



Maryland Water Monitoring Council
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
Tawes Building, C-2
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Sandy Hertz, Maryland Dept. of Transportation
Chair

Mat Pajerowski, USGS
Vice-chair

Dan Boward, Maryland DNR
Executive Secretary

Directors

Andy Becker, KCI, Inc.
Megan Brosh, Baltimore County DEPS
Jai Cole, M-NCPPC
Clark Howells, Baltimore City
Byron Madigan, Carroll Co. BRM
Richard Mitchell, US EPA
Joel Moore, Towson University
Diana Muller, Maritimas
Jeff Reagan, Biohabitats, Inc.

Nancy Roth, Tetra Tech, Inc.
Bill Stack, Center for Watershed Protection
Ken Staver, Univ. of MD WREC
Matt Stover, Maryland Dept. of the Environment
Mark Trice, Maryland DNR
Chris Victoria, Anne Arundel DPW
Michael Williams, Univ. of MD College Park
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

Minutes of the MWMC Board of Director's Meeting Tawes State Office Building, Annapolis, MD January 22, 2020

In attendance: **Andy Becker, Dan Boward, *Megan Brosh, Drew Budelis (guest), *Jim Caldwell, *Sandy Hertz, *Clark Howells, Najma Khokhar, *Byron Madigan, *Richard Mitchell, *Joel Moore, Andrew Muller (Diana Muller alternate), *Mat Pajerowski, *Charlie Poukish, Brian Smith (alternate for Mark Trice, *Ken Staver, *Matt Stover, Mike Thompson (guest and Jeff Reagan alternate), *Chris Victoria*

Not attending: **Jai Cole (no alternate), *Diana Muller (Andrew Muller alternate), *Nancy Roth (no alternate), *Bill Stack (no alternate), *Mark Trice (Brian Smith alternate), *Michael Williams (no alternate)*

*Board member

Board Chair **Sandy** Hertz called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. She asked everyone to introduce themselves. **Jeff** Reagan is now with Green Trust Alliance. The meeting included two guests who have not previously attended a Board meeting – **Brian** Smith (DNR) filled in for **Mark** Trice and guest speaker **Mary Kay** Foley (USGS).

Minutes from the October 15, 2019 Board meeting were approved without changes.

Board membership and Executive Secretary transition

Matt Stover updated everyone on the status of outgoing members and those up for renewal of their terms. Three members will continue on the Board and do not need a special vote – **Jai** Cole, **Michael** Williams, and **Bryan** Madigan. Two members are willing to continue but need a special vote – **Chris** Victoria and **Ken** Staver. Three members will be departing the Board – **Charlie** Poukish and **Karen** Wigger officially left the Board at the end of 2019. **Jim** Caldwell has retired but is willing to continue on the Board if needed. He has recommended a former colleague, **Lindsay** DeMarzo, to replace him. Other possible nominees include **Ken** Mack (Mo. Co.), **Rosemary** Fanelli (USGS), **Tom** Guay (Severn River Assn.), and staff from Dept. of Agriculture. **Action - Matt** is collecting resumes from potential nominees to distribute to the Board. He will then send anonymous Doodle Polls for voting in the following weeks.

Dan Boward reminded the Board that he'll be retiring in summer 2020. **Sandy** said MDOT will issue a Secretary's Grant to help fund a MWMC Executive Secretary as DNR staff. MDE has approved this as a part of MDOT's MS4 permit. **Action – Sandy** will work with DNR staff on an MOU for funding to DNR.

The Board said goodbye and thank you to **Charlie** Poukish who has served on the Board for several terms. **Sandy** asked **Charlie** to share some memories of his MWMC service. **Dan** referred to **Charlie** as the MWMC's **Franklin D. Roosevelt**.

2019 Annual Conference

Joel Moore summarized the Student-Professional Networking Session. There were about 12 attendees. Seven out of 10 respondents to an opinion poll said they would definitely recommend the session. There was some discussion of skipping the initial mentor introduction session and just include the mentor/student discussion session – in a breakout room and then over lunch. **Richard** Mitchell mentioned that the national water quality meetings include an evening social. Maybe the MWMC could do this to include students in an information atmosphere. **Sandy** Hertz asked if there could be an online option for the student session. **Chris** Victoria described some resources offered via Reddit. **Action – Chris** will send the Board links to some Reddit student resources.

Dan Boward provided a Power Point presentation on the conference, starting with an overview of the MWMC's budget. The Council continues to carry a surplus available for workshop expenses, etc. **Richard** suggested the Council have a charge for agency use of tables during the conference (currently gratis). **Dan** said that the Chesapeake Bay Trust will no longer provide a stewardship mini-grant to support the conference. Recent grants have been for \$1,000 and these funds offset student and non-profit registration discounts.

Action – Dan asked the Board to send him contacts for potential sponsors who may be able to support the conference. The report also included photos and graphs depicting trends in revenue, attendance, presentations, etc. Dan announced that the tentative date of the 2020 conference is December 4. The Board decided that, for the 2020 conference content and beyond, there should be a “disclaimer” stating that the view expressed by the presenters are not those of the MWMC or something similar. This is in response to **Nick DiPasquale’s** slide of the toilet brush and some feedback from attendees asking that politics be kept out of MWMC conferences.

