



PATUXENT RIVER COMMISSION

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Councilman Michael Leszcz, Co-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

July 10, 2019

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Annapolis, MD

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

Members: Michael Leszcz, Chair; Christopher Perry, Vice-Chair; Erik Michelsen; John Swartz; Steve Shofar; Martin Chandler; Kim Finch (for Katina Shoulars); John Hartline; Mark Symborski, Fred Tutman; Albert Tucker; Lisa White; Robert T. Brown, Sr.; Matthew Rowe; Alison Santoro; Jason Dubow; John Denniston

Attendees: Paul Cucuzzella, Udeni Leanage, Jeanine Nutter

Staff: Dan Rosen, Debbie Herr Cornwell, Jason Dubow

Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Minutes from May 8, 2019 meeting were approved.

Updates

Jason Dubow noted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer was soliciting comments on a proposed Patuxent Mitigation Bank prospectus for development of a private commercial mitigation bank, noting the deadline to comment was July 20.

Vote for Chair and Vice-Chair

The vote for Chair and Vice-Chair was tabled until the September meeting. Although there was a quorum, there were not enough members to allow for the vote (Article IV of the Commission's by-laws require "an affirmative vote of a majority of the entire Commission required to elect officers" and "designees may not vote to select officers of the Commission". As of the date of the July 10, 2019 meeting, there were 31 of 34 Commission members appointed; a majority of 31 members is 16, but there were only 15 members in attendance).

Update: Savage Mill development letter

The letter as approved by the Commission at the May 8th meeting was sent to Howard County on May 30th, 2019.

Update: Draft letter to MDE Related to WWTPs and the Posting of Sewage Overflows

While discussing the letter, Matthew Rowe noted that he would be the person contacted for the information and offered the following in lieu of sending the letter: 1) he will follow up on the status/maintenance of the website; and 2) the real time online reporting can be developed into a map.

In response to John Hartline's question on who monitors discharges that are over permitted limits, Matthew Rowe confirmed that MDE does monitor. Matthew Rowe said he will provide briefing materials on the WWTP/Water and Sewer Plan approval/permitting process and will provide specific data for the Patuxent.

Discussion of Forest Conservation Bills from the 2019 Session of the Maryland General Assembly

HB120/SB203 – Natural Resources – No Net Loss of Forest – Definition, to alter the definition of “no net loss of forest” did not pass.

HB735/SB729 – Technical Study on Changes in Forest Cover and Tree Canopy in Maryland passed and is the initial report due December 2019 is in process. An initial meeting was held in late May where the focus was on compiling existing data due to the short timeline for completing the report.

SB232 – Natural Resources – State and Local Forest Conservation Funds passed, and the Commission discussed how this bill changes mitigation banking. The bill requires that credits available from a mitigation bank be used before allowing a fee in lieu to be paid to a State or local forest conservation fund, as well as submission requirements for the local program. Some noted that this will provide an incentive for smaller properties to enter the market and will benefit the building of green infrastructure.

Discussion of Draft 2019 Annual Action Plan

Jason Dubow presented an overview of the draft Annual Action Plan and the Commission agreed the plan should be for a two-year period, through 2020. Focus should be on Item #2 – Strategy P2, including Strategy P4 as a subset. Alison Santoro will be creating the maps identified in this strategy. The Commission requested minor changes. Recommended changes will be made by staff, and the plan will be on the September agenda for voting.

Draft By-Laws Update

Paul Cucuzzella presented an overview of the revisions to the proposed bylaws. A small group of Commission members, including Fred Tutman, Chris Perry and John Hartline, will review the proposed bylaws and provide recommendations at the September meeting.

Open Floor

Fred Tutman noted that the court denied the appeal of the Chalk Point Generating Station permits; a petition was filed to modify the permit.

Al Tucker attended the Patuxent River Conference where he heard a presentation on the Patuxent Watershed Study on Climate Change. He suggested a presentation on the study be included on a future Commission agenda.

The annual field trip is proposed for October 9th by DNR to the Cedarville State Forest Fishery.