



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

June, 2020

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Annapolis, MD

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

Members: Michael Leszcz, Chair; asd

Attendees: asd

Staff: Dan Rosen, Debbie Herr Cornwell, Jason Dubow

Introductions and Approval of Minutes

The February 12 and March 11, 2020 meeting minutes were approved. The Commission approved attendance waivers, through an email vote on March 16, 2020, for Commissioners (Guy Curley, Steve Darcey, Tom Miller) who had absences due to mitigating factors in 2019 (although this was already reported in the March 11, 2020 minutes, the Commission bylaws also require that Commission staff report the result of an email vote in the minutes for the meeting subsequent to an email vote.)

Updates/Announcements

Jason Dubow announced that four new Commissioners were appointed by the Governor: Kim Finch (Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning – Prince George’s County), Mary Dolan (citizen and environment), Jason Van Kirk (developer), and Bill Hubbard (Maryland Cooperative Extension).

Vote for Commission Chair and Vice Chair

Due to the virtual meeting, the election was conducted via ADoodle.org. The floor was opened for nominations and no additional nominations were put forward. Mike Leszcz received 21 votes and was elected Chair; Chris Perry received 23 votes and was elected Vice-Chair.

Erosion and Sediment Control Inspections Discussion

Chairman Leszcz noted he was made aware of erosion and sediment control issues by “Laurel for the Patuxent”. Discussion will be continued at subsequent meetings.

Jim Caldwell provided information on the Green Card holder program and confirmed that the County inspects construction projects that have erosion and sediment control plans/approvals.

Chris Perry noted that contractors working on MD State Highway Administration projects that are not in compliance with their Erosion and Sediment Control Plans will receive a notice that results in a fine.

Steve Darcey also noted that the local inspectors do not have enough staff to perform inspections.

Chairman Leszcz noted that better understanding of the program is needed as well as statewide guidance.

Presentation on PFAS (Dr. Christopher Salice, Towson University)

Dr. Salice provided background information on the widely and commonly used chemicals, commonly referred to as PFAS or PFOS. The chemicals have been used for decades and have not really been contained; they are found in surface and groundwater as well as soils. He noted there is no national standard although some parts of the country have implemented drinking water level limits. In Maryland, little information is known. No hotspots have been identified and more data is needed.

Presentation of Hance Pond Restoration Project in Patuxent Research Refuge (Sandy Spencer, Patuxent Research Refuge)

Sandy Spencer presented the Hance Pond Restoration Project noting the refuge selected this location since it was the most troublesome site on the refuge. This project was funded by Chesapeake Bay Trust and involved removing a water control structure from the impoundment.

Open Floor

The July meeting was postponed until August. The Commission members were asked to submit agenda items to Jason Dubow for the August meeting.