



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

March 9, 2022

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

Members: Michael Leszcz, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Frank Allen, Stacy Clements, Rachel Dean, John Denniston, Luis Dieguez, Mary Dolan, Margaret Everson, Morgan Hall, Jr., Bill Hubbard, Dr. Scott Knoche, Ronald Marney, Erik Michelsen, Dr. Thomas Miller, Diep Nguyen-van Houtte, Byron Petrauskas, Paula Proctor, Matt Rowe, Joanna Smith, Mark Symborski, John Tarr, Jason Van Kirk

Attendees: Bob Buglass, Charles Walsh, Barbara Sollner-Webb, Malcolm Taylor

Staff: Debbie Herr Cornwell, Rieyn DeLony, Daniel Rosen

Approval of February 9, 2022 Minutes, Updates and Announcements

The February 9, 2022 meeting minutes were approved. There is currently one vacancy for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC Water) position. Dr. Martin Chandler retired from WSSC Water. PRC staff reached out to WSSC Water and they are in the process of submitting their application to the Governor's Appointments Office. Malcolm Taylor introduced himself and confirmed that he had submitted the application to the Governor's Appointment Office.

Patuxent Reservoir Watershed Geodatabase

Mark Symborski provided background on the project and introduced Charles Walsh who presented the process used to create the geodatabase and the display map and dashboard. This project is specific to the Patuxent Reservoir watershed and WSSC Water has offered to host the project and maintain the website. The PRC discussed whether this would be a project the Commission would want to support for the entire Patuxent River watershed. Mary Dolan provided draft language that would add the project to the PRC Annual Action Plan. She noted that the creation of the geodatabase tool could be used to justify and support recommendations from the PRC.

Further discussion included: convening a committee to investigate the concept further and report back to the Commission; hiring a professional to start the project and possibly using an intern for updates; and the potential for state agency staff to assist with developing the tool.

Chairman Leszcz created a workgroup to evaluate and determine what the steps would be to create the watershed geodatabase. The workgroup members are Mary Dolan, Rachel Dean, Tom Miller and Mark Symborski. The group was tasked with providing a preliminary report to the Commission within four months and providing a report by the end of 2022.

Draft 2022 Action Plan

The Commission members discussed the PRC draft action plan and based on the geodatabase presentation and discussion agreed to add another short-term project to establish a workgroup to review the potential for creating a Patuxent River Watershed geodatabase and report back to the Patuxent River Commission on how to implement the actions needed to develop the geodatabase.

Additional discussion of the draft plan included:

- Adding specific metrics to the action items
- Long term action #1 - Expanding the definition of “restoration” to include more than fishing and seafood harvesting
- Long term action #2 – a critical component of the report card development is identifying the appropriate stakeholders that should be included in the process
- Long term action #2 – note that Secretary McCord/MDP was coordinating the development of the report card with UMCES
- Add additional policy references (as appropriate) from the Patuxent River Policy Plan to expand how the actions are addressing the Policy Plan

Chairman Leszcz requested staff to revise the draft annual action plan based on the discussion and distribute the draft to the Commission in two weeks. The Commission would have one week to review and provided comments to Jason Dubow.

Legislative Bills of Interest to the Commission

Dan Rosen provided an update on pending legislation. Chairman Leszcz requested that Dan follow the pending legislation at the session begins to wrap up and to provide an update to the Commission of any significant actions or amendments.

Open Floor

Chairman Leszcz requested that staff distribute to the Commission the map showing all the sub watershed areas within the Patuxent River Watershed.