



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, February 19, 2025

Members: John Hartline, Chair; Frank Allen, Stacy Clements, John Denniston, Luis Dieguez, Mary Dolan, Jason Dubow, Margaret Everson, Solange Filoso, Kim Finch, Jim George, Jennifer Greiner, Morgan Hall, Bill Hubbard, Scott Knoche, Ron Marney, Erik Michelsen, Diep Nguyen-van Houtte, Paula Proctor, Alison Santoro, Joanna Smith, Mark Symborski, John Tarr, Malcolm Taylor, Fred Tutman, Jason Van Kirk, Tiffany Wright

Staff: Debbie Herr Cornwell, Adam Snyder

Public: Juana Cumberpatch, Shelby Johnson

Announcements, Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November meeting were approved. The 2025 meeting schedule as included in the meeting materials was approved.

2024 Annual Action Plan (approved 1.10.24 – and extended through March 2025)

The Commission extended the 2024 Annual Action Plan to March and Chair Hartline asked Commissioners to review the plan, specifically the Long-Term actions to determine if there were any changes. The plan will be on the March agenda.

Patuxent River Commission Biennial Report

Debbie Herr Cornwell thanked all the partners for submitting their updates for the 2023-2024 report, noting that MDP's Communications staff is finalizing the report for submission to the Legislature. A copy will be distributed to Commissioners for any comments.

Update – Whole Watershed Act

Debbie Herr Cornwell reported that the State Management Team had reviewed the nine applications, and the five applications had been selected in accordance with requirements of the law – one predominantly urban area, one in a predominantly suburban area, at least two in a predominantly agricultural area and at least one with a collaborative effort in an adjoining state.

The successful applicants will be announced by March 1.

2025 Legislative Session

The floor was opened for Commissioners to discuss pending legislation of interest.

Summary: CESR – Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Chesapeake Bay: A Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response

This will be scheduled for a future meeting.

Update: Patuxent Futures (Fred Tutman and Frank Allen)

There will be a June gathering for public participation to recommit and refocus efforts in the Patuxent, building on the work of Bernie Fowler. The group is working to identify ways to move projects forward.

Update: PAXCON – Patuxent River Conference

Commissioners that attended the conference included Fred Tutman, John Hartline, Jennifer Greiner and Mary Dolan and they provided their perspectives. It was noted that many young people were in attendance and engaged in the work.

Presentation: Invasive Species in the Patuxent

This presentation will be rescheduled for the March meeting.

Open Floor

Scott Knoche stated that the eradication of nutria on the Delmarva, an invasive species, is a success story worth noting.

The meeting was adjourned.