



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 11, 2026

Members: John Hartline, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Frank Allen, Stacy Clements, Luis Dieguez, Mary Dolan, Jason Dubow, Solange Filoso, Kim Finch, D'Real Graham, Scott Knoche, Kusuma Prabhakara, Ron Marney, David Michael, Erik Michelsen, Byron Petrauskas, Paula Proctor, John Tarr, Fred Tutman, Tiffany Wright

Staff: Debbie Herr Cornwell, Adam Snyder

Guests: Juana Cumberbatch, Secretary Jake Day, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD); Charles Day, DHCD; Andrew Gosden, MDE; Garret King, DHCD; Christopher Murphy, Anne Arundel County DPW; Steuart Pittman, Anne Arundel County Executive; Jenny Proebstle, Donna Sorce, DHCD,

Announcements, Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 21, 2026 meeting were approved.

Discussion: Mobile Home Communities - Lothian

Chris Perry provided background on previous PRC discussions where concerns were raised over the status of wastewater treatment plant compliance and inspections and drinking water issues.

Secretary Jake Day, DHCD expressed concern about the quality of life for residents, noting he was there to listen and learn more about the issue. He introduced his staff, representing the various DHCD programs available across the state that can assist in improving communities.

County Executive Steuart Pittman shared the County's goal for residents to maintain their ability to be housed and not to create a financial burden for them. The County has a \$40M budget for wastewater treatment improvements and is in negotiations with the mobile home park owners, Horizon. He noted it was important to have financial support from the park owners, as well as a commitment that the properties would be maintained and rates would not be raised resulting in a housing crisis for the residents.

Andrew Gosden, MDE provided information on the wastewater treatment discharge enforcement and compliance, noting the reports are forwarded to EPA. In recent months, results have varied from poor to acceptable. No information was available on drinking water.

Action Items/Solutions

Questions raised and information needed include:

- Would Anne Arundel County be responsible for existing violations if they took over the wastewater treatment responsibilities? Is this an MDE requirement? Anne Arundel County needs assurances that the existing violations would not be their responsibility.
- An update from EPA on the status of the violations
- How can the safe drinking water issues be addressed? Can MDE provide drinking water information?

Updates: Status of "Waters of the United States" Definition

Adam Snyder, OAG, MDP Counsel provided an overview of Federal changes to the definition. While the changes reflect a pull back at the Federal level, there is no direct impact in Maryland due to Maryland's definitions more of state waters and wetlands.

The changes to the Clean Water Act will impact upstream states which can result in more polluted water flowing downstream and into Chesapeake Bay.

Question raised about the status of federal lands, such as Patuxent Refuge. Adam will investigate impacts on Federal lands.

Open Floor

Rural Maryland Council is hosting Rural Maryland day on February 12. The free special event offers legislators an opportunity to engage with rural constituents and stakeholders, fostering discussion on initiatives and opportunities that impact rural Maryland.

Tiffany Wright noted that Prince George's County has a new sustainability manager.

Funding was received for a joint Chesapeake Biological Laboratory and Patuxent Riverkeeper project for sensors in the Patuxent River to monitor sewage.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.