



PATUXENT RIVER COMMISSION

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John Hartline, *Chairman*

Christopher Perry, *Vice Chairman*

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.

☀ Please call Daniel Rosen at MDP 410-767-4577 if you have any questions or comments.

MEETING SUMMARY

October 11, 2023

VIRTUAL MEETING

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Members: John Hartline, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Frank Allen, Stacy Clements, Rachel Dean, John Denniston, Luis Dieguez, Mary Dolan, Jason Dubow, Margaret Everson, Solange Filoso, Kim Finch, Jennifer Greiner, Morgan Hall, Scott Knoche, Ron Marney, Erik Michelsen, Erik Michelsen, Byron Petrauskas, Paula Proctor, Matt Rowe, Alison Santoro, Steve Shofar, Joanna Smith, Mark Symborski, John Tarr, Malcolm Taylor, Jason Van Kirk, Tiffany Wright

Staff: Jason Dubow, Debbie Herr Cornwell, Daniel Rosen, Adam Snyder

Attendees: Richard Dolesh, Anne Hairston-Strang

Announcements and Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the August meeting were approved. Debbie Herr Cornwell provided an update from the Long-Range PRC workgroup. At the September 15 meeting the workgroup reviewed the potential funding document prepared by Alison Santoro and DNR staff. This compilation of funding opportunities will be a great tool to provide to the local jurisdictions in discussion about potential new wetland parks. The workgroup is also developing a survey as part of the outreach to the local jurisdictions to gauge the interest and potential locations for wetland parks. The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for December 15. John Hartline provided information on the 2023 Southern Maryland Forestry Tour to be held on October 23. Details and registration information will be emailed to Commission members.

MAGLEV water quality certification request from MDE

Richard Dolesh provided an overview of the application status, noting that the first public hearing was being held the evening of the PRC October meeting. Public comments are due November 3. Rich noted three issues of concern: 1) the impact to the Patuxent River – mitigation and avoidance is not adequately addressed; 2) transferring federal public land to a for profit organization; and 3) the irreplaceable loss of contiguous forest lands.

The Commission discussed submitting comments and it was decided that a small group would review the findings of the Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit (MCRT) and prepare a comment letter for the Commission to review, vote on and submit as public comments. The members of the ad hoc committee are Mary Dolan, Rich Dolesh, John Hartline, Chris Perry, Solange Filoso, and Fred Tutman. The draft will be completed by October 24/25 and distributed via email to the Commission for approval to submit.

Patuxent River Report Card – Discussion of scope and purpose

The discussion of the scope and purpose of the report card included:

- what level of data should be included?
- it needs to be repeated so that the data can be tracked – not a one-time effort
- a full picture of the 20+ segments is not currently available
- important to know what the local jurisdictions are already testing for
- what sources of funding are available for the report card, tracking, data collection

The discussion will be continued at a future meeting.

Updates to the Forest Conservation Act

On behalf of J.T. Bowers, Anne Hairston-Strang provided an overview of the updates to the Forest Conservation Act noting that the original Act did not achieve ‘no net loss’ and the new bill gets closer to ‘no net loss’. DNR is still developing guidance and will be continuing to provide outreach in the coming months. Anne asked for input on what outreach would be beneficial to the local jurisdictions.

Open Floor

The next meeting will be held on November 8 (virtual meeting). The 2024 meeting schedule will be sent to Commission members. The 2024 legislative session begins on January 10. John Hartline noted that solar is going to be a significant topic for the 2024 legislative session, especially green credits that are being generated within Maryland, but credits are being used out of state.