



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

May 17, 2023

Meeting Location:

City of Laurel Municipal Center

8103 Sandy Spring Rd

Laurel, MD 20707

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

Members: John Hartline, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Stacy Clements, John Denniston, Mary Dolan, Jason Dubow, Solange Filoso, Kim Finch, Jennifer Greiner, Bill Hubbard, Mike Leszcz, Byron Petrauskas, John Tarr, Fred Tutman

Attendees: Cheryl Dyer, Michael McLaughlin, Barbara Solner-Webb

Staff: Jason Dubow, Debbie Herr Cornwell, Daniel Rosen

Updates and Announcements

Jason Dubow shared the sad news of the passing of Commissioner Hiram Tanner, Jr. The Annual Patuxent Wade-In was scheduled for June 11 at Jefferson-Patterson Park and Museum and all were encouraged to attend. As approved by the Commission at the March 8 meeting, the revised letter inviting Governor Moore to attend a Commission meeting was sent.

At the April 19 special meeting, called to discuss the proposed Chesapeake Terrace Rubble Landfill located adjacent to the USFWS Patuxent Research Refuge, the Commissioners decided to submit a letter to MDE noting concerns about the proposed project. The workgroup (Chris Perry, Fred Tutman, Diep Nguyen van Houtte and Solange Filoso) drafted a letter that was submitted to the full Commission for approval. The approved letter was submitted to MDE by the May 1 deadline.

Vice-chair Chris Perry hosted a field trip on April 18 to Magruder's Ferry for Commissioners to see first-hand the living shoreline project. Commission members were reminded of the ongoing Patuxent Challenge event and the opportunity to visit the sites in the watershed.

2023 Annual Action Plan: Presentation and Vote

Jason Dubow presented the Annual Action Plan. Public comments on the plan included recommending "at least" one wetland park in each county and to clarify invasive species language. Due to a lack of quorum, a vote on the plan was tabled.

PRC Protocols Workgroup: Discussion

Jason Dubow presented the recommendations from the Protocol Workgroup (memo included in meeting materials) and asked for feedback and comments. John Hartline noted that timely notifications about issues of concern to Commission have been an ongoing problem. The recommendation includes a regular agenda item where Commissioners representing state agencies and local governments provide information on upcoming hearings, etc. Jennifer Greiner asked that federal agencies be included in the update. Due to a lack of quorum, a vote on the recommendations were tabled.

Open Floor

Jennifer Greiner reported on the "Cops & Bobbers" program, a fun and educational event for youth to interact with police and learn about fishing. She also noted comments due on May 24 for the Bowie Mitchellville project on 200+ acres of forested land adjacent to Bowie University. There are concerns similar to those expressed about the Chesapeake Terrace Rubble Landfill.

Chris Perry announced the Early Successional Workshop – Quail Habitat Restoration being held at the Patuxent Research Refuge on July 20.

Fred Tutman encouraged the Commission to hold more meetings around the watershed and to encourage the public to participate and raise any issues of concern.