



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

September 14, 2022

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

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- Members:** John Hartline, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Frank Allen, Alison Armocida Santoro, Stacey Clements, John Denniston, Luis Dieguez, Mary Dolan, Jason Dubow, Margaret Everson, Solange Filoso, Jennifer Greiner, Morgan Hall, Jr., William Hubbard, Scott Knoche, Michael Leszcz, Ron Marney, Erik Michelsen, Paula Proctor, Brian Riddle, Steve Shofar, Joanna Smith, Mark Symborski, Malcolm Taylor, Fred Tutman, Diep Nguyen Van Houtte, Tiffany Wright
- Attendees:** Patricia Delgado, Bill Dennison, Ann Foo, La Verne Gray, Heath Kelsey, Chris McGovern, Amanda Yowell
- Staff:** Jason Dubow, Daniel Rosen, Adam Snyder

Approval of July 13, 2022 Minutes, Updates, Announcements

The July 13, 2022 meeting minutes were approved. John Hartline described the ongoing effort to create the Southern Maryland Heritage Area, much of which lies in the Patuxent River watershed. He said that Congressman Hoyer and Senators Cardin and Van Hollen are very supportive, which should reduce the usual application approval time.

Wetland Parks Discussion/Presentation (Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary)

Patricia Delgado, the superintendent of the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, described the resources there: the 1,700 acres comprise forest, meadow, river, vernal pools, etc. They provide ecological services such as habitat, animal and plant diversity, and absorption of stormwater. Threats to the sanctuary include sediment and discharges from small, unregulated wastewater treatment plants. She also described the recreational and education values of the park and research activities at the park.

Presentation by the Geodatabase Workgroup

Mark Symborski and Chris McGovern summarized the three geodatabase options that were included in a handout to the Commissioners:

1. The low option would use data layers available on the web (especially from the existing Maryland Water Resources Registry, which has already compiled much of these data layers) and would therefore be low in cost. They can be easily accessed during Commission meetings to illustrate certain matters or answer questions. The drawback is that the map layers and imagery show the whole state, not just the Patuxent watershed, which makes them more difficult to interpret. Also, the data layers cannot be queried.
2. The moderate option would use ArcGIS tools to create more detailed mapping, data queries and analyses from on-line resources. The downside is that this option would require an undergraduate to use a UMD ArcGIS online account license to build the geodatabase, an agreement with UMD to continue to partner with the PRC to sponsor the geodatabase through its ESRI account, and at least one Commissioner or staff person who knows how to create maps, make queries, and conduct analyses as needed. The database would still be limited to free, online resources.
3. The high option would require expert agency support because a student would be unlikely to volunteer the large amount of time needed. This option would allow the operator to use the data and functionality of on-line databases and also allow variously formatted government and private data bases to be incorporated into new data structures constructed by the operator.

Patuxent Challenge Update: Tourism Workgroup

Representing the PRC Tourism Workgroup, La Verne Gray, who leads the workgroup, provided an update on the Patuxent Challenge – see <http://patuxentchallenge.org>. She said that over 150 households have posted about their participation in the Challenge in the three years of the event. The next step is to get local businesses involved by having them offer gifts to Challenge participants. The workgroup includes county tourism officials and others who are working to implement the eXcitement strategies of the Patuxent River Policy Plan.

Patuxent River Report Card Update: UMCES IAN

Bill Dennison and Heath Kelsey of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) Integration and Application Network (IAN) reported that Phase I of the development of a socio-environmental report card for the Patuxent River watershed is underway. Phase one involves listening sessions on October 1 and October 5, 2022, for stakeholders and the community to offer their views on societal, governmental, economic, and environmental indicators. Completion of the report card, which is dependent on finding additional funding sources for Phases II and III, is expected in mid-2024. Ultimately the report card is meant to identify a shared vision regarding what can and should be done to restore the Patuxent River and its tributaries.

Federal Assistance Workgroup: Meeting at Eagle Harbor—Summary of Issues, Proposal for Forum on Available State and Federal Assistance

Jason Dubow reported that the workgroup met with officials from Eagle Harbor on August 4 and briefly

discussed the content and outcome of the meeting. The town is interested in a forum hosted by the PRC that includes federal, state and NGO grantmaking organizations. Since the meeting, PRC staff have followed up with nongovernmental, state and federal contacts to find out what assistance is available for the issues raised by the town. Margaret Everson asked the PRC to provide contacts from nongovernmental organizations, federal and state agencies, etc.