



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

Mat Pajerowski, USGS
Vice-chair

Katherine Hanna, Maryland DNR
Executive Secretary

Andy Becker, KCI Technologies
Megan Brosh, Baltimore County DEPS
Jai Cole, M-NCPPC
Clark Howells, Baltimore City
Byron Madigan, Carroll Co. BRM
Richard Mitchell, US EPA
Jeff Reagan, Biohabitats, Inc.

Directors

Nancy Roth, Tetra Tech, Inc.
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

MINUTES

MWMC Board Meeting

October 19, 2021

In Attendance: Andy Becker, Mat Pajerowski, Nancy Roth, Alice Volpitta, Clark Howells, Ken Mack, Lindsay DeMarzo, Mark Southerland, Matt Stover, Najma Khokhar, Chris Victoria, Byron Madigan, Bob Hilderbrand, Ken Staver, Mark Trice, Megan Brosh, Richard Mitchell, Michael Williams, Sandy Hertz, Katherine Hanna

10:02 Sandy Hertz started the meeting.

Katherine Hanna asked to be contacted if anyone had edits for the July 20, 2021 meeting minutes. The finalized minutes would be sent out to be approved by the Board.

Sandy let the Board know that the approvals of new Board members were still held up in the DNR Secretary's office. For now, the Board can't have names of pending Board members on the MWMC letterhead or other documents.

Sandy announced her departure as MWMC Chair. She suggested Board members consider a nomination for the Chair position in 2022. Matt Stover asked if she would continue with the Board. Sandy pointed

out that she could help without being a Board member. Matt asked to be contacted by October 29th if anyone was interested in adding their name for the Chair selection process. Sandy discussed the anonymous voting process that had been done by paper in the past. The vote for the new Chair will take place at the next Board meeting.

She described the Chair's responsibilities so that Board members would have an idea of what to expect if interested in taking on that role. Sandy said that most of the work takes place around the time of the Annual Conference; it includes writing and delivering the Chair's Welcome at the conference, speaking and signing on behalf of the Board, running Board meetings, and handling any "fire drills."

Matt Stover reiterated that terms would be ending for Mat Pajerowski, Mark Trice, Matt Stover, and Clark Howells at the end of 2021, and that he needs to be informed if any would be interested in continuing on for another term. Mark Trice asked if anyone continuing after a third term would need approval from the DNR Secretary's office. Sandy informed the Board that approval from the DNR Secretary did not apply to continuations except in cases where the Board member was changing membership category. Sandy added that Jai Cole would be sending an alternate now that she's working in Virginia. Matt Stover listed M-NCPPC, ICPRB, SRBC, MES, and COG as possible intergovernmental member sources. Sandy suggested a poll to collect nominee submissions, including contact information.

Committee Reports

Monitoring & Assessment: Andy has drafted an email to announce the Roundtable, to be sent after the conference. He needs someone to work on the online Roundtable map. He may have something to post in the conference program. Sandy noted there was a new federal announcement regarding PFAS and shared the announcement with the Board. Clark Howells wants to work on a workshop for utilities and monitoring groups in order to build bridges between the two. He listed climate change and road salt/chloride as other contaminant workshop considerations.

Stream Restoration Subcommittee: Nancy Roth shared that subcommittee meetings were held generally every other month. The subcommittee is planning a State of the Science Workshop. Nancy discussed the subcommittee plans for restoration sessions at the Annual Conference.

Information Management & Communication: Najma Khokhar shared the committee's August 11 meeting had lots of diversity among attendee affiliations. She mentioned MDE's Integrated Report was looking for data and was reviewing a data tier system from CDC. She also noted that UMD was open to starting a college course focused on creating quality data.

Groundwater: Mat Pajerowski described the committee as inactive, with some members having retired, and needed to repopulate. He is willing to serve as Chair for another 3 years to get the committee back on its feet. Mat noted that he probably couldn't serve as Board Chair due to policies on federal employees but is willing to continue as Vice Chair.

Student: Lindsay DeMarzo discussed the career chat happening the following week and thanked those who had agreed to serve as panelists. She welcomed all who wished to join.

Citizen Science: No representative was present to report on committee proceedings. Sandy brought up a need to find new members in order to refresh the committee, and the Board has the option to find new committee leadership if a minimum activity level requirement is not met. Matt Stover noted that Jeff Reagan holds a Board position for a Volunteer Organization with a term extending until 2023. Alice Volpitta mentioned that she had encountered this situation in the past, and the individual was offered

the chance to step down. Alice expressed interest in being involved on the Citizen Science Committee. Andy Becker noted that someone in his office had recently been in touch with Jeff and can share his most recent contact information. He reminded the Board that the Committee Chair does not have to be an approved Board member. Mark Trice reminded the Board that Jeff is one of the Facebook administrators, and that status will need to be discussed as well.

