



# 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

### February 12, 2020

### 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, John Swartz, Jim Caldwell, Steve Shofar, Joanna Smith, Martin Chandler, Mark Symborski, John Hartline, Fred Tutman, Al Tucker, Andrew Der, Barbara Sollner-Webb, John McCoy, Guy Curley, Scott Knoche, Thomas Miller, Luis Dieguez, Byron Petrauskas, Matthew Rowe, Alison Santoro, Jason Dubow
- Attendees:** Jeanine Nutter (for Steve Darcey)
- Staff:** Dan Rosen, Debbie Herr Cornwell, Jason Dubow

### Introductions and Approval of minutes

Minutes from the January 8, 2020 meeting were approved.

### Updates

Patuxent TMDL Implementation – staff emailed the local TMDL summary of interviews to the local, WSSC and MDE representatives to determine if the activities and obstacles identified are still accurate and/or current. Once feedback is received, the next step is to facilitate the conversation with the representatives and the responses will be reported back to the PRC.

### Information Exchange: State, County and Local Actions Affecting the Patuxent River

Fred Tutman announced that he was hosting a meet and greet for the Laurel for the Patuxent group on March 8. Contact Fred for further information.

Erik Michelsen described the pond retrofit projects that Anne Arundel County is working on. They are a

combination of public and privately-owned facilities.

Jim Caldwell provided information on the Patrick Farm. One-year post installation monitoring has been completed on the 6,200 L.F. project. He noted that there is an upstream section outside of the Patrick Farm that has not been restored and additional restoration projects can be challenging since the impervious cap for the MS4 permit had been reached and no additional credits could be used. It was noted that additional restoration projects could use their credits in a trading program and that MDE may be walking back the impervious area cap.

Joanna Smith noted that the final design for the Bear Branch project was being completed and the project would be out for bid within a couple of months, with construction work anticipated to begin in mid-summer.

Alison Santoro announced that DNR Trust Grant applications were due in late February and that the Belt Woods invasive species management project was out for public comment through March.

Byron Petrauskas noted that it was a very successful year for cover crops and provided a table of Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation within the counties that are part of the Patuxent River watershed (he said he could provide a breakout for the Patuxent River watershed specifically in the future). Inspections are being completed of the existing agricultural BMPs throughout the state and staff are finding that 75% are still functioning.

### **Update on Montgomery County Comprehensive Planning Process**

Mark Symborski presented information on the *Thrive Montgomery 2050* plan that is being developed. The last comprehensive update was in 1969, although numerous master plans have been completed since then. The focus of the plan is economic health, community equity and environmental resilience; and will address climate change through mitigation, adaptation and resilience. A draft goals and policies document will be presented at the April Planning Board meeting and a public hearing for the full draft plan will be in October 2020. The goal is for adoption by the County Council in June 2021.

### **MD General Assembly's Proposed Legislation of Interest to the Commission**

Dan Rosen provided an overview of the proposed legislation. The Commission discussed sending a letter of support for HB209 and SB313 – Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act (Bag Bill) and HB321 – Prince George's County – Authority to Impose Fees for Use of Disposable Bags. The Commission voted in favor of sending the letters with abstentions from the State Agency representatives, Montgomery County and Howard County representatives and the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland.

### **Open Floor**

Fred Tutman announced the Patuxent Riverkeeper Clean Up Day on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Contact Fred if you would like to participate.