



# PATUXENT RIVER COMMISSION

301 W. Preston Street, Suite 1101  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2305  
Phone: (410) 767-4500  
Fax: (410) 767-4480  
Internet:

[planning.maryland.gov/ourwork/patuxentrivercomminfo.shtml](http://planning.maryland.gov/ourwork/patuxentrivercomminfo.shtml)

**Larry Hogan, Governor**  
**Councilman Michael Leszcz, Co-Chairman**  
**Christopher Perry, Vice Chairman**

*We, the Patuxent River Commission, envision a Patuxent River ecosystem as vital and productive in 2050 as it was in the 1950s. We therefore commit to be stewards and advocates for the Patuxent River and to lead and inspire actions to protect, enhance, and restore living resources and the natural, cultural, economic, and recreational values of the Patuxent River and its watershed.*

☀ Please call Daniel Rosen at MDP 410-767-4577 if you have any questions or comments.

## MEETING SUMMARY November 14, 2018 Maryland Department of Agriculture Annapolis, MD 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

---

**Members:** Michael Leszcz, Chair; Christopher Perry, Vice-Chair; Erica Hahn, Mary Kay Sigaty, Joanna Smith, Martin Chandler, Mark Symborski, Katina Shoulars, John Hartline, Sandy Spencer, Fred Tutman, Andrew Der, Barbara Sollner-Webb, John McCoy, Guy Curley, Tom Miller, Jeanine Nutter (for Steve Darcey), Jackie Takacs, Byron Petrauskas, Matthew Rowe, Jason Dubow

**Attendees:** Frank Dawson

**Staff:** Jason Dubow, Deborah Herr Cornwell, Daniel Rosen

### Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Minutes from September 12, 2018 meeting were approved.

### Updates

#### *October Field Trip*

John McCoy, Dan Rosen and Chris Perry provided comments on the field trip, noting a successful project that has already handled some extreme weather events.

#### *Sewage Spill Guidance Conference Call*

Dan Rosen reported that local Department of Health representatives have agreed to the conference call and a Doodle poll will be distributed on Thursday, November 15 with the call to be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December.

#### *Patuxent Challenge*

Jason Dubow provided an update on the inaugural year of the Patuxent Challenge. So far, three people

have completed the challenge and there has been positive feedback on the program with interest for continuing the program in 2019. Barbara Sollner-Webb expressed concern about the Challenge sign placement on the WSSC Rocky Gorge trail, noting that it was located in an “off limits” area.

*Condolence Letter to Bernie Fowler*

Mike Leszcz noted that on behalf of the Commission, a condolence letter had been sent to Bernie Fowler on the loss of his wife, Betty.

*Biennial PRC Progress Report*

Jason Dubow noted that the Biennial PRC Progress Report is being prepared. MDP is legislatively required to prepare the report on the implementation of the Patuxent River Policy Plan and progress made by local jurisdictions and state agencies. Dan Rosen will be reaching out to the respective jurisdictions and agencies and a draft is anticipated to be ready by January.

*2018 Patuxent River Conference*

Registration is open for the December 5, 2018 conference – “Climate Change and the Patuxent River” to be held at the National Wildlife Visitor Center.

**Discussion: County Development Review Process (stormwater management and sediment and erosion control)**

To date, four counties (Anne Arundel, Prince George’s, Charles and Howard) have made presentations to the Commission on their respective programs; presentations from Calvert, St. Mary’s and Montgomery are anticipated in the coming months. The Commission discussed their thoughts on what’s working, what’s not working, potential improvements and solutions.

Andrew Der – on the ground implementation appears to be the weak link, there are good regulations in place. More work on enforcement and monitoring is needed. Legacy land use is the biggest problem that results in degradation of the river.

Sandy Spencer – raised the issue of waivers and expressed concern about what is being waived. She also noted extensive sand dunes that appear to be recent deposits within the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge forested areas and suggested research is needed to find out where it is coming from and how to solve the issue.

Chris Perry – referencing the county development plans in the annual action plan, asked that updates be provided at each meeting.

Fred Tutman – requested data be provided to the Commission in map format depicting the existing developed areas as well as where projected growth is expected. Jason Dubow noted that the Chesapeake Bay Program is likely the best source for modeling information.

John McCoy – noted that it is not just new growth, but the existing built environment that is also responsible for the continued degradation of water quality.

Barbara Sollner-Webb – felt that the existing legislation is watered down and doesn't address the problem.

Jason Dubow – noted that the local TMDL's are a tool that can be used.

Matt Rowe – Maryland Department of the Environment realizes that adaptive stormwater programs are needed that build in resiliency considering the new "normal" storm events. The MS4 permits hope to address some of the legacy issues on development constructed prior to the current stormwater regulations.

### **Discussion of 2019 PRC Action Plan**

The Commission discussed changes to the 2019 plan and what should be focused on. For example, updates on the preservation and restoration goals are needed.

Fred Tutman offered to lead a workgroup to develop benchmarks for specific goals in the plan so that progress could be measured.

Chris Perry recommended that where there is an existing workgroup, that group work on their section to develop appropriate benchmarks.

Tom Miller suggested that the Action Plan be developed into an achievable plan – one that identified realistic goals that could be attained with existing resources, staff, volunteers.

Matt Rowe suggested maintaining a list of all goals/projects since they are all good ideas and they could be revisited for inclusion in future annual plans.

Jason Dubow said staff will send an email to the Commission members for their suggestions for the annual action plan.

### **Update - Settlement at Savage Mill Project**

Mary Kay Sigaty noted that the County Executive did not support the land swap and that the proposed portion of the project is no longer on the table. An approved Environmental Concept Plan is still in place, but no further action has occurred. Barbara Sollner-Webb raised the issue of the stormwater pond that was to be located on the Program Open Space land.

### **Update – Advice of Counsel Memo**

Jason Dubow provided an update from Paul Cucuzzella, the AG opinion on the roles and responsibilities of the Commission could be received as early as the end of 2018 or early 2019.

### **Open Floor**

Fred Tutman noted the passing of Joseph Tydings, a friend of the Patuxent River.

Barbara Sollner-Webb raised a By-laws issue in the election of the Commission officers where she noted the By-laws indicated a majority of the full Commission needed to vote. The issue will be discussed with Counsel.