



Maryland Water Monitoring Council
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
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Clark Howells, Baltimore City DPW.
Chair

Sandy Hertz, Maryland State Highway Admin.
Vice-chair

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Executive Secretary

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Kevin Brittingham, Baltimore County DEPS
Jim Caldwell, Howard County OES
Caroline Donovan, UMCES
Tim Goodfellow, Fred. Co. Dept. of Planning
Ellen Lathrop-Davis, Comm. Coll. Balto. Co.
Richard Mitchell, US EPA
Joel Moore, Towson University
Diana Muller, South River Federation
Mat Pajerowski, USGS
Tom Parham, Maryland DNR

Mike Pieper, KCI Technologies
Charles Poukish, Maryland Dept. of the Environment
Jeff Reagan, Stormwater Consulting, Inc.
Nancy Roth, Versar, Inc.
Ken Staver, Univ. of MD WREC
Matt Stover, Maryland Dept. of the Environment
Chris Swan, Univ. of MD Balto. Co.
Peter Tango, USGS/Chesapeake Bay Program
Chris Victoria, Anne Arundel DPW

Minutes of the MWMC Board of Director's Meeting USGS Water Sciences Center - Catonsville January 20, 2015

In attendance: Dan Boward, *Kevin Brittingham, *Jim Caldwell, Jana Davis, Michele Dobson, *Tim Goodfellow, *Sandy Hertz, *Clark Howells, Ron Klauda, *Ellen Lathrop-Davis, Nicole Lehmer (alternate for Caroline Wicks), *Joel Moore, *Mat Pajerowski, *Tom Parham, *Mike Pieper, *Charlie Poukish, *Jeff Reagan, *Nancy Roth, Mark Southerland, *Matt Stover, Scott Stranko, *Peter Tango, *Chris Swan, *Cathy Wiss

Not attending: *Ken Staver (no alternate), *Chris Victoria (no alternate), *Caroline Donovan (Nicole Lehmer alternate)

*Board member

The meeting convened at 10:13 AM. Outgoing Chairman **Mark** Southerland welcomed everyone and asked the new Board members (**Joel** Moore, **Nancy** Roth, **Richard** Mitchell, and **Jeff** Reagan) to introduce themselves and describe their work. The Board also said goodbye to **Sue** Veith, **Michele** Dobson, **Cathy** Wiss and **Mark** Southerland. **Shelly** Baird (NGO slot) had left the Board late in 2014.

The minutes from the October, 2014 retreat were approved without modification.

2014 Annual Conference Recap

Dan Boward provided statistics on conference attendance, presentations, and finances. About 440 attended the conference and there were 83 total presenters. The conference budget was about \$1,000 in the black. **Mike** Pieper provided a summary of the Survey Monkey evaluation. As usual, there were several good suggestions for upcoming meeting topics and guest speakers. **Mike** said there should be a "volunteer" category added to the evaluation. **Dan** said he would talk to the Maritime Institute staff to improve the plenary session simulcast experience. **Dan** invited everyone to join the Annual Conference Planning Committee. **Sandy** Hertz recommended that MWMC reach out to the Delaware Tribe. Action Item – **Sandy** will send **Dan** contact information for Delaware Tribe members. The 2015 conference will be held on November 13. Location TBA.

Committee Reports

Monitoring and Assessment (Ron Klauda and Mike Pieper reporting)

The Committee is working on a Climate Change workshop (with **Cheri** Miller – USGS). Some Committee members served as moderators at the 2014 Annual Conference. The Committee met on Sept. 14, 2014 to discuss potential future workshops: Intercounty Connector water monitoring results, IDDE, and headwater streams. **Ron** is leaving the Committee and **Mike** Pieper and **Chris** Victoria will serve as Chair and Co-chairs, respectively. There are 8 potential new members from signups at the 2014 Annual Conference. The Committee currently has 9 active members and about 9 who are not so active. **Mike** and **Chris** met with **Ron** recently to discuss how the Committee should move forward. **Mike** invited all on the Board to participate.

Community Outreach and Citizen Stewardship (Michele Dobson reporting)

Three Committee members are departing. **Caroline** Donovan will chair the Committee. Some Committee members are working on updating the list of watershed associations and adding zip codes.

Groundwater Committee (Mat Pajerowski reporting)

The Committee met in December 2014 and members are seeking a "pet" project. New Board member **Joel** Moore is on the Committee. There are no members from western Maryland or the eastern shore. **Mat** listed possible topics for Committee work: groundwater/stream water interaction, monitoring networks (wells) – what improvements are needed?, groundwater modeling, providing water level data from different sources, and road salt (planning a workshop).

Information Management (Sandy Hertz reporting)

Sandy had talked to **Tom** Parham about adding watershed groups to the clickable map. The Committee may organize a workshop on MS4 needs. **Dan** said that DNR's **Andy** Becker will continue to work on the clickable map. **Chris** Swan mentioned that Google Forms could be used for data submitters to directly upload data to the clickable map. UMBC can help with this process. **Sandy** said that information in the Watershed Resources Registry could be linked to the clickable map. **Jim** Caldwell said that Howard County has a "stream mapper" app. **Richard** Mitchell reported that EPA has a "how's my waterbody" for mobile device and computer. **Action Item – Richard** will send Dan a link to this information.

Indicators (Charlie Poukish reporting)

The Committee has a draft spreadsheet containing MDE water quality standards. **Charlie** asks for help. **Matt** Stover asked if water quality criteria could be added to the clickable map. **Charlie** recommended that TMDL implementation be added to the clickable map as well. **Charlie** said that the spreadsheet could be posted on the MWMC website. **Action Item – Charlie** will check with **Matt** Stover and **Tim** Fox to determine if the spreadsheet is ready for public distribution.

