



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

MEETING SUMMARY March 13, 2024 VIRTUAL MEETING 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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, Ron Marney, Erik Michelsen, Diep Nguyen van Houtte, Paula Proctor, Alison Santoro, Steve Shofar, Joanna Smith, Mark Symborski, John Tarr, Malcolm Taylor, Fred Tutman, Jason Van Kirk, Tiffany Wright

Staff: Jason Dubow, Deborah Herr Cornwell, Shania Hyatt, Adam Snyder

Attendees: Shelby Johnson, Dan Murphy, Kevin Smith

Announcements, Nomination for Developer Position, Approval of February Minutes

February minutes were approved. Devon Dodson mentioned there have been discussions on the environmental bills, but not much has changed so there are no big updates. Regarding the mobile home WWTP settlement, Fred Tutman expressed receiving pictures of orange drinking water and asked the EPA to sponsor hearing so residents can have conversations on the issue. Fred also mentioned that the summit group wants to resuscitate the Patuxent Summit but have not decided on a specific location. There was a majority vote in favor of passing David Michael for appointment of the developer position, which will be appointed by the governor by consent of the Senate.

Patuxent Research Refuge Presentation by Dan Murphy and Jennifer Greiner:

Jennifer Greiner and Dan Murphy's presentation was titled "Draft Land Protection Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Southern Maryland Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge." Jennifer spoke on how the refuge would have the authority to acquire, from willing sellers, up to 40,000 acres with four Southern Maryland focus areas. Dan stated the Refuge purposes and discussed outreach

strategies including meeting with stakeholders, tribal consultation, and public listening sessions. Dan explained that the next steps are the 45-day public comment period of the draft LPP/EA, finalizing and then publishing the plan.

Maryland Coastal Bays Program presentation by Kevin Smith

Kevin Smith, the Executive Director of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, presented some projects this organization works on. The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is 1 of 28 National Estuary Programs across the country that is funded by the EPA. They have built an artificial island made of floating rafts with cameras powered by solar panels through a collaborative project. They found 320 bird nests on the artificial island last year. Kevin Smith expressed that this could not have been possible without partnerships and collaboration.

Presentation/Discussion: Coalitions

Margaret Everson asked Kevin what format can be provided to encourage partnerships. Kevin responded that they had a comprehensive conservation management plan and worked with other stakeholders to develop actions and decide who is responsible for what actions so it is clear what will be worked on and who will do it. John Denniston asked Kevin about ways to get the message out. Kevin mentioned social media platforms and websites are useful, but the most effective way is through community events throughout the year.

PRC Networking and Organizational Structure Discussion

Jason Dubow brought up that there was a spreadsheet sent out that can be added to if there are any other potential partnering organizations.

Open Floor

There was a majority in favor of endorsing the concept of an electric shallow boat system determined after a study or additional research to find the most efficient approach. Chair Hartline mentioned a fallen osprey nest which he has reported.