



# 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

**September 9, 2020**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Annapolis, MD**

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

**Members:** Michael Leszcz, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Alison Santoro; Martin Chandler; Guy Curley; Steve Darcey; John Denniston; Luis Dieguez; Mary Dolan; Jason Dubow; Kim Finch; Jim George; Brandy Glenn; John Hartline; William Hubbard; Scott Knoche; John McCoy; Erik Michelsen; Thomas Miller; Byron Petrauskas; Paula Proctor; Steve Shofar; Joanna Smith; Barbara Sollner-Webb; John Swartz; Mark Symborski; Al Tucker; Fred Tutman; Jason Van Kirk

**Attendees:** Ian Rainey, Ron Barasch, Kathleen Bartolomeo, Kenneth Bawer, Lenny Bers, Marney Bruce, Brian Coyle, Shelby Cross, Paul Cucuzzella, Deanna Dawson, Paul DiPalma, Richard Dolesh, Sam Droege, Judy Fulton, Craig George, Jennifer Greiner, Donna Lynne Hoffmeister, Delegate Julian Ivey, Patricia Jackman, Alex Jackson, Allart Kok, Beth LeaMond, David Mazurkewich, Susan McCutchen, Damian Ossi, Will Parson, Karen Pasciuto, Rick Pasciuto, Matthew Perry, Senator Paul Pinsky, John Sauer, Kurt Schwartz, Susan Stockman, Garold Stone, Jil Swearingen, Laurie Thompson, Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith, Marcia Watson, Don Weber, Daniel Yuan

**Staff:** Dan Rosen, Debbie Herr Cornwell, Jason Dubow

### Introductions and Approval of June Minutes

The August 12, 2020 meeting minutes were approved.

### Maglev Project

As a continuation of the August 2020 Patuxent River Commission presentation and discussion, Ian Rainey with The Northeast Maglev US Co. (TNEM) provided information on the project status. He noted project plans were updated and the pause on the project was lifted in early 2020. The draft EIS is

currently being prepared and the final step in the EIS process will be the “record of decision”. Alternative site locations are included in the EIS process. The 180-acre development footprint for the train maintenance facility (TMF) must be above grade and needs to be near Washington, D.C. One TMF is needed and it will include a factory building, repair/maintenance/inspections area as well as offices.

### **Environmental Impacts of Maglev Project**

Sam Droege presented aerial videos depicting the areas that will be impacted by the proposed project.

### **Effects of Maglev on the Patuxent Research Refuge**

Jennifer Greiner, Refuge Manager noted the MAGLEV project will impact wildlife, wildlife habitat areas, research, current and historic resources, as well as recreational opportunities for people.

### **Questions on Maglev from Commissioners and Elected Officials**

It was confirmed that Governor Hogan rode the Maglev in Japan. That train is currently not running but an expansion is being planned.

One TMF is needed for this first phase (D.C. to Baltimore) and one additional TMF will be needed for the complete project. All maintenance will be done at the TMF.

Senator Pinsky noted that the limiting factor for the number of riders will be the cost and who can afford to ride it. He also does not want to see state money used for the project. Mr. Rainey noted that ticket prices would be variable.

Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith noted that the existing technology is a 25-mile stretch in Japan. The proposed project raises concerns about impacts to residential properties in the Laurel area. Delegate Valentino-Smith also asked how much soil will be displaced and where it is going.

Barbara Sollner-Webb asked if noise would be in compliance with COMAR and noted the noise is louder at the exit/entrance. Mr. Rainey indicated this will be included in the EIS and no loud noises will occur.

Ms. Sollner-Webb referenced a similar project in Germany and questioned why it could be done for less money. Mr. Rainey replied he would need to know more information about the proposed Germany project.

In response to Chairman Leszcz's question about bonding, Mr. Rainey stated that the construction company will need to be bonded.

John Hartline referenced required NEPA studies for construction activities close to military sites and asked if the military has been involved in the Maglev project. Mr. Rainey noted that Ft. Meade has been

involved in the EIS.

Due to time constraints, two agenda items were tabled for a later meeting:

- Purchase of 5-Acre Development Site by Howard County for Use as a Park
- Update on Recreational Use of the Patuxent during the Pandemic