Student Committee (general discussion)

There's a need for more outreach to students by the MWMC. **Clark** asked for volunteers to help with this Committee. **Sandy** said the MWMC could go through colleges for internships. **Joel** Moore said that his department at Towson U. fills about 50 internship positions per year.

Lunchtime presentation (Jana Davis [CBT] and Scott Stranko [DNR])

Jana and **Scott's** presentation was titled "Pooled Monitoring Proposal for new Stream Restoration Monitoring Sub-Committee". **Jana** started with a statement of need. CBT provides funding for projects that are delayed because of the permit process taking too long. Data are not driven by hypotheses. Many projects have a poor design. Permitting agencies or reviewers include MDE, EPA, USFWS, DNR, and ACOE. A multi-agency group was formed to address the issue. Twenty-seven questions related to research and reporting were formulated and the list was reduced to 8 questions. A pooled monitoring effort resulted to better answer the questions. Funding was provided by DNR, CBT, and EPA. An RFP went on the MWMC website in December, 2014. Results are sought within 5 years. **Jim** Caldwell asked if this project will reduce duplication of effort. **Chris** Swan asked if there is/will be a list of restoration projects. **Jana** said there's already a list in some counties but the list will be expanded. There was then discussion of funding, match requirement, etc.

Scott proposed an MWMC Sub-Committee under the Monitoring and Assessment Committee. An initial list of Sub-Committee products includes: a definition of restoration, a database of projects, making results available, literature reviews, data on BMP efficiencies beyond nutrients and sediments (i.e., biological indicators). The group will have diverse membership. The Board voted to form a Stream Restoration Monitoring Sub-Committee. **Action Item – Scott** will send **Dan** a description on the group to post on the MWMC website.

Workshops

Climate Change (Ron Klauda and Cheri Miller organizing)

The Committee will host a Climate Change workshop on January 27, 2015 at the National Wildlife Visitor's Center in Laurel. There are currently 13 speakers and 85 registered. The previous Climate Change and Streams workshop was 5 years ago. The 2015 workshop will be focused more on adaption. Brook trout and beaver are on the agenda. Registrant opinions will be gathered by a Survey Monkey survey

Headwater Streams (Mark Southerland organizing)

There have been two MWMC Annual Conference sessions on this topic already. **Doug** Redmond continues to help with these efforts. The workshop will likely be scheduled after the EPA final ruling sometime in 2016.

Stream Monitoring Roundtable (Andy Becker and Dan Boward organizing)

Dan reminded everyone that the 7th Roundtable was approaching (February 27). It will be held at the USGS Water Science Center. There are currently 32 registered to attend and 12 speakers. **Rachel** Beebe of Howard County Office of Sustainability will demonstrate a stream monitoring app.

Road Salt (Mat Pajerowski organizing)

Mat seeks suggestions on a venue for 75 – 100 attendees. Potential topics: streams, groundwater, reservoirs, drinking water, ecosystem disturbances, alternatives to conventional salt, Maryland's chloride standard. Possible timeframe – September or October, 2015. **Action Item – Tim** Goodfellow will ask staff at Frederick Co. Highway Department for assistance with a venue.

Wildlife Impacts to Water Quality (Peter Tango organizing)

The workshop will address wildlife impacts on water quality with a focus on how various species may impact water. Topics – earthworms, deer, and gypsy moths. **Peter** is currently working on a proposal for the workshop.

News Items

Cathy Wiss - submitted her final 10 Mile Creek Report. 2014 was a victory in the Mont. Co. Council for those wishing to protect the Creek. She said that some bad water and sewer plans had been submitted for review and asks Board members to help review them further.

Ellen Lathrop-Davis – No news.

Nancy Roth – Versar is working on Howard County watershed assessments and seeking to get involved in stream restoration projects.

Ron Klauda – There was a conference on Chesapeake Bay and Growth conference on Hood College January 13 and 14. **Ron** suggested that the MWMC should keep this topic visible.

Dan Boward – the MBSS is gearing up for spring training and benthic macroinvertebrate-related certifications. Training will be held at the Howard Co. Conservancy on February 25.

Clark Howells – No news.

Mark Southerland – Proposed EPA Healthy Watersheds assessment focusing on implementation in Maryland. **Bruce Michael** (DNR) agreed to cooperate.

Matt Stover – MDE has a new Secretary (**Ben Grumbles**).

Charlie Poukish – There have been three dog fatalities in the Annapolis area. They may be related to the dogs consuming false dark mussels.

Tom Parham – DNR is completing its 2015 monitoring plan review. Plans include monitoring for zooplankton and acidification indicators. **Action Item** – **Tom** will solicit MWMC Board members for potential sites to drop. DNR is also undergoing a review of stream gages.

Kevin Brittingham – Balto. Co. completed its TMDL implementation plan (24 TMDLs) that includes over 100 bacteria monitoring sites. EPA has approved the County's trash TMDL and an implementation plan will follow. The new County Executive wishes to reduce the stormwater fee.

Richard Mitchell – EPA's Regional Monitoring Network will be implemented in Region 3. There may be funds available to states for regional reference site development.

Peter Tango – The Ches. Bay Program partnership has approved a new 2014 Ches. Watershed Agreement. A new climate change workgroup has formed to support climate change goals and outcomes of the new agreement. The Alliance for the Ches. Bay was awarded the EPA grant to support