



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.

MEETING SUMMARY

September 8, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING

Annapolis, MD

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

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- Members:** Michael Leszcz, Chair; Martin Chandler, Guy Curley, Steve Darcey, Rachel Dean, John Denniston, Luis Dieguez, Mary Dolan, Jason Dubow, Kim Finch, Jennifer Greiner, John Hartline, Bill Hubbard, Scott Knoche, Ron Marney, John McCoy, Erik Michelsen, Byron Petrauskas, Paula Proctor, Matt Rowe, Alison Santoro, Steve Shofar, Joanna Smith, Barbara Sollner-Webb, Mark Symborski, Al Tucker, Fred Tutman, Jason Van Kirk
- Attendees:** Paul Cucuzzella, Linda Garoute, James Jones, Susan Llareus, John Tarr, Mayor Noah Waters, Geoff Westbrook
- Staff:** Debbie Herr Cornwell, Daniel Rosen, Jason Dubow

Introductions, Updates and Approval of Minutes

The June 9, 2021 meeting minutes were approved. Ron Marney, the new representative on the Commission from Calvert County, was introduced.

Eagle Harbor Stormwater Issues (Mayor of Eagle Harbor Noah Waters)

A PowerPoint presentation by Eagle Harbor Mayor Noah Waters showed an unknown brown substance onsite at the Chalk Point power plant that flows through outfall #15 into Coleman Creek and then into Eagle Harbor. The substance has never been identified. Though PEPCO performed some restoration upstream, stormwater continues to erode Coleman Creek and flood Eagle Harbor. In addition, residents are concerned that water use at the power plant is drying up some local wells.

John Tarr, Chief Engineer of the Urban Development and Conservation Program at Prince George's County's Soil Conservation District (PGSCD), noted that a change in the power plant's impact could be grounds for revisiting the conditions of its permits. Chairman Leszcz asked Jason Dubow to bring together Steve Darcey and James Jones, the property owner who discovered the discharge into the creek,

to create a full picture of the runoff issue from Chalk Point into Eagle Harbor. Mr. Tarr suggested that the county health department also participate.

Also, MDE (Matt Rowe) indicated they could look at the operational (stormwater) permit and industrial permit concerning the power plant to determine what monitoring requirements exist; PGSCD indicated they could look to see if there are any stormwater management or sediment and erosion control plans concerning the site or sites in question; PGSCD also indicated they would connect with the Prince George's Health Department to identify any relevant information concerning contaminant testing; and the Chair (Mike Leszcz) asked if MDE could remove any exemptions that the power plant has concerning stormwater controls.

Nominees to Fill Three Pending Vacancies on the Commission

The pending vacancies were for Academic, Developer, and Soil Conservation representatives. No nominees for Academic or Development were suggested at the meeting. There were two nominees for the Soil Conservation rep: Ron Marney nominated Geoff Westbrook and Steve Darcey nominated John Tarr. The Commission voted to forward both names to the Governor's office for consideration. Guy Curley said he would serve in the Developer's chair until a replacement was approved.

City of Laurel Plastic Bag Law – Discussion, Consider Letter to Maryland General Assembly

Chairman Leszcz informed the Commission about Laurel's new prohibition against single-use plastic bags. The Commission registered no opposition to his sending a letter to the General Assembly in support of a bag bill, one that notes the Commission's support for previously proposed legislation.

Patuxent Greens Stormwater Issues (Chairman Leszcz)

Chairman Leszcz told the Commission about a large housing development, one part of which lies within Laurel and one part adjacent, that is draining stormwater into a nearby stream and eroding it. He indicated that the surge ponds on the property are not performing properly.

Lothian Wastewater Issues (Fred Tutman)

Fred Tutman spoke about four package WWTPs in Lothian that are discharging improperly treated sewage into tributaries of the Patuxent. The plants have not submitted discharge reports for over 1.5 years. After attempting to address the issues at the plants, MDE turned the matter over to US EPA. Chairman Leszcz asked that EPA, MDE, and the plants' owners be invited to the next meeting to discuss what is being done to bring the plants into compliance.