Annual Conference Planning: Katherine Hanna shared that Green Fin Studios would be supporting the conference again. The abstract submission form is open, but only three or four abstracts have been submitted so far. There's been a small hitch in getting the registration and other payment items into the DNR Outdoor Store but the items should appear soon. The conference announcement will go on the conference webpage, be sent by email, and will be posted to Facebook. Richard Mitchell shared that he was having trouble getting any additional speakers. Megan Brosh added that the equity sessions were still in need of speakers and she was open to suggestions. She received Cliff Mitchell, MDE, and Fred Tutman as suggestions.

Mark Southerland presented Vertebrate Community Trajectory in Regenerative Stormwater Conveyances, a joint study between Tetra Tech and UMCES-CBL.

News Roundtable

Katherine Hanna: DNR MANTA has wrapped up MBSS summer sampling for the year.

Lindsay DeMarzo: The upcoming student event has been occupying much of her time recently.

Megan Brosh: Her office is finishing up sampling and is working on their NPDES reporting.

Matt Stover: MDE is looking at fish tissue data on PFAS to be analyzed for incorporation into the Integrated Report. There is also a triennial review of water quality standards under review, with a draft available online.

Mark Trice: DNR TEA is working on an end-of-year hypoxia report with VIMS, UMCES, and other groups. The year had a better-than-average July, but a worse August.

Clark Howells: Clark reports no significant work updates, but he's excited to work on a workshop with Andy Becker.

Richard Mitchell: EPA's wetland survey has wrapped up, and planning is underway for the lakes survey.

Mat Pajerowski: USGS continues work on PFAS, and is largely focused on movement through the environment, particularly groundwater. There is also study on ways PFAS can be broken down by microbes. The preliminary results indicate microbes are breaking fluorine bonds to break down PFAS. PCBs are being monitored in stormwater ponds. The plan is to look for processes that break down PCBs in the ponds.

Alice Volpitta: There is an updated revision on QUA to share with Caroline Donovan, intended as a template for bringing organizations up to Tier 3 with Anne Arundel Rivers. She's exploring cost-saving measures while preserving data purposes.

Nancy Roth: Nancy's working on indicators for watershed health, Tier 2 watershed program benefits for the Bay Program, and making data user-friendly.

Najma Khokhar: Najma had no news updates to share.

Byron Madigan: Byron reports his office has been busy with MS4 reports and modelling, fall tree planting, cleanup of Little Pipe Creek, study of gravel lens components in stormwater ponds, and collection of temperature sensors.

Ken Mack: Montgomery County is working on NPDES reporting, permits, and a new monitoring plan. The DEP director is moving on. A four-part webinar series starts on November 1 with listening sessions. Anyone interested should email to join the session. A Streams 101 session will be held on January 2.

Ken Staver: The agricultural harvest water quality studies with phosphorous and nitrogen analyses are underway in the watersheds.

Michael Williams: Michael is winding down field season. In September, a judge knocked down the Trump Navigable Waters Rule, starting a return to the Clean Water Act, with a high percentage of waters protected by the 1986 rule. Revision is underway by the EPA.

Bob Hilderbrand: Bob is engaging in talks on restorations relating to uses with citizen groups. The backpack eDNA sampler is a gamechanger, and he is comparing results to traditional methods. Each backpack costs around \$6000, and Bob recommends some degree of DIY for the boom component. The backpack saves samples from any lab contamination, and the filter is self-desiccating.

Chris Victoria: Anne Arundel County is working on winter and spring sampling preparations. Geomorphology surveys will be conducted during leaf-off. Benthic macroinvertebrate sampling will be conducted during the spring index period. They have completed their Round 3 and are analyzing the 2021 data for a review of the last five years of sampling. Fish have been added to the sampling plan, and they are creating a fish atlas. Chris mentioned wrapping up a study on Sawmill Creek, seeing a high FIBI, BIBI, and conductivity/specific conductance. A sampling redesign for Round 4 includes working with DNR on habitat measures, which had been done in spring for Round 3 instead of by MBSS methods. They've encountered a resolution compatibility issue between the 1:100,000 scale used by MBSS and higher resolutions. They're looking at how IBIs might work for the smallest streams. They're also working with USGS on legacy sediment, with a contract to characterize layers beneath legacy sediments through cores and carbon dating.

Mark Southerland: Mark is involved in volunteer monitoring of 11 Patuxent River sites in the Patapsco Heritage Greenway.

Sandy Hertz: Sandy is no longer the Assistant Director in MDOT's Department of the Environment, but has taken the position of Director of the Office of Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation. This change will have her working on sustainable materials management, flooding, and stormwater infrastructure changes. Bipartisan Information Bill funding is possible.

Meeting adjourned at 12:34

