

Resolution No.: 17-1140  
Introduced: June 17, 2014  
Adopted: July 8, 2014

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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By: County Council

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**SUBJECT:** Approval of the Patuxent River Policy Plan: 2015 Update

**Background**

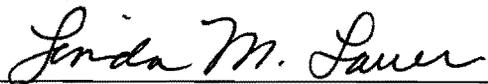
1. The Patuxent River offers a diversity of natural, scientific, economic, cultural and educational resources which contribute immeasurably to the well-being of Maryland's residents.
2. While some portions of the Patuxent River ecosystem remain in good health, the Patuxent River ecosystem as a whole remains in poor health, with impaired conditions in the River and in its tributaries and headwaters for fish, shellfish, birds and other wildlife.
3. The Patuxent River watershed is an attractive area for new development, with population growth increasing nearly threefold since 1970 to almost three-quarters of a million inhabitants.
4. Careful planning and restoration efforts are necessary to maintain and increase the Patuxent River's valued resources.
5. Montgomery County has invested significantly in preservation and restoration of Patuxent River resources.
6. The 1980 Patuxent River Watershed Act (the "Act") requires the Maryland Department of Planning, in coordination with the Patuxent River Commission (the "Commission"), to prepare a Patuxent River Policy Plan (the "Plan") to be used as a policy guide for local governments and units of State Government in carrying out preservation and restoration action and programs within the Patuxent River Watershed, and to periodically update the Plan by amendment.
7. In 1984, Montgomery County, the other six counties within the Patuxent watershed, and the City of Laurel first adopted the Plan, and in 2000 adopted an addendum to the Plan.

8. The Commission has worked with local governments and units of State government for the past two years to prepare the updated Plan, conducted informational meetings with local planning officials and elected governing boards, posted the draft updated Plan on the Commission's website for public comment, and held two public hearings on the draft updated Plan.
9. On May 14, 2014, the Commission, in accordance with §5-805 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, adopted the 2015 Patuxent Policy Plan for purpose of updating the Plan.
10. The 2015 Patuxent River Policy Plan will, as contemplated by the Act and upon adoption, replace the Plan and serve as the Patuxent River Watershed preservation and restoration policy guide for Montgomery County, the other six counties, and the City of Laurel.
11. Consistent with the 2015 Patuxent River Policy Plan, Montgomery County will continue to work collaboratively with the Commission to ensure productive, responsible, and thorough implementation of the Plan.

**Action**

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the Patuxent River Policy Plan: 2015 Update.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

  
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Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council