

2015 Patuxent River Conference

“Next Steps”

The 2015 Patuxent River Conference was held June 18–19, 2015 at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum located on the Patuxent River. Eighty participants from thirty-six organizations came together to learn and share about research, monitoring, restoration, and management occurring within the Patuxent River watershed. Facilitated discussions enabled participants to brainstorm and prioritize gaps and questions of concern about the future of the Patuxent River. Preliminary “next steps” generated from the conference are described below.

Promote Conference Outcomes

Post presentations from the Patuxent River Conference on the conference web pages hosted by the Friends of Jug Bay website

(<http://www.friendsofjugbay.org/eventsMeetings/PaxRiverConf/ConferenceResults/index.html>). Develop a summary of “Next Steps” to share with participants and post on the website. Forward the Patuxent River Conference participant list to conference attendees.

- **Lead:** Siobhán Percey, Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve - Maryland
- **Timeline:** Completed

Summarize information originating from each of the five discussion groups and obtain feedback from group participants

(<http://www.friendsofjugbay.org/eventsMeetings/PaxRiverConf/ConferenceResults/Discussion.html>).

- **Lead:** Andrew Baldwin, University of Maryland; Patricia Delgado, Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary; Richard Lacouture, Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory; Matthew Ogburn, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center; Colin Rees, Friends of Jug Bay
- **Timeline:** Completed

Develop a white paper centered on the conference, including information originating from the small group discussions and the “Next Steps” generated by the participants.

- **Lead:** Thomas Baden, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission; Patricia Delgado, Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary; Lora Harris, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Research Studies – Chesapeake Biological Laboratory; Philippe Hensel, NOAA National Geodetic Survey; Sasha Land, Siobhán Percey, and Amanda Garzio-Hadzick, Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve - Maryland; Cindy Palinkas, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Research Studies – Horn Point Laboratory; Mindy Quinn, Calvert Marine Museum; Colin Rees, Friends of Jug Bay
- **Timeline:** Ongoing

Explore the possibility of applying for a Chesapeake Conservation Corp intern to help move forward the “Next Steps” effort.

- **Lead:** Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve - Maryland
- **Timeline:** Spring 2016

Networking

Create a listserv for 2015 Patuxent River Conference participants and others interested in the Patuxent River watershed. Email: paxcon.listserv@gmail.com to request an invitation.

- **Lead:** Melissa Day and Lora Harris, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Research Studies – Chesapeake Biological Laboratory

- **Timeline:** Completed

Conduct informal “meetups” to exchange information and ideas about work in the Patuxent River watershed.

- **Lead & Timeline:** Lora Harris, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Research Studies – Chesapeake Biological Laboratory: First week in August; Mindy Quinn: October

Outreach

Initiate a conversation with the Patuxent River Commission to determine if the Commission has the structure in place to move forward ideas generated at the conference. Recommend the formation of a workgroup (<http://planning.maryland.gov/ourwork/patuxentrivercomminfo.shtml>).

- **Lead:** Mary Kay Sigaty, Howard County Council
- **Timeline:** Completed & ongoing

Coordinate a work session for education, outreach, and science practitioners to develop data visualization and common messages about the Patuxent River that would be applicable to various audiences. Investigate partnering with the Sea Grant Extension Watershed Specialists on this project.

- **Lead:** Sasha Land, Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve - Maryland
- **Timeline:** Fall/Winter 2015

Communicate the Science

Submit a proposal requesting the publication of a dedicated edition of a peer-reviewed scientific journal focusing on the Patuxent River (e.g. Estuaries and Coasts, Wetlands, or other appropriate journal).

- **Lead:** Patricia Delgado, Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary; Lora Harris, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Research Studies – Chesapeake Biological Laboratory
- **Timeline:** Fall 2015

Explore the resurrection of the Patuxent River Summits which reviewed the state of the Patuxent River and occurred in years past in association with the Patuxent River Appreciation Days at the Calvert Marine Museum.

- **Lead:** Mindy Quinn, Calvert Marine Museum

Consolidate the Data

Assess the capacity within the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to conduct a data inventory of the restoration and monitoring work being done in the Patuxent River, and provide an overview of potential parameters and a timeline for completion.

- **Lead:** Alison Armocida, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- **Timeline:** [Completed](#)
- **Timeline for data inventory:** December 31, 2015

Investigate the integration of tidal and nontidal water quality data sets available at a local scale to inform decision-making processes at a local or county level.

- **Lead:** Open