Andy Becker provided a very lively and entertaining overview of the annual conference opinion survey. Lunch arrived shortly after **Andy** started and one tray of sandwiches fell to the floor. **Matt** Stover and others helped the delivery person scoop up the dirty pieces of meat and shredded lettuce. The Board again agreed that attendees names or contact information should not be shared with vendors. There was a good deal of discussion on crowding in the corridors. Crowding can be alleviated by moving posters into the registration room and/or down the hall leading to the lunch room.

Committee Reports

Monitoring and Assessment (Andy Becker reporting)

The 13th MWMC Stream Monitoring Roundtable will be held at USGS Catonsville on February 28 from about 9:00 – 4:00. Sampling for 2020 will be discussed and a big map with 2020 sampling points will be created. **Andy** has received about 20 registrants. The past few roundtables have drawn about 60 registrants.

Chris Victoria provided a draft agenda (handout) with background and rationale for a proposed eDNA workshop. He basically wanted to know if the Board supported this effort before proceeding. After some discussion, the Board did voice support for such a workshop. **Richard** Mitchell has been involved in eDNA projects with EPA and he offered insights and ideas on the topic. **Ken** Staver said the workshop should be customized to fit an MWMC audience. **Action – Sandy, Chris** and **Richard** will develop a plan to move forward with the workshop. **Dan** offered to help with logistics and finances.

Citizen Science (Jeff Reagan reporting)

No report. **Action – Jeff** asks for workshop ideas.

Information Management (Najma Khokhar reporting)

No committee report. **Action - Najma** will meet with **Sandy** and Dan to discuss possible projects for the Committee.

Groundwater (Mat Pajerowski reporting)

The Committee organized a session at the 2019 annual conference. There may be a meeting in the next few months to discuss a project on county water quality availability. **Sandy** asked about a possible salt water intrusion workshop. **Action – Mat** will bring this idea to the Committee to discuss.

Student (Joel Moore reporting)

The Committee will meet in the first quarter of 2020 to discuss possible projects.

News Roundtable

Byron Madigan – Annual MS4 reports are almost complete as are CBT and NFWF reports.

Ken Staver – A recent University of Maryland College of Agriculture conference made the topic of the Chesapeake Bay a priority. **Ken** will be stepping down as acting Director of the Wye Research and Education Center.

Richard Mitchell – The National Monitoring Council is in limbo. Funding is not guaranteed. The water quality portal may not move forward. NALMS may continue to manage the national conference.

Clark Howells – **Clark** and **Anne** Hairston-Stang (DNR) are working on a grant to study climate change and reservoir forests. The emphasis will be to manage forests to resist climate change.

Jim Caldwell – Howard Co. is now in the second round of MS4 permits that closed at the end of Dec. 2019. The County exceeded requirements of managing impervious surface.

Drew Budelis – **Drew** is working with neighboring states that look to Maryland as a leader.

Andy Becker – KCI is working with Anne Arundel Co. on a modeling project. Countywide monitoring continues in Anne Arundel and Frederick counties.

Andrew Muller – His team is working on neural network modeling and studying sea ice.

Charlie Poukish – There was an unusual spring algae bloom in the mid-bay and tributaries. These create depressed oxygen levels. No fish kills have been reported to date.

Mary Kay Foley – There is a great deal of PFAS analyses nationwide.

Dan Boward – 2020 is the 21st year for Maryland Stream Waders. MBSS continues to sample to assess the effects of Patapsco River dam removals. **Matt** Ashton may be assigned to work on the Exelon-sponsored mussel hatchery near Conowingo Dam.

Sandy Hertz – MDOT is ahead of its impervious surface treatment goal because of stream restoration projects. Her group is partnering with Army Corps on coastal storm risk management and green infrastructure. The new MDOT Secretary, **Greg Slater**, was an Environmental Planner with SHA.

Megan Brosh – Balto. DEPS receive some good PR when **Megan** and staff from Blue Water Baltimore met a WJZ-TV reporter at a stream site to discuss IDDE.

Matt Stover – Some big changes are coming to the Triennial Review related to use class III and coldwater obligates. It will include new chemical criteria using EPA's lead. MDE is reviewing Tier II antidegradation regulations focused on the temperature section and its readability.

Brian Smith – **Mark** Trice attended a DO criteria meeting the day of the Board meeting. **Brian's** group is partnering with **Jeremy Testa's** group at UMCES on a new shallow water sampling plan.

Joel Moore – **Joel's** chloride and conductivity work has been published. More conductivity work is pending.

Mike Thompson – Howard Co. will revise its forest conservation plan. Delaware is trading conservation credits with Pennsylvania.

Jeff Reagan – no news but **Jeff** proposes that the April Board meeting be shifted to later in the day and be followed up by a happy hour. The Board agrees.

Chris Victoria – 2020 is year four of the County's biomonitoring work with KCI and Coastal. Staff are working with USGS on a cooperative project looking at legacy sediments. There will be special sampling in Sawmill Creek in an attempt to determine why BIBIs rate the streams as fair but conductivity is high.

Najma Khokar – no report.

Adjourn at 2:04 PM

Submitted by Dan Boward on April 21, 2020