

Created in 1980, the Patuxent River Commission reviews the operation of State and local agencies in regard to the Patuxent River (Chapter 746, Acts of 1980). It provides a clearinghouse for watershed information, reviews plans, and comments on reports and development projects impacting the river. The Commission helped prepare the Patuxent River Policy Plan and is instrumental in carrying out the Plan's purposes.

Appointed by the Governor, the Commission is composed of eleven members—one from each of the seven counties within the watershed and four ex officio members. Members serve four-year terms (Code State Finance and Procurement Article, secs. 5-812 through 5-816).

STATE & LOCAL PLANNING

Ronald N. Young, *Deputy Director*
(410) 225-4500

State and Local Planning oversees Comprehensive State Planning, and Local Planning Assistance.

COMPREHENSIVE STATE PLANNING

Roland E. English III, *Chief*
(410) 225-4562

Comprehensive State Planning prepares studies and plans for the State's development. Special attention is accorded land use and growth, agriculture and forest preservation, restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay, outdoor open space and recreation planning, and implementation of the Patuxent River Policy Plan.

LOCAL PLANNING ASSISTANCE

Scribner H. Sheafor, *Chief*
(410) 225-4550

Local Planning Assistance reviews and coordinates plans and programs of local governments and State agencies. Local Planning Assistance also intervenes in land use proceedings of substantial interest and analyzes municipal annexation proposals.

Four regional offices maintain liaison with and provide technical assistance to local governments and planning organizations. The offices are located in Centreville, Cumberland, Salisbury, and Charlotte Hall.

PLANNING DATA SERVICES

Michel A. Lettre, *Assistant Director*
(410) 225-4450

Planning Data Services collects, analyzes, and publishes social, economic and geographic information for planning purposes. Planning Data Services provides a comprehensive data base for use by other State agencies, the Executive Department, the General Assembly, local government, and the general public.

Projections of population, housing, public school enrollment, and employment are prepared for each county and the City of Baltimore. These

projections are used by State and local government agencies as well as the private sector.

Planning Data Services maintains statistical data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census and other information sources. Such data includes population, housing, employment, income, and education. The office also operates the Maryland Automated Geographic Information (MAGI) System, a computerized system that has geographically grid-referenced data on the physical and cultural attributes of the State.

Planning Data Services oversees four units: the State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance; Systems Support; Geographic Information Systems; and Research and State Data Center.

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE

Mary J. Abrams, *Chief*
(410) 225-4490

The State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance was organized in 1969 in accordance with the federal Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968. Formerly within the Department of State Planning, the Clearinghouse was transferred to the Office of Planning in 1989 (Chapter 540, Acts of 1989). The Clearinghouse facilitates intergovernmental review and coordination of applications for financial assistance, direct federal development programs, draft environmental impact statements, nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, State plans requiring gubernatorial review, and certain specified applications for State assistance.

The Clearinghouse is the State's single point of contact for federal agencies and disseminates notices and announcements of proposed federal and some State actions. The Clearinghouse transmits the views of Maryland public officials to federal agencies, facilitates resolution of disputes, and formulates a single recommended course of action. The Clearinghouse also recommends the disposition of State excess and federal surplus real property.

The Clearinghouse publishes the *Inventory of State-Owned Real Property*; the *Catalog of State Assistance Programs*; quarterly and annual reports of federal financial assistance awards; and the weekly *Intergovernmental Monitor*, which lists proposed federal and State actions (Code State Finance and Procurement Article, sec. 5-509).

SYSTEMS SUPPORT

John Garber, *Chief*
(410) 225-4450

Created in 1989, Systems Support provides technical assistance to State and regional agencies using dBASE IV, PC-SAS, and Quattro-Pro computer software. For Census-related information, the unit assists with data extract design and development, data set design, and development of spreadsheet or ASCII data files.