



PATUXENT RIVER COMMISSION

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John Hartline, *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

November 9, 2022

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

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- Members:** John Hartline, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Frank Allen, Alison Armocida Santoro, Rachel Dean, John Denniston, Luis Dieguez, Mary Dolan, Jason Dubow, Kim Finch, Jennifer Greiner, Bill Hubbard, Michael Leszcz, Ron Marney, Erik Michelsen, Byron Petrauskas, Paula Proctor, Matt Rowe, Steve Shofar, Joanna Smith, Mark Symborski, John Tarr, Fred Tutman, Jason Van Kirk, Tiffany Wright
- Attendees:** Christina Cornwell, William Dennison, Ann Foo, Janina Jones, Barbara Sollner-Webb, Vanessa Vargas Nguyen
- Staff:** Jason Dubow, Debbie Herr Cornwell, Daniel Rosen, Adam Snyder

Approval of September 14, 2022 Minutes, Updates and Announcements

The September 14, 2022 meeting minutes were approved. Ron Marney announced that 2,000+ acres were added to Calvert County's Rural Legacy Areas and an additional \$2 million is going toward easement purchases. Frank Allen noted an \$800,000+ grant was awarded for Rural Legacy in St. Mary's County. Christina Cornwell, City of Laurel noted that the City of Laurel has attained a Class 7 Community Rating System which results in 15% savings on Flood Insurance policies.

UMCES IAN – Presentation on Public Workshops for Patuxent Report Card and Discussion of Phases II and III

Bill Dennison and Vanessa Vargas-Nguyen provided an update on the report card process. There are three phases in the planning and development of the report card. The team is currently working on Phase

I where the focus is on conceptualizing, identifying, and developing an overall design. Two stakeholder listening sessions were held: October 5 at Chesapeake Biological Laboratory and October 10 at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary. The team is compiling and assessing the results from the listening sessions that included:

- Shared understandings and values
- Threats
- Identifying indicators in governance, economic, environmental, social, and cultural categories
- Engaging youth

Funding for Phase I was provided by Maryland Department of Planning. Additional funding will be needed to move forward with Phase II – Developing the Report Card and Phase III– Recommended Policy and Actions to Raise the Grade. Included with the Phase I findings/results will be estimates for completing the next two phases. Potential funding sources will be investigated with the anticipated need being in the \$10,000's range.

Bill Dennison noted that the initial development of the report card is the biggest effort and subsequent report cards will require less funding and staffing hours since the framework is already in place and is more of an updating activity.

Workgroup Updates

Jason Dubow provided an update from the November 1 Tourism workgroup meeting. The workgroup is continuing its effort to raise the profile of the Patuxent Challenge initiative.

The Federal Assistance Workgroup continues to work with Eagle Harbor and are putting together a funding forum that will include a panel of funding experts to provide guidance on the town's proposed environmental projects.

The Geodatabase and the Long-Range Workgroups were both investigating the Watershed Resources Registry (WRR) and how that could assist their efforts. To learn more about the WRR, John Denniston has offered to coordinate a training session with Maryland Environmental Service and EPA. More information on training for interested members of the PRC will be provided in early 2023.

Open Floor

Jennifer Greiner provided information on a 219-acre property owned by Prince George's County. The property is adjacent to the Patuxent Research Refuge and the county had sent our requests for expression of interest on the land. About 90 acres of the land has been proposed for mixed use development in coordination with Bowie University. The property contains forested lands, wetlands, and important habitat areas. Although the property is adjacent to the Refuge, they were not originally aware that the county was looking to sell the land. The Refuge has funding available for purchases and/or easements and is interested in the land.

An ad hoc workgroup comprised of Jennifer Greiner, Fred Tutman, Barbara Sollner-Webb, Frank Allen, Tiffany Wright, and Mary Dolan was created to draft a letter to the county in support of preserving the land and providing additional trails.

Special Vote

During the interim period between the September and November 2022 meetings, the PRC approved, by Special Vote a letter of support to DNR (Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve) for an IIA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Acts) proposal that they submitted along with the Friends of Jug Bay. DNR was invited back to submit a full proposal for planning and design work for three streams and one shoreline restoration project at the Emory Waters Nature Preserve at the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary. As allowed for under Article V, Section 7 of the PRC bylaws the PRC can have special votes by email.