



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, November 12, 2025

Members: John Hartline, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Frank Allen, Stacy Clements, Luis Dieguez, Jason Dubow, Solange Filoso, D'Real Graham, Bill Hubbard, Kusuma Prabhakara, Ron Marney, David Michael, Erik Michelsen, Byron Petrauskas, Diep Nguyen-van Houtte, Paula Proctor, Shelby Johnson, Mark Symborski, John Tarr, Malcolm Taylor, Fred Tutman, Tiffany Wright

Staff: Debbie Herr Cornwell, Adam Snyder

Guests: Adam Griggs, Clara Brill-Carlat, Matt Stegman

Announcements, Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Chair Hartline welcomed two new members to the Commission: Dr. Kusuma Prabhakara (Municipality representative – Laurel) and D'Real Graham (Farming representative). Both members were provided with an opportunity to introduce themselves.

Fred Tutman shared information on a proposal to demolish and redevelop Bowie Town Center.

Presentation: 2026 Maryland Legislative Session

Matt Stegman, Chesapeake Bay Foundation provided an overview of the water quality and energy uses that will be part of the 2026 session. Legislative issues include: PFAS, beverage container deposit program, solar, electric transmission and data centers.

2026 Meeting Schedule and Annual Action Plan

The results of the online Doodle Poll on member preference for the 2026 meeting schedule were 12 in favor of changing the traditional schedule and 1 in favor of retaining the traditional schedule. The 2026 meetings will be held: January, February, March, April, May, October and November.

Chris Perry reviewed the Annual Action Plan noting the work groups should be revisited and a 5-year review of the Policy Plan should be done.

Background: History of Patuxent River Water Trail

Fred Tutman provided information on the establishment of the Patuxent River Water Trail that originally was started to connect parks and boat launches on the river. The Patuxent Riverkeeper has hosted the website.

Presentation: Patuxent Water Trail – Interactive Online Map Project

Adam Griggs, American Chestnut Land Trust and Clara Brill-Carlat, Southern Maryland Active Recreation & Transport Alliance (SMARTA) presented their proposal to develop an interactive, online trail map for the Patuxent. They have received a grant to support the map, which would be GIS based (one doesn't currently exist) and the map would be available to be published on partner sites.

The Commission approved a motion to support and participate in the project.

Open Commission Positions

Staff provided a review of the open positions and potential members are encouraged to apply online through the Governor's Appointments Office.