



PATUXENT RIVER COMMISSION

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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 13, 2019

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Annapolis, MD

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

Members: Michael Leszcz, Chair; Christopher Perry, Vice-Chair; Erik Michelsen; Jim Caldwell; Steve Shofar; Martin Chandler; Mark Symborski; Katina Shoulars; John Hartline; Fred Tutman; Albert Tucker; Andrew Der; Barbara Sollner-Webb; Lisa White; Guy Curley; Luis Dieguez; Matthew Rowe; Jason Dubow; John Denniston

Attendees: Paul Cucuzzella; Ken Krentz (for Joanna Smith)

Staff: Dan Rosen, Debbie Herr Cornwell, Jason Dubow

Introductions and Approval of minutes

Jim Caldwell was introduced as the new Howard County representative. Minutes from the July 20, 2019 and September 11, 2019 meetings were approved.

Updates

Fred Tutman shared memories of former Commission member Mary Kilbourne who had recently passed away. Highlights from the October fieldtrip to the Manning Hatchery at Cedarville State Forest were provided by Mike Leszcz and John Hartline; specifically noting the volume of fish produced by a relatively small staff. Mike Leszcz also noted the blue-green algae problem in Laurel and the potential for updating the notification legislation.

Election of Chair

It was noted that in accordance with the current bylaws, an affirmative vote of 16 members was required to elect the chair. The vice-chair election was held at the September meeting with Chris Perry receiving the required number of affirmative votes. With 17 affirmative votes, Mike Leszcz was elected as chair.

Information Exchange: Commissioner Actions Affecting the Patuxent River

Jason Dubow introduced the new agenda item that provides an opportunity for members to share

actions, activities and information – in either written format distributed prior to the meeting or verbally presented during the meeting. Members were encouraged to ask questions as well.

In addition to the written comments, the following members shared information at the meeting:

Chris Perry – During the week of November 18, the Mid-Atlantic Stream Conference is being held in Baltimore. He also noted that the Alliance for the Bay is holding a workshop on “Southern Maryland Habitat”.

Al Tucker – The Maryland Inter-Agency Water Consortium Symposium “Is Maryland’s Water Future Sustainable and Secure? – Opportunities and Challenges” is being held November 22 at the Patuxent Research Refuge’s National Wildlife Visitor Center.

Jim Caldwell – provided an update on the Patrick Dairy Farm and Martin Chandler provided information on the water monitoring downstream from the farm.

Erik Michelsen – Anne Arundel County has pending Forest Conservation legislation scheduled for a vote on Monday, November 18.

Mark Symborski – MNCPPC – Parks are active with invasive species removal, deer management activities and trash clean up and Planning has started the update of the General Plan.

Draft Bylaws - Revisions

Paul Cucuzzella provided an overview of the draft bylaws including the comments and suggestions from the Bylaws workgroup. It was determined that the workgroup would meet with Paul to finalize the document which will be presented at the January meeting. Jason Dubow joined the bylaws workgroup that consists of: Barbara Sollner-Webb, Fred Tutman, Chris Perry and John Hartline. If the Commission members have any bylaw comments, they are to submit them to Jason who will share them with the workgroup.

Implementation of 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan

Strategy P6 – scheduling a special PRC meeting to hear updates/obstacles to TMDL implementation. It was determined that the Preservation/Restoration workgroup would reach out to local jurisdictions, state agencies, WSSC Water and invite them to join the workgroup. The tasks would be to review the existing documentation that has been collected and determine when it would be appropriate to schedule the special meeting. The first step will be for staff to coordinate a conference call with Chris Perry and Alison Santoro to begin organizing the project.

Open Floor

Matt Rowe noted that MDE has an action plan for PFAS and would be available to present at a PRC meeting. John Hartline provided an update on the large solar farm that had been proposed for Southern Maryland that would have resulted in the removal of existing forest – noting that it has now been relocated to a landfill site.