

Patuxent Reservoirs Watershed Management Plan Public Briefing

May 5 and May 14, 2009

The public is invited to attend a briefing to learn how Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties are working together to develop a watershed management plan for the Patuxent Reservoirs Watershed.¹ The objectives of the watershed management plan are to compile existing information on the watershed and to provide a qualitative characterization and assessment of the watershed.

May 5, 2009

Reservoir High School

11550 Scaggsville Rd. Fulton, MD 20759

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

May 14, 2009

Wildlife Achievement Chapter – Izaak Walton League

26430 Mullinix Mill Rd., Mt Airy, Md. 21771

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

In 1996, the Patuxent Reservoirs Watershed Protection Agreement was signed by Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties, Howard and Montgomery Soil Conservation Districts, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). The Agreement created a Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to work together to protect watershed resources. Through interagency cooperation, this unique cooperative partnership has developed a strategic goal to protect the Patuxent Reservoirs as "partners in implementation and acceleration of source water protection."

The TAC intends to involve the residents, resource users, and property owners in watershed stewardship efforts. The Environmental Protection Agency has approved the State's regulatory limits for phosphorus in Rocky Gorge Reservoir and for phosphorus and sediment in the Triadelphia Reservoir. These limits are intended to protect water quality in the reservoirs. The interagency partnership must reach out to other stakeholders in the watershed to develop and implement a strategy to reduce pollutant loads to the reservoirs to achieve these regulatory limits. This stakeholder involvement effort is intended to seek public input on the Patuxent Reservoirs Watershed Management Plan.

¹ The 132 square mile Patuxent Reservoirs Watershed lies in the northern Piedmont region of Maryland along the main stem of the Patuxent River. The majority of the watershed lies within Montgomery and Howard Counties, and a small portion lies within Prince George's and Frederick Counties. It is a significant portion of the Patuxent River, the longest river in the State of Maryland. The Patuxent Reservoirs supply drinking water to approximately 1.8 million people over nearly 1,000 square miles.