

The Severn River Association, Inc.

Minutes for Board of Directors Annual Meeting – Thursday, April 10, 2014 at Calvary Methodist Church

The meeting was called to order at 2:12 PM by President Lee Meadows. All Board Members were present except Tom Guay, Maureen Burt and Mike Robinson. Steve Barry has resigned and was not present. All four Officers were also present.

The Minutes from the 1/9 meeting were Approved (Kurt R. moved, Bob W. seconded) with one correction (\$115k should have been \$15k in the first line of the 5th paragraph on page (Annual Meeting) and several editorial corrections.

Financial Report - Lynne Rockenbauch

There were no comments on the Report distributed earlier. Lynne had 2 more items to discuss:

1. Can we accept donations of stock? The Board agreed we should open a brokerage acct to permit this, paying a commission on sale of the stock if necessary. Miriam suggested we sell the stock on receipt. Bob W seconded, motion carried. Bob vom Saal and Lynne will have signatory authority.
2. The SRAs Articles of Incorporation are outdated – they still give 90 West St for our official address and have many other features needing updating. Bob vom Saal will draft changes for Board approval at our next meeting.

Motion to alter membership labels & levels- John Wright & Lynne Rockenbauch

Lee made the following motion, which was seconded by Lynne:

“It is moved that SRA remove its titles for various levels of member donations and give its officers responsibility for listing suggested donations on various online and printed materials. It is further recommended that membership be granted to any individual who donates money, or volunteers time to SRA within the calendar year. All amounts will be treated as donations.”

Background: As reported at the last board meeting experiments in recent mailings demonstrated that removing the descriptions (Regular member \$25, Patron \$50, Benefactor \$125), and replacing these with a broader range of suggested donations significantly increased donations to SRA. The average donation increased from \$38 in the previous year to \$61 in 2013. This included the increase of the lowest suggested amount from \$25 to \$35. This follows the experience of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and South River Federation.

Kurt said this was a marketing committee decision. Lee noted that our only Membership effect is email, so we should consider everyone a member unless they opt out. Bob W asked what about Mids who helped with stream cleanups and oyster growers, who don't want to be on the general membership email list. Kurt asked if some will be offended and stop contributing? Charlotte noted it is difficult to measure the value of a contribution of time. Lee noted that the only benefit to Membership is the right to vote at the Annual Meeting, which is a commitment. Bob W asked if they opt out of the Log mailing, will that opt them out for oyster mailings? Lee said no. Sally asked what if they want hard copy? Lee said that is not a problem, and this has actually been our policy anyway. They don't get off the email List until they ask to. Bob W asked does this give all volunteers voting rights? Lee answered yes, provided they attend the Annual Meeting. Charlotte asked if there should be a minimum volunteer time to be given Membership? Lee said that providing an email address is enough – it is too hard to monitor time. Ken Hatch asked if this raises the possibility of a coup at the Annual Meeting. Lee felt this is not likely as it would require that all involved show up at the Annual Meeting and be prepared. Motion carried. Lee recommended we continue our present policy of snail mailing the Log only once per year, except for about 14 communities who have no email address, and a few members who want hard copies also (for spouses or friends). These usually total about 60 per issue. Lynne noted that some communities want paper requests for dues renewals – who keeps track of preferences? Lee said he has the list. Lisa asked if the opt-out includes a choice of what to opt out of? Lynne said we can add a field to discriminate. Lynne only sees money, so her list is not complete. Lee will send her his current list of new members.

Director Nomination (Bob Whitcomb, Miriam + Don = Nominating Committee)

The Nominating Committee polled all current Board members to see if they wished to continue serving. All said yes except Steve Barry who resigned. The Committee recommends nominating Rusty Gowland for director to replace Steve. Rusty ran one stream cleanup and has been picketing BG&E's excessive tree trimming. He is a Watershed Steward. He has committed time, passion, and money. Moved by Ken, Seconded by Lisa. Passed unanimously.

A lottery was then held to stagger terms as required by the By-Laws. The results were as follows:
Three Year Terms – Rusty Gowland, Maureen Burt, Ken Hatch and Charlotte Lubbert.
Two Year Terms – Don Carren, Lisa Bender, Miriam Mellin and Mike Robinson.
One Year Terms – Bob Whitcomb, Tom Guay, Kurt Riegel and Sally Hornor.

