



PATUXENT RIVER COMMISSION

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John Hartline, Executive Director, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, Chair

Christopher Perry, Bourn Environmental, Vice-Chair

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.

PATUXENT RIVER COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Members: John Hartline, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Frank Allen, Stacy Clements, John Denniston, Luis Dieguez, Mary Dolan, Linda Eisenberg, Margaret Everson, Solange Filoso, Kim Finch, Morgan Hall, Scott Knoche, Ron Marney, Paula Proctor, Matt Rowe, Mark Symborski, Fred Tutman, Jason Van Kirk, Tiffany Wright

Staff: Debbie Herr Cornwell, Adam Snyder

Public: John Turgeon (presenter), Mary Owens (presenter), Ryan St. Laurent (presenter), Juana Cumberpatch (presenter), Allison Burnett, Greg Bowen, Mary Hoover, Stacy Schaefer, Kevin Bryan

Announcements, Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Mary Dolan encouraged members to attend PAXCON on February 6, 2025.

Review: PRC Networking and Organizational Goals

Chris Perry provided a refresher on the PRC's networking and organizational goals and Matt Rowe supported the opportunity to continue the discussion.

Presentation: Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance

John Turgeon, Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) presented on the Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance that includes a five-county region. Greg Bowen and Mary Hoover are coordinating the efforts of a 20-member core group of land trusts, NGOs, MET, USFWS and other affiliates. Their focus is on landscape scale conservation effort with the goal on priority preservation.

They are looking to expand friends groups with an emphasis on monitoring and enforcement of violations initiating/supporting restoration projects. They welcome any suggestions or recommendations; it could be identifying existing groups or forming new friends groups.

John Hartline noted that Dan Ryder, Maryland Forest Service is looking for locations to plant trees.

Solange Filoso shared an inexpensive sensor is being developed for economical testing and will provide future updates.

If anyone is interested in monitoring nontidal areas, they should contact Mary Hoover. A monitoring blitz is scheduled for the last week of March/early April.

Presentation/Request for feedback/Letter of Support: Lower Patuxent Watershed Application

Mary Owens, Resilience Authority of Charles County and Ryan St. Laurent, Calvert Soil Conservation District provided an overview of their project proposal being submitted for consideration to the Whole Watershed Act for funding. The project partnership also includes St. Mary's RCD, Equival Partners, LLC (for profit aggregator) and Ecological Society of America.

Chair Hartline requested an email special vote to send a letter of support for the Whole Watershed Proposal.

Continued Discussion: Lothian Mobile Home Parks and Public Health Concerns associated with fishing at/near outfalls (how to facilitate posting of warning signs)

Fred Tutman noted that the Lothian outfalls are still not compliant. Juana Cumberpatch provided a list of fish species designated with fish consumption advisories. Matt Rowe provided an MDE contact, Amy Laliberte, for coordinating posting advisory signage.

Updates: Sewage Spill Database

John Hartline noted the database has been updated through the end of October and congratulated the MDE on the progress. It was noted that spills on the Patuxent are generally small compared to others. There are 30 small wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) and six major WWTPs, with the minors being the biggest problem on the Patuxent.

The meeting was adjourned.