



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

March 8, 2023

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

Members: John Hartline, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Frank Allen, Stacy Clements, Rachel Dean, John Denniston, Luis Dieguez, Mary Dolan, Jason Dubow, Margaret Everson, Solange Filoso, Kim Finch, Jennifer Greiner, Morgan Hall, Bill Hubbard, Scott Knoche, Mike Leszcz, Ron Marney, Erik Michelsen, Diep Nguyen van Houtte, Matt Rowe, Alison Santoro, Steve Shofar, Joanna Smith, John Tarr, Malcolm Taylor, Fred Tutman, Jason Van Kirk, Tiffany Wright

Staff: Jason Dubow, Debbie Herr Cornwell, Daniel Rosen, Adam Snyder

Approval of February 8, 2023 Minutes, Updates and Announcements

The February 8, 2023 meeting minutes were approved. The Eagle Harbor Funding Forum, organized by the PRC Federal Assistance Workgroup and PRC staff, was held on March 4, 2023. Next steps include a discussion on what other communities could be assisted by this type of forum.

Jason Dubow noted the Howard County representative position on the PRC is currently vacant.

MDE Presentation on Violations/Permit Renewal at Lothian area WWTPs

Matthew Rowe provided an overview of the WWTPs and noted that EPA is involved in the compliance process. No one from EPA was present at the meeting. Matt noted there are four permits/facilities and Facility Improvement Plans (FIPs) are included in the compliance process. The FIPs include timelines for enhancements at the facilities. Questions from the PRC members included how the State would ensure the WWTPs comply. Matt noted there is a prioritization process with legal resources, and they strive to strike a balance to get compliance. Also, a question was raised about how the penalty funds are

used and whether they could be directed back to the Lothian community to offset the detrimental effects from the WWTPs. MDE doesn't currently have a program or process where that could occur.

Refine Letter to Governor Moore about Attending a Commission Meeting

The Commission reviewed the draft letter and discussed minor revisions. Based on the revisions, a motion was made to send the revised letter. The motion passed with 22 yes votes, one no vote and five abstentions.

Discussion of 2023 PRC Annual Action Plan, including Outreach and Televised Meeting

The Commission reviewed the Annual Action Plan and made some minor changes. The plan will be updated to reflect those changes and will be presented at the next meeting for approval.

The potential to host an in-person public meeting was discussed. It was decided to change the meeting date to May 17, 4 to 6 pm. The PRC noted that the agenda should include items that would be appealing to the general public. Staff agreed to work with the City of Laurel to coordinate the public meeting that will be broadcast on local cable television.

2023 General Assembly – Legislative Update

Dan Rosen provided an update on pending legislation. By special vote between the February and March regular meetings, the Commission voted via email to send letters of support for HB0915/SB0843 – Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Payment Program & Climate Impact Health Coverage Program; HB0874/SB0611 – Office of the Attorney General – Environment and Natural Resources Monitoring Unit; HB1089 – Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program; and HB1139 – Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion and On-Farm Composting and Compost Use. Each of the letters was voted on separately but none of the motions received the required number (at the time, 18, given 35 PRC members appointed and serving) of affirmative votes to pass.

Open Floor

Jennifer Greiner raised an issue about a proposed solid waste landfill (Chesapeake Terrace Rubble Landfill) on the Little Patuxent River near the Patuxent Research Refuge. She expressed concerns about the environmental impacts of the landfill on the refuge and the Patuxent River overall. She noted that comments are due to MDE by 5/1. Fred Tutman asked that additional information be provided and that the project be discussed at the next meeting.

On behalf of Chris Perry who had to leave the meeting early, Jason reminded the Commission of Chris' offer to host a field trip/tour of the Magruder's Ferry Landing living shoreline project.