Clean Stream & Oyster updates (Bob Whitcomb)

There were 106 volunteers at 2 sites. 30 volunteers in Odenton (mostly Terrapin Club members) removed over 200 tires from Pitcher springs Branch, plus 200 bags of recycleables and a full container of trash. At Luce Creek, 40 Midshipmen removed appliances, a 40 ft dumpster of trash, and 5 or 6 (3 ton) dump trucks full of metal for recycling. Trash removed included a golf cart and many batteries. 2 other teams went to Lawrence Ave (the Unitarian Church) and filled another 3 dump trucks. Another team went to the Friends Meeting House. We removed a total 21 tons of trash. The sponsor, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, says we are the most prolific group they sponsor. Don Carren asked if most of the trash was new or old? Bob said these are all old dump sites, and we have educated residents to stop dumping so all of the trash removed was legacy trash. Some facilities have been built over trash, and the trash leaches out the sides of the parking lot. Besides the SRA, 2 or 3 Watershed Stewards led their own smaller cleanups.

This is Bob's last year. Matt McGehrin may organize it next yr. Bob feels that the accessible tidal portion of the Severn Watershed is now clean, and Matt and Rusty Gowland plan to transition to tree planting next year. Charlotte asked if tree planting would expose more trash – Bob W said it would not as the trees would be planted in different areas. School fields are good places to plant trees. Ken Hatch noted that the Watershed Stewards Academy planted trees at the Board of Education central office.

Transfer of SRA historical records (Bob Whitcomb moved)

2 wks before our 100th anniversary, Jim Martin called Bob to collect 30 boxes from the basement of 90 West Street. Bob has now culled things not published by SRA, duplicates, and sensitive material, with help from Bob vom Saal and Lee Meadows. Most of the culled items were discarded, but he had a few boxes with him if anyone wanted to keep them. Nobody volunteered so most culled material will be discarded.

The Maryland State Archives has 7 boxes of old SRA material dating from 1911 to about 1960. Bob W moves we donate the 5 boxes + 3 CDs on the attached List ("SRA Documents for MD Archive"), plus 3 cds & 2 boxes not yet on the list (subject to review and culling by the above archive committee), to The Maryland State Archives. All donated material is at least 10yrs old. Maria Day, Deputy Director of Special Collections, has reviewed what we propose to donate. Lisa seconded the motion. One downside of donation is that we no longer possess the records, and access to them will be limited to viewing at the Archives Building (350 Rowe Boulevard, 410-260-6410). We feel this is preferable to being stored in someone's garage or basement where the paper may deteriorate.

Kurt expressed his hope that the archivist will add value by organizing, indexing and publicizing the records. Most of our records are now electronic. Kurt gave Bob W a CD with all our recent electronic communications. Charlotte suggested we archive both electronic copies and paper copies. The Archives will not scan paper unless we can get a grant for an intern – the time required is beyond their budget. They will probably spend time organizing and indexing photos. They have a specialist on Marion Warren's photographs – they have the negatives (only) but the copyrights belong to his heirs. The attached List is the only index they will have, though they hope to expand on it over time.

Lynne has pictures of Benfield Road being built - can we add that, and also the treasurer's records? Bob W felt we should organize them first and have them reviewed by the archivist, so this should be done

separately. Privacy is also an issue – donor names must be scrubbed. Treasurer’s reports are valuable and are in the Logs already being donated; membership donation records should not be donated due to privacy issues. The motion **Passed** unanimously. Charlotte noted that AA Pub Library has an on-line history of Herald Harbor going back to the 1800s.

Annual dinner update (Lee Meadows)

The dinner is set for Wednesday 6/18 at the Eastport Maritime Museum from 5:30-9:00pm. It will have an oyster theme. Mike Busch will be the speaker. He will receive a Blue Heron Award. Wine will be served with the meal, and there will be a cash bar. He is asking each Director and Officer to sponsor a table from their community. The cost is \$400 for a table of 8; individual reservations are \$65 each. Oyster Boys are not coming - too expensive. Another music possibility is Scott Hymes, or Charlotte suggested Dan Haas. Most of those present felt that a band is not important. We need to get online soon.

