



## 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 call Jason Dubow at MDP 410-767-3370 if you have any questions or comments.

### MEETING SUMMARY

**February 14, 2024**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

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

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**Members:** John Hartline, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Frank Allen, Stacy Clements, John Denniston, Luis Dieguez, Devon Dodson, Mary Dolan, Jason Dubow, Lynda Eisenberg, Margaret Everson, Solange Filoso, Kim Finch, Jennifer Greiner, Morgan Hall, Bill Hubbard, Scott Knoche, Michael Leszcz, Ronald Marney, Erik Michelsen, Bryon Petrauskas, Paula Proctor, Steve Shofar, Joanna Smith, Mark Symborski, Jason Van Kirk, Tiffany Wright

**Staff:** Jason Dubow, Shania Hyatt, Adam Snyder

**Attendees:** Shelby Johnson

#### **Approval of Minutes and Announcements**

January minutes were approved. Jason Dubow provided updates on the annual wade-in which is held every year on the second Sunday of June. This year it is scheduled for June 9th at Jefferson-Patterson Park.

#### **Patuxent River Conference**

Mary Dolan gave a brief summary of the conference. John Hartline brought up a presentation about how certain sugar sweeteners cannot be removed from some sewage treatment plants and another presentation about there being differences between nitrates from fertilizer, in the atmosphere and in sewage.

#### **Meeting Locations in 2024**

John Hartline discussed possibilities of doing hybrid meetings outside of MDA offices, but there are no final decisions about it currently.

### **Bills of Interest**

Jason Dubow discussed some bills of interest. The Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program was brought up which led to discussion about where money from bag tax is going and where it would go for the containers. Howard County had the middle ground where businesses keep 1 cent from every 5 cent fee and the remainder goes to a Disposable Plastics Reduction Fund. Some other bills mentioned were SB956 which is about setting a limit for how much PFAS can occur, SB1086 which allows residents of a community to seek designation as an environmental justice district, HB1284 which dealt with stream restoration credits, and the Great Maryland Trails Act looking to establish a Maryland Trails Advisory Commission. Joanna Smith brought up SB0969 regarding stream restoration contractor licensing and expressed being against the bill due to its redundancy.

### **Patuxent River Report Card**

Different ways to show the Report Card were discussed since it was questioned if it should be a letter grade or another way to show the state of waters. Some ideas that were brought up were:

- Goal achieved or goal not achieved
- Good, satisfactory, bad
- A simple way for the public to understand then adding more specific data for people interested in seeing the in-depth information
- Visualizations (happy face vs sad face, green vs red, maps, etc.)

### **PRC Networking Organizational Structure**

Jason Dubow stated he would like each commissioner to help identify potential partner organizations, thinking about who can help with establishing wetland parks. It was also mentioned that at the next meeting, March 13th, a partner organization could present.

Potential organizations mentioned: Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, Nature Conservancy, Friends of Patuxent

### **Open Floor**

Christopher Perry said he would be formally nominating David Michael at the March meeting to serve the vacancy of the developer slot. Jennifer Greiner mentioned the proposal from the US Fish and Wildlife to make a wildlife refuge in southern Maryland.