

Highlights of proposed changes to WRSC Constitution:

**Article II – Purpose:** Expanded to include, “...stewardship of the West River...”

**Rational:** Most WRSC activities make use of and depend on the healthy environment of the West River. It was felt that there should be a commitment of the Club to help sustain that environment for ourselves and for future members.

**Article III – Officers:** 1) Realigned officer responsibilities, including past ~~president~~ **commodore** and members-at-large, to encompass specific areas of Club activities. This realignment includes the Vice Commodore being assigned responsibility for finances, membership and communications, the Rear Commodore – duties concerning the Club’s physical plant, the Captain of the Fleet – racing, boats, and sailing school, etc.

**Rational:** The current constitution has responsibilities spread inconsistently across the Club’s officers. It also has a large disparity in the number of committees reporting to various officers. This revision better aligns responsibilities and limits the number of committees reporting to a single officer to three.

2) Committees report to their respective officers rather than the officers being members of the committee.

**Rational:** The current constitution states that the officers are members of the committees they oversee. This would require an inordinate number of meetings for the officers. The revised constitution by having committee heads report to the officers will streamline communications and lower the time requirements on the elected officers.

**Article V – Committees:** 1) The total number of committees has been lowered from 17 to 14 by combining related functions.

**Rational:** The current committee structure contained committees with very narrow scope and/or overlapping responsibilities. The revision clusters narrowly defined committees into a more encompassing single committee, e.g. the communications committee includes yearbook, newsletter, and web site responsibilities.

2) Committee definitions have been moved from the constitution to the by-laws.

**Rational:** Any change to the current committee structure requires a constitutional amendment. As a result, committees have been formed informally or on an ad hoc basis (compare the committees listed in the phone directory to those listed in the Constitution.) By putting the committee definitions into the by-laws, it allows the Executive Board to make changes as needed as new requirements emerge without having to change the constitution.

**Article VI – Appointed Officers:** The position of Environmental Advocate has been added.

**Rational:** The individual holding this position will advise the board on environmental aspects of Club activities. He or she will maintain a liaison with groups who are active in the environmental activities encompassing the West River and the Chesapeake Bay.

**Article VIII – Membership:** 1) Clearly state that the Club in deciding membership eligibility does not discriminate by race, creed, age, gender, or national origin.

**Rational:** Stating clearly what has been the policy of the Club in the past.

2) Allowing a spouse or partner to vote in a Club election in the absence of the member.

**Rational:** Clarifying the fact that each membership gets one vote for each Club election and stating that in the absence of the member, the spouse or partner can exercise that vote, rather than have the membership not be able to vote.

3) Clarifying voting privileges for all Senior Members.

**Rational:** All Senior Members regardless of starting out as Regular or Corinthian Members have been members of the Club for a minimum of five years and have demonstrated an active interest in the club. Allowing voting for this entire membership class recognizes this experience and interest, and simplifies administration of elections.

**Article IX – Meetings and Reports:** Added "...vote on any recommended changes to the member dues or fees,..."

**Rational:** Clearly state that a vote of the membership is required to make changes to the dues or fees of the club and that this will take place at the Annual Meeting.