The Silent Auction has been scrapped as a fund raiser and replaced with selling large Oyster Cages. At the end of the year, buyers can be reimbursed for the cost of the cages (\$500 each) by a MD tax credit. Don Carren asked where the cages would be used? Lee answered at existing locations, just larger with less maintenance and easier logistics. He and Bob W will work with Don on the logistics. We are looking for new volunteers. Each cage holds 4 bushels, 4x the current volume, and they do not require manual movement to circulate water. This is accomplished automatically by tidal movement. Sally pointed out that MDE requires permits for floating islands. Bob W said no permits are required for these since they are moored at private docks. Don thought that emptying them will be hard. Lee said they are automatic. He visited an oyster farm on the Eastern Shore 4/24 to investigate. The cages are cylindrical and designed to rotate with tidal movement. Bob W expressed concern for the long tow from growing piers to the Reef. Lee said all these concerns will be addressed at the May meeting, and the oyster farmer will give demonstrations at the Annual Meeting.

Oyster program expansion (Lee Meadows)

We plan to double the volume of our oyster farming by using larger cages as noted in the Annual Dinner discussion above. Bob W noted that the program is dormant for the winter, and the next planting is set for June 7. Don C is doing a separate planting at the end of May and also 6/2. We may open a second part of our reef (already permitted) for direct spat deposit to compare growth + survival rates. We hope for a 25 year life expectancy. We need sponsor for the testing. A Herald Harbor resident expressed concern about channel near our reef; Charlotte will pass the email on to Bob W for response.

Motion by John Wright to expand grant offerings (seconded by Charlotte)

Moved to expand our Community Grants to include professional audits as well as specific project designs. An Audit provides a List of possible projects and prioritizes them. As for projects, the grant would be a 50-50 match. They met with Mel Wilkens at Winchester and learned that this can make a big difference in a community’s ability to improve its stormwater management. Generally we get the whole bill and pay half. Sally H has experience with other designers, e.g. Matt Roderick. Passed unanimously.

Review of changes to existing grant applications

There is a new grant application form on our website. We are trying to simplify the process to encourage broader participation. One change was to remove the judgment criteria. Sally and Lisa have reviewed the new form and feel it is a significant improvement.

Severn Watershed Steward program (Lee Meadows)

John + Lee met with the 16 Watershed Stewards (about half of the 42 Stewards in our watershed). They explained how we can help find projects, funds, and volunteers. We hope to continue quarterly meetings for updates. We also hope to recruit Stewards from Whitehall Bay area. Charlotte suggested Pat Lynch.

Community contacts by board members (Lee Meadows)

Lee asked each Board member to pick 2 neighboring communities, and to contact their representatives and show them our brochure and discuss it with them. Also please get contact information for the community

newsletter editor. John said some Watershed Stewards asked for permission to republish items from The Log or other writeups. Please email which communities you are covering to avoid duplication. Sally is exempted since she is in the Magothy River Watershed. Miriam will email a list of communities without contact people.

Education Meeting status (John Wright)

The meeting at Union Jack showed that we need signage. Where is our banner? Dick Spencer has it. There were some noise issues with the waitress and ordering meals. Other possible venues include Woods Memorial and Chartwell Country Club (RvS to call Dave Bloodgood about Chartwell).

Our next meeting will feature Pierre Henkart talking about Dead Zones, on 4/16 at DNR. The May meeting will feature Len Suza of the Southern Maryland Oyster Cultivation Society on 5/22 at the Eastport Maritime Museum. June is the Annual Membership Meeting. July will be about Lawns - AACo Watershed Steward Jamie Rowelle will talk about athletic field maintenance without fertilizer (tentative). There will be No August meeting. September is open - maybe 2 County Executive candidates talking about the watershed fee & how it will help the Severn River, possibly with Dan Nataf to moderate? We can inform the public, but not endorse candidates. Ken Hatch mentioned that we got John Leopold to commit years ago to helping the Severn. Possibly at AACo? May include 2 AACo Council candidates. Kurt just finished interviewing candidates on behalf of the Sierra Club. Please send other suggestions for topics or venue to John.

SHA – Jabez-3 update (C. Lubbert)

We are trying to accelerate the plan for restoration and repair of the SHA stormwater management system. Ginger Ellis plans to help, but got sidetracked by budget problems. Fred Kelly's silt plume photo is not new - it's Dave Wallace's classic. We got Fred's proposed project design for East-West Highway restoration project – it is on a Fast Track. Our copy was reduced and fuzzy – practically illegible. Mike is also concerned about the stormwater pond. Ginger was going to update us on those plans, but is now focused on her budget. We are meeting with SHA 5/12 to get feedback on what SHA is doing to fix the problem. AACo will start after SHA's project is complete. Lee will help send emails to surrounding communities. Morris Tongue, Benfield. Lisa suggested using GSPC as an avenue to the communities. Ken H advised that Brightview Assisted Living is looking to build a huge facility on General's Highway across from Rolling Knolls. We feel it is too big – the parcel is zoned for 7 houses now.

Communications (web, Facebook, PR) (Tom Guay, Kurt Riegel)

No report from Tom. Kurt R reported we need articles for the next Log. He is trying for late May or early June publication, with a 4/20 deadline for editing. Lee asked if Sally H is testing sediments? Yes, for BMP monitoring - trying to see how well they are working by comparing upstream to downstream measurements. Photos always good, especially with people. Also needs inputs for our website. Charlotte suggested we eliminate names from photo captions as we have no permission slips. Both kids and adults need permission to publish. An intern recently updated Fred Kelly's website.

Miscellaneous Items not on the Agenda

Bob W reported that the USNA's Perry Center parking lot drains into College Creek. He met with USNA 4-5 yrs ago to discuss stormwater management for this lot. A contract has now been let to design a solution. He has asked for a public forum to review the design, to tout the positive effects. Bob also reported that The Severn River Commission recently had a presentation by Colleen Rutter on upcoming projects in the Zoning pipeline. In the past, 80% of projects have had little or no public discussion, so this is significant progress.

Bob W suggested we need an active kayaker in the Round Bay area to help a Water Access group develop Water Trails in AACo. They have good coverage of the South River, but he would like to add the Severn. Info needed is the location of Launch Sites, creeks, and restaurants. Miriam will help. They now have 3 novice trails - Rock Creek off the Patapsco, one in Galesville, and one other. Sally suggested contacting the Chesapeake Paddlers Association. Bob said this group is a subgroup of that Association. Boat wakes are a

problem. Good launch spots include Indian Landing and Arlington Echo, but both are not open to the public. Suggested contacts were Rob Beach, and Mr Schnabel of CBF, both of whom are kayakers.

Lisa asked if we contact Boy Scout troops for Eagle Scout projects. John & Lee said yes for Watershed Steward projects.

Amy Clements and Mel Wilkens of the Spa Creek Conservancy recently got a \$2.8mm grant for restoration work. Oyster Harbor and Winchester are also applying for grants for restoration projects.

Charlotte got many pictures of stormwater damage on River Road. It is now dangerous to drive on.

Next meeting will be Thursday June 26th at 2:00 at Calvary Methodist church (the originally proposed 7/10 date conflicts with a meeting of the Severn River Commission).

Meeting adjourned at 4:29 PM.

SRA Documents for MD Archive

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Contents</u>
8 (brown box)	SRA Board minutes and Logs 1993-1996
9 (smaller brown)	SRA Logs – 1995-2009
10 (Purple Top)	Secretary's Records and Logs – 1984-1992
11 (OD paper)	SRA Logs 1995-2001 "The Scenic Severn" 1990 "The Watershed Conservationist" 1993 "SRA's Backyard Conservationist" 1990&1991 "Restoration of Weems Creek" 1996 "Preservation of the Green Cathedral" 1994 "Reforestation of Baygrasses to the Severn" 1995 "Denitrification Alternatives for Agricultural Buffers" 1997 "Severn SAV Inventory" 1995 and 1996 "Severn River Stream Survey by SOS" 1991 "Severn River Shoreline Survey" 2003 "Severn River Watershed Restoration Strategy" 2004 "Hidden Pond Habitat Restoration" 2003 "Living with the River" 1993 "The Peninsula Project" 1997 "The Great Severn River Stream Survey" 1991
12 (Green Box)	Mounted, labeled black/white photographs - 1981-1995
CDs (Bob vom Saal has copies):	
	March 22, 2003 Presentation – 2 files dated March 13, 2003: shoreline inventory030322.xls (25 kB) Shorelinesurveyproceedings030513.doc (81.54 mB)
	WMT Presentation – 1 file "srpresentation.ppt" dated 9-26-2003 Presentation to the Severn River Association on the Watershed Management Tool By Mary L. Searing, P.E.
	Round Bay Dams Baseline 3-04 (Mar 27 2004) – 18 .doc files dated 9-26-2003 totalling 26 mB. 16 photographs sullivanscoveenvironmentalstatement.doc listing Environmental Assets of East Sullivan's Cove Easement (Davis to Scenic Rivers Land Trust). Baseline Survey Photo Coordinates.doc lists locations of the 16 photos.