



# 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 9, 2022

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

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- Members:** Michael Leszcz, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Frank Allen, Jim Caldwell, Dr. Martin Chandler, Stacy Clements, Rachel Dean, John Denniston, Luis Dieguez, Mary Dolan, Jason Dubow, Margaret Everson, Kim Finch, Jennifer Greiner, Amy Guise, Morgan Hall, Jr., Bill Hubbard, Dr. Scott Knoche, Ronald Marney, Erik Michelsen, Diep Nguyen-van Houtte, Byron Petrauskas, Paula Proctor, Matt Rowe, Alison Armocida Santoro, Steve Shofar, Joanna Smith, Mark Symborski, Hiram Tanner, John Tarr, Jason Van Kirk
- Attendees:** Karl Kerr, Barbara Sollner-Webb, Fred Tutman
- Staff:** Debbie Herr Cornwell, Rieyn DeLony, Daniel Rosen, Jason Dubow

### **Approval of January 12, 2022 Minutes, Updates and Announcements**

The January 12, 2022 meeting minutes were approved. Rieyn DeLony was introduced as Counsel, replacing Paul Cucuzzella who is now with Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

### **Prince George's - Bear Branch and Other Stream Restoration and DoE Projects**

Joanna Smith provided an update on the Prince George's projects. The 3,000'+ Bear Branch restoration project and the Eagle Harbor 704' shoreline project have both been completed. There are more projects in the pipeline including: Liberty Sports Complex stream restoration in Upper Marlboro, Camelot Park stream restoration, McCarthy Park stream restoration, Barack Obama Elementary School stream restoration, Patuxent River Park stream restoration, Rocky Gorge stream restoration, La Dova Way outfall restoration and Cabin Branch area outfall restorations.

Joanna noted a challenge has been scheduling joint permit application (JPA) meetings with MDE, resulting in a delay in getting projects in the ground. Matthew Rowe offered to help facilitate/coordinate the meetings.

### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Funding and Technical Assistance**

Amy Guise and Karl Kerr presented on the funding and technical assistance programs offered by the USACE. The USACE does not provide grant funding, but they do have cost share programs for planning, design and construction. Technical assistance programs are also available to assist a local jurisdiction with identifying concepts and alternatives. Floodplain Management Services (FPMS) are available for “all things flooding” and covers structural, non-structural and natural designs.

Local jurisdictions are encouraged to contact USACE about their projects and if they can not assist will help direct the jurisdiction to the right program.

The Commission discussed the potential to establish a Task Group to investigate the increased Federal funding that is becoming available. Margaret Everson and Hiram Tanner, Jr. volunteered for the task group. Other commission members who would like to participate on the task group were asked to contact Jason Dubow.

### **Update on Eagle Harbor Flooding**

John Tarr presented an update on Eagle Harbor that included maps depicting the flooding locations. He noted one area is within the floodplain which would require construction of a levee. A cost benefit analysis would not support the project.

Outfall #15 has undersized culverts that has led to a build-up of sediments. The conveyance system needs to be modified to remedy the flooding issues. There is potential for a storage system in the upper reaches of the system near the PEPCO property, but the overall system is still being analyzed. A comprehensive design of the entire system would likely produce the best project.

Joanna Smith noted the county is in discussions with GreenVest for a stream restoration project. It would help reduce but not eliminate the flooding. All projects would be coordinated with the community.

John Tarr will continue to provide updates as work progresses, probably summer 2022.

### **Legislative Bills of Interest to the Commission**

Dan Rosen provided on update on pending legislation. Mike Leszcz noted there is a bill that would add the Patuxent Riverkeeper as a member of the Commission. Also, HB 528 – Climate Solutions Act 2022 is a bill to follow. Rachel Dean noted the Oyster Shell Dredging bill is also one to follow.