

The Office of Planning began in 1933 as the State Planning Commission (Chapter 39, Acts of Special Session of 1933). The Commission became part of the State Planning Department in 1959 (Chapter 543, Acts of 1959). In 1969, the Department was reorganized as the Department of State Planning (Chapter 155, Acts of 1969). The Department was restructured in 1989 to become the Office of Planning (Chapter 540, Acts of 1989). The Office is the principal staff agency for planning matters concerned with the resources and development of the State.

The Director of Planning is appointed by the Governor with Senate advice and consent. The Director serves on the Governor's Executive Council; the State Information Technology Board; the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission; the Patuxent River Commission; the Maryland Greenways Commission; the Scenic and Wild Rivers Review Board; the State Commission on Neighborhoods; the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland; the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; the Interagency Committee on School Construction; and the Interdepartmental Advisory Committee for Minority Affairs.

Under the Office are State and Local Planning, and Planning Data Services. The Office also is aided by the State Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Commission; the Interagency Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Committee; and the Patuxent River Commission.

STATE ECONOMIC GROWTH, RESOURCE PROTECTION, & PLANNING COMMISSION

Florence Beck Kurdle, *Chair*, 1998
(410) 767-4500

In 1992, the State Planning Commission was reformed as the State Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Commission (Chapter 437, Acts of 1992). As an advisory board to the Office of Planning, the Commission is concerned with development issues and regional or metropolitan planning areas. The Commission fosters public awareness and understanding of the objectives and functions of State and local planning.

The Commission has seventeen members. Fifteen are appointed by the Governor to four-year terms. One member is a senator chosen by the Senate President, and one is a delegate selected by the House Speaker. The chair is named by the Governor. Authorization for the Commission continues until July 1, 2003 (Code State Finance and Procurement Article, secs. 5-701 through 5-708).

Under the Commission are five subcommittees: Environment and Economic Development; Interjurisdictional Coordination; Planning; Planning Techniques; and Review of Planning and Zoning Legislation.

INTERAGENCY ECONOMIC GROWTH, RESOURCE PROTECTION, & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chair: Ronald M. Kreitner, Director of Planning
(410) 767-4510

The Interagency Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Committee was formed by the Governor in 1992 (Executive Order 01.01.1992.27). The Committee helps implement the State Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Policy (Chapter 437, Acts of 1992). State projects are reviewed for consistency with the Policy by the Committee. To assure that State investments in infrastructure and resource protection comply with the Policy, the Committee also coordinates State plans, programs, and projects which affect the timing, type, and location of development.

The Committee consists of ten members. Nine serve ex officio. One represents the Office of the Governor. The Director of Planning is the chair.

PATUXENT RIVER COMMISSION

C. Bernard Fowler, *Chair*, Calvert County, 1996
Staff: Richard E. Hall

301 West Preston St., Room 1101
Baltimore, MD 21201 (410) 767-4562

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 prepares the Patuxent River Policy Plan. To update the Plan, it considers draft amendments every five years. The Commission also serves as the Tributary Strategy Team for the Patuxent Watershed, coordinating the Patuxent Tributary Strategy with the Plan.

The Commission has thirty-four members. Twenty-eight are appointed by the Governor to four-year terms. Six serve ex officio (Code State Finance and Procurement Article, secs. 5-812 through 5-816).

PLANNING DATA SERVICES

Michel A. Lettre, *Assistant Director*
(410) 767-4450

Planning Data Services collects, analyzes, and publishes social, economic and geographic information for planning purposes. This office provides a data base for use by State and local government agencies, and the general public.

For each county and the City of Baltimore, projections of population, housing, public school enrollment, employment, and income are prepared. 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 popula-