



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, May 14, 2025

Members: John Hartline, Chair; Chris Petty, Vice-Chair; Frank Allen, Stacy Clements, John Denniston, Luis Dieguez, Jason Dubow, Lynda Eisenberg, Margaret Everson, Solange Filoso, Jim George, Kim Finch, Morgan Hall, Bill Hubbard, Shelby Johnson, Marney, Erik Michelsen, Paula Proctor, Joanna Smith, Mark Symborski, John Tarr, Fred Tutman, Jason Van Kirk, Tiffany Wright

Staff: Debbie Herr Cornwell, Adam Snyder

Guests: Maher Akremi, Richard Bannister, Annette C., Ben Clemmer, Michael Demelash, Mary Ellen, Michael Ford, Anwer Hasan, Joel Hurewitz, Phyllis Kelley, Lisa Kenney, Lisa Krausz, Mari Laituri, Ron Maldonado, Sar Noonan, Tom O'Connell, Shamioka Preston, Jonathan Stone, Padma Swamy

Announcements, Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March meeting were approved with the addition of Ron Marney to the attendance list.

Annual Election for PRC Chair and Vice Chair

Since the meeting was held virtually, the Commission used an anonymous online voting system. In accordance with the by-laws, the successful candidate must receive 18 votes.

There was one nomination for Chair: John Hartline and one nomination for Vice-Chair: Chris Perry. Both candidates were successfully elected.

Presentation: Invasive Species in the Patuxent

Tom O'Connell, Director, USGS Eastern Ecological Science Center presented on the blue catfish, that can live up to 30 years and the flathead catfish that is more of a 'sleeper' invasive species that hasn't received a lot of

attention yet. Blue catfish are opportunistic feeders and are impacting the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Managing these species is a huge challenge and resources are needed for managers.

Informational Presentation: W.R. Grace Proposed Recycling Pilot Lab in Columbia

The representative from W.R. Grace was unable to attend the May meeting but offered to present at a future meeting. From the W.R. Grace website, Debbie Herr Cornwell provided background information on the proposed project.

Lisa Krausz, Stop Grace presented on the concerns of the community including source of the plastic stock, discharges into the tributary stream, releases of toxic chemicals, status of MDE permit for water discharge.

Informational Presentation: Vermillion Solar Project

Ben Clemmer presented on behalf of the solar project and requested the Commission provide a letter of support noting that the project is consistent with the Patuxent River Policy Plan.

The Commission did not act, and Chair Hartline noted that the discussion will be continued.