developer only has to inform residents and property owners within 500 yards of the property, resulting in minimal notification being sent to the surrounding area. Rodvien suggested that concerned residents contact Inspections and Permits regarding the development. Meadows requested a presentation from Inspections and Permits on the property development. Rockenbauch will email the Greater Severna Park Council (GSPC) regarding additional information, or invite them to a meeting. Riegel asked Rockenbauch and Meadows to follow up on the project.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Meghan Spencer
AACounty DPW,
Bureau of Watershed Protection & Restoration