



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, January 21, 2026

Members: John Hartline, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Frank Allen, Luis Dieguez, Mary Dolan, Jason Dubow, Lynda Eisenberg, Solange Filoso, Kim Finch, D'Real Graham, Les Knapp, Scott Knoche, Kusuma Prabhakara, Ron Marney, David Michael, Erik Michelsen, Byron Petrauskas, Shelby Johnson, Joanna Smith, Mark Symborski, John Tarr, Malcolm Taylor, Fred Tutman, Jason Van Kirk, Tiffany Wright

Staff: Debbie Herr Cornwell, Adam Snyder

Guests: Matt Stegman

Announcements, Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 12, 2025 meeting were approved.

Commission members whose terms ended on September 30, 2025 were reminded to respond to the 'Invitation to Reapply' and complete the online application.

Update: 2026 Maryland Legislative Session

Matt Stegman, Chesapeake Bay Foundation provided an update on the Governor's Budget that had been released earlier that day. Generally, there is flat funding and Program Open Space still contains cuts to funding as established in the 2025 session.

Les Knapp provided an overview of the 2026 legislation focused on water quality and energy use.

Update: Status of 'Waters of the United States'

Adam Snyder will provide information at the February meeting.

Update: Southern Maryland National Heritage Area

John Hartline shared the Passport Program developed by the Southern Maryland Heritage Area. Fifteen historic locations are participating, including five on the Patuxent - Annmarie Sculpture Garden, Calvert Marine Museum, Historic Sotterley, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum and Serenity Farm. Complimentary passport booklets are available at each location.

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.

Discussion: DNR Request - Scenic River Projects

DNR has contacted the Patuxent River Commission (PRC) regarding the review of projects submitted for Scenic and Wild River review. The Patuxent River has State designation as a Scenic River.

PRC leadership will meet with DNR staff to discuss further.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.