



Maryland Water Monitoring Council
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
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Sandy Hertz, Maryland Dept. of Transportation
Chair

Mat Pajerowski
Vice-chair

Dan Bowaard, Maryland DNR
Executive Secretary

Directors

Andy Becker, KCI Technologies
Megan Brosh, Baltimore County DEPS
Jai Cole, M-NCPPC
(P) Lindsay DeMarzo, Howard Co. OCS
(P) Jason Dubow, MD Dept. Planning
Clark Howells, Baltimore City
(P) Ken Mack, Mont. Co. DEP
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

(P) = Pending

Minutes of the MWMC Board of Directors Meeting Virtual June 5, 2020

Chair's welcoming remarks

Board Chair **Sandy Hertz** called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

Executive Secretary transition

Dan Boward reminded Board members that he would be retiring as of July 1 and that **Katherine Hanna** would be taking over the duties of the Executive Secretary, devoting 30% of her time to the MWMC through funding coming from MDOT. **Sandy Hertz** said that the MDOT MOU was in its final draft and was under review in the DNR Secretary's office. **Katherine Hanna** introduced herself and described some of her other roles at DNR. **Dan Boward** went through the history of MWMC Executive Secretaries and described the duties assigned to the role, including guiding the Planning Committee, supporting the Board of Directors, and managing the website.

Introductions of new members

Matt Stover revealed three (unconfirmed) new members that would be joining the Board once they were approved by the Secretary of DNR. **Lindsay DiMarzo**, with the Howard County Office of Sustainability, **Jason Dubow**, with the Maryland Department of Planning, and **Ken Mack**, with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, will be Board members once confirmed. Matt Stover reminded the Board that the new members were agreeing to three-year terms. **Dan Boward** asked them to provide the Board with their contact information and to acquire an alternate to attend Board meetings should they be unavailable.

Review and approval of minutes from January 22 Board meeting

Dan Boward sent the meeting minutes from _____ to the Board for approval and inquired if there were any objections to the minutes as they stood. There were no objections from Board members.

Committee and workshop reports

Monitoring and Assessment: **Andy Becker** reported on the 13th Annual Streams Roundtable, which had 60 attendees and more than 20 presentations. **Mat Pajerowski** arranged for the Roundtable to be held at the USGS Water Science

Center in Catonsville again. The Roundtable's goal is to facilitate collaboration in order to reduce redundant sampling and limit potential for the public to misunderstand scientific purposes.

eDNA Workshop: **Chris Victoria** reported that the eDNA Workshop planning has stalled, but intends to continue planning. **Andy Becker** suggested it may be a good idea to push back the Workshop from the fall, maybe into 2021. **Sandy Hertz** suggested additional agenda items of NOAA monitoring of air quality, specifically its response to the change in activity levels due to COVID. **Mark Trice** mentioned working on atmospheric deposition with partner groups, with analyses modeled on China's results.

Stream Restoration Monitoring: **Dan Boward** informed the Board that the Chair for the Stream Restoration Monitoring Sub-committee, Scott Stranko, planned to step down. **Dan** asked if anyone would be interested in taking over the role of chair and the primary Committee deliverable of organizing the all-day session on restoration at the Annual Conference. **Mark Southerland** expressed his support of the Sub-committee's importance and volunteered to take on the role of chair. **Nancy Roth** spoke of the sub-committee acting as a bridge to other organizations and volunteered to work as co-chair with Mark. **Bill Stack** also asked to be involved. **Richard Mitchell** suggested brook trout as a topic for the conference restoration session.

Information Management: **Najma Khokhar** had nothing new to report for this committee. **Sandy Hertz** gave the Board an overview of the Committee's purpose, which is focused on encouraging and facilitating data sharing. The Committee is also responsible for the clickable map, and tries to identify ways to increase outreach to expand the monitoring advocacy network. **Dan Boward** and **Mark Trice** supported the creation and maintenance of a list of NGOs, and discussed a data sharing tool.

Groundwater: **Mat Pajeroski** had nothing new to report for the Groundwater Committee. He plans to follow up on last year's topic of the availability of water quality data from wells. This committee promotes the sharing of groundwater information.

Student Outreach: **Joel Moore** had nothing new to report for this committee. He described the committee's role in organizing the student networking sessions at the Annual Conference. **Joel** also stated that he would be stepping down from the Board.

Citizen Science: **Diana Muller** described the Committee's work on a disaster beach event. A virtual event was held for participants to check out local water systems.

Annual Conference Planning: **Katherine Hanna** reported on the April 17th Planning Committee meeting. An in-person and a virtual option was weighed, but it was decided not to skip the conference this year. Leading ideas for plenary speaker were Dr. Cliff Mitchell of DHMH and Dr. Rita Colwell of UMD. The conference agenda/format was decided to be flexible with potential for a split plenary session. The connection between environmental health and human health was discussed as a conference theme. **Bill Stack** mentioned the Center for Watershed Protection National Conference held their April conference online, and described their use of zoom for keynote speakers, separate breakout sessions, and a virtual happy hour. **Mark Trice** suggested hiring an organizer for the MWMC conference. **Dan Boward** said that the Maritime Institute's willing to be flexible in working with us on scheduling.

Dan's Sendoff

Board members took this time to wish **Dan Boward** well in his retirement and share memories.

Discussion of July "away" meeting

Sandy Hertz floated the ideas of making the next meeting virtual, or pushing it back to fall or the following spring. **Jai Cole** supported moving it back, and others agreed. Members were asked to consider possibilities for an away meeting and send them to Sandy Hertz and Katherine Hanna.

Review of action items

New members are to provide their contact information and the name of an alternate.

Monitoring and Assessment Committee will look into data on pollution levels before, during, and after COVID.

Richard Mitchell will look into support from an expert in Cincinnati on an eDNA workshop.

Mark Trice will share a list of nonprofit organizations with Najma Khokhar and the Information Management Committee.

Board members should work on ideas for Annual Conference themes and ideas for moving the conference to a virtual setting.

New members are encouraged to review the committees and consider where they'd like to add their efforts.