



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, September 10, 2025

Members: John Hartline, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Stacy Clements, Luis Dieguez, Mary Dolan, Jason Dubow, Lynda Eisenberg, Margaret Everson, Solange Filoso, Morgan Hall, Scott Knoche, Ron Marney, David Michael, Erik Michelsen, Paula Proctor, Matt Rowe, Joanna Smith, Mark Symborski, Fred Tutman, Jason Van Kirk, Tiffany Wright

Staff: Debbie Herr Cornwell, Adam Snyder

Announcements, Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the July meeting were approved.

Next Steps: Meeting Schedule

As a continuation of the July meeting discussion, Commissioners discussed potential changes to the meeting schedule beginning in 2026. An online poll will be provided for the membership to provide input.

Discussion: Shallow water impacts from jet skis

Commission members discussed whether shallow water impacts were an issue to be investigated. Solange Filoso noted that Dr. Tom Fisher, UMCES had looked at the issue in the Choptank River. She will find the report and share it with the PRC. Scott Knoche also noted an issue in the mid-West with wake boats that have raised concerns but noted they don't seem to be present on the Patuxent.

Presentation: Southern Maryland National Heritage Area (Lucille Walker)

Lucille Walker presented an overview of the new heritage area that was designated by Congress in December 2022. It includes the counties of Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's and Prince George's where there are dozens of

historical sites, cultural monuments and parks dedicated to the preservation of Southern Maryland's unique history.

National heritage areas produce economic growth, bring communities together and enhance conservation and preservation. For every \$1 of state investment, \$7 is returned; and for every \$1 of federal investment, \$6 is returned.

Open Floor

Fred Tutman noted that the Patuxent Riverkeeper had hosted another successful season of summer camps.

Commission members were reminded to provide agenda items suggestions.

Reminder that there are several positions available on the Commission and potential members are encouraged to apply online through the Governor's Appointments Office.