



PATUXENT RIVER COMMISSION

301 W. Preston Street, Suite 1101
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2305
Phone: (410) 767-4500
Fax: (410) 767-4480

Internet:

<https://planning.maryland.gov/Pages/OurWork/PaxRiverComm/PatuxentRiverCommInfo.aspx>

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 contact Debbie Herr Cornwell at MDP 410-713-3463 or deborah.herrcornwell@maryland.gov if you have any questions or comments.

MEETING SUMMARY

November 8, 2023

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

Members: John Hartline, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Frank Allen, John Denniston, Luis Dieguez, Mary Dolan, Jason Dubow, Margaret Everson, Solange Filoso, Kim Finch, Jennifer Greiner, Morgan Hall, Ron Marney, Erik Michelsen, Diep Nguyen-van Houtte, Byron Petrauskas, Alison Santoro, Steve Shofar, Mark Symborski, Malcolm Taylor, Tiffany Wright

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

Announcements and Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the October meeting were approved.

Rural Maryland Council forestry focused bus tour scheduled for November 13, 2023 will stop at a family-owned sawmill in Anne Arundel County and a research campus in Prince George's County that recently produced a new guide of construction practices to improve moisture performance of wood-framed balconies and decks.

Patuxent River Conference is scheduled for Thursday, February 1, 2024 at Patuxent Research Refuge. MDNR Secretary Kurtz was suggested as a potential speaker.

MAGLEV water quality certification request from MDE

An email vote on submitting the comment letter prepared by the ad hoc committee passed with 17 yes votes and 12 abstentions.

Chair Hartline commended the ad hoc committee for developing the comment letter, which was led by Mary Dolan and Rich Dolesh. Mary Dolan provided a summary of the letter noting the focus of their review was on impacts to the Patuxent; i.e. staging areas that were not really temporary, restorations that did not restore function and long term impacts.

Update on the 2023 Southern Maryland Forestry Tour

Chair Hartline provided the tour update noting three stops: Forest lands – ecotourism horseback riding; Forest Technical Center for high school students and a commercial English (not Amish) sawmill. He noted there are approximately 50 Amish sawmills in Southern Maryland.

Patuxent River Report Card – Discussion

The discussion included:

- Vision of report card
- It should be an assessment of the environmental conditions and should inform the public.
- Should it be a management plan? Or just be used as a public information tool?

It was decided to form a work group to:

- Identify what data is available and where it is located
- Refine the vision
- Recommend defining the scope first? Or concurrently?

Volunteers for the Report Card Scoping workgroup are:

Tiffany Wright, Fred Tutman, Solange Filoso

Chair Hartline asked to be included in their meeting invite. The workgroup will meet prior to the December 15 long term workgroup meeting and will provide their information to the long-term workgroup for discussion and developing a recommendation for the full Commission. The long-term workgroup will provide a report at the January Commission meeting.

Short Term Action Plan – Protocol workgroup recommendation

For timely notification about issues of concern, the workgroup recommended that there be a standing agenda item for Commission members to provide information on projects.

Chair Hartline asked that this item be added to the next agenda setting call to discuss strategies for implementing the recommendation.

2023 Annual Action Plan

Short term actions

The Commission identified the following items to be removed:

- Eagle Harbor
- Geodata base
- Notification strategies

Revision/Update:

- Update meeting with Governor Moore to include Secretaries of MDE, MDNR, MDP, and MDA; and representative of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Long term action

- Add Biking and Hiking Trails

The revised plan will be on the January agenda for discussion and a potential vote.

Open Floor

The Commission is interested in a presentation on Oak Decline and Spotted Lanternfly.