

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2014 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 8

RESOLUTION NO. 87 - 2014

Introduced by: Mary Kay Sigaty, Councilmember
at the request of
the Patuxent River Commission

A RESOLUTION approving and adopting the 2015 Patuxent River Policy Plan.

Introduced and read for the first time on _____, 2014.

By order _____
Sheila M. Tolliver, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on _____, 2014.

By order _____
Sheila M. Tolliver, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read for the third time and was Adopted___, Adopted with amendments___, Failed___, Withdrawn ___ by the County Council
on _____, 2014.

Certified by _____
Sheila M. Tolliver, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN ALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language.
~~Strike out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **WHEREAS**, The Patuxent River, one of eight major tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay,
2 is the longest and deepest river running entirely through Maryland, flowing for 110 miles with a
3 maximum depth of about 175 feet; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the Patuxent River watershed is an attractive area for new development,
6 with population growth increasing nearly threefold since 1970 to almost three-quarters of a
7 million inhabitants; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the Patuxent River ecosystem remains in poor health, with impaired
10 conditions in the River and in its tributaries and headwaters for fish, shellfish, birds and other
11 wildlife; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, The Patuxent River Commission, which was formed four years after the
14 1980 Patuxent River Watershed Act, seeks to protect this important Maryland resource and
15 envisions a Patuxent River ecosystem as vital and productive in 2050 as it was in the 1950s; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, The Patuxent River Policy Plan represents the shared commitment of state
18 agencies and the seven counties and municipalities in the watershed whose mission is to
19 safeguard and enhance this natural resource; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the original 1984 Policy Plan identified 20 goals and 10 recommendations
22 to improve the Patuxent River; and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, the 1997 Policy Plan Update reflected the amended role of the Commission
25 as the Patuxent River Tributary Team and the resulting increased stakeholder interaction with six
26 programmatic guidelines; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, the 2015 Patuxent River Policy Plan shifts the focus from a regulatory

1 framework to one that guides local jurisdictions and the state in preserving and restoring the
2 river, raising awareness of the river through advocacy, and creating excitement about the multiple
3 opportunities for interaction with the river; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the Commission has worked with local governments and units of State
6 government for the past two years to prepare the updated Plan, conducted informational meetings
7 with local planning officials and elected governing boards, posted the draft updated Plan on the
8 Commission’s website for public comment, and held two public hearings on the draft updated
9 Plan; and
10

11 **WHEREAS**, the Howard County Council expresses support of the overall plan as a
12 policy framework for guiding our continuing efforts to protect and enhance the Patuxent River
13 and its watershed; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, upon approval of the Patuxent River Policy Plan, the plan shall serve as a
16 policy guide for State agencies and local governments in carrying out their programs in the
17 watershed.
18

19 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
20 Maryland, this ____ day of _____, 2014, that the County Council hereby approves and
21 adopts the 2015 Patuxent River Policy Plan.
22