



PATUXENT RIVER COMMISSION

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<https://planning.maryland.gov/Pages/OurWork/PaxRiverComm/PatuxentRiverCommInfo.aspx>

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

March 13, 2019

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Annapolis, MD

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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- Members:** Michael Leszcz, Chair; Christopher Perry, Vice-Chair; Erik Michelsen, Martin Chandler, Mark Symborski, John Hartline, Fred Tutman, Barbara Sollner-Webb, John McCoy, Lisa White, Scott Knoche, Tom Miller, Jeanine Nutter (for Steve Darcey), Byron Petrauskas, Matt Rowe, Alison Santoro, Sandy Hertz, Jason Dubow
- Attendees:** Steve Shofar, Paul Cucuzzella, Margaret McGinty, Jim Uphoff, Susan Garber, Susan Gray
- Staff:** Dan Rosen, Debbie Herr Cornwell, Jason Dubow

Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Minutes from February 13, 2019 meeting were approved.

Presentations

Montgomery County Stormwater and Sediment and Erosion Control Programs

Mark Etheridge, Manager Water Resources Section, Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services provided an overview of their programs. Montgomery County was delegated authority by MDE to review and approve erosion and sediment control plans; the department has a combined review looking at both stormwater and erosion and sediment control at the same time. They incorporated MDE's model ordinance into their code and go above the State's baseline by also requiring erosion and sediment control for all "change of use" projects for an existing developed site.

DNR – Decline of Anadromous Fish Study

Jim Uphoff, Maryland DNR presented DNR's study on the decline of anadromous fish in the Patuxent – focusing on the four herring species that live in the Patuxent. Issues of concern were noted as:

- Increased development in the watershed, leading to increased impervious surface
- Increased salt content in the water
- Presence of nutrients, toxic compounds and endocrine disrupting compounds

Mr. Uphoff welcomed the opportunity to present to the Commission and hoped that it would spur conversations with the state agencies and local jurisdictions on how to work together on the issue. Jason Dubow suggested the potential of a pilot project to restore the herring habitat in a segment.

Proposed Legislation of Interest to the Commission

Dan Rosen presented an overview of the bills in the 2019 Legislative session.

Draft Development Review Protocol

Paul Cucuzzella presented an overview of the draft protocol, noting that the intent was to ensure that the Commission's comments were well informed, time was provided to assemble the documentation and that the Commission's position was formed by all and represented a consensus.

Several commissioners offered comments:

- Barbara Sollner Webb felt it was too restrictive and didn't feel that government staff should be involved in the review – they should recuse themselves.
- Chris Perry noted that the process was inefficient and could take four months to approve a letter.
- Fred Tutman offered that the process was not meant to be conducted as a public hearing and didn't necessarily need to hear from all players. He also felt the chairman should not be the gatekeeper regarding decisions on what projects would be reviewed for comment.
- John Hartline noted that flexibility is needed in the process to meet the timeframe for public comments.

Chairman Leszcz asked that all commissioners review the draft protocol and provide written comments to staff by April 15, 2019; staff will compile the comments and distribute to the Commission before the next meeting.

Open Floor

Items for future agendas include:

- Presentation/summary of the Patuxent River Commission structure
- Howard County – communication to concerned citizens regarding the Savage Mill project