



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, March 11, 2026

Members: John Hartline, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Frank Allen, Stacy Clements, Luis Dieguez, Mary Dolan, Jason Dubow, Lynda Eisenberg, Solange Filoso, D'Real Graham, Les Knapp, Scott Knoche, Kusuma Prabhakara, Ron Marney, David Michael, Byron Petrauskas, Paula Proctor, Shelby Johnson, Joanna Smith, Mark Symborski, Fred Tutman, Jason VanKirk, Tiffany Wright

Staff: Debbie Herr Cornwell, Adam Snyder

Guests: Michel Cavigelli, Shruti Bhatnagar, Rich Dolesh, Luke Macaulay, Ryan St. Laurent

Announcements, Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 11, 2026 meeting were approved.

Discussion: Patuxent River Refuge

Rich Dolesh, Friends of Patuxent provided background on the importance of the Refuge and its dedication to long tenured research projects such as breeding bird studies and native bees/pollinators. Michel Cavigelli, retired from the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center provided perspective on the pending move and reorganization. The actions are intended to bring services closer to stakeholders, consolidate for efficiency and be located in a less expensive location.

Action Items: Monitor HB1267 and send pending/amended legislation with poll to Commissioners to authorize the Chair submitting letters of support to Maryland Legislature.

Lothian Trailer Park Updated Information

The legislation language had been amended and when it crosses over, the pending legislation will be provided to the PRC.

Chris Perry continues to follow up with EPA on the wastewater compliance issues but has not gotten any responses yet.

Question for MDE: Are the Lothian WWTP included in MDE's overflow database.

Open Floor

Frank Allen raised the idea of developing a model for the Patuxent that tracks and predicts spills on the river. Also tracking when deferred maintenance is occurring.

Meeting was adjourned at 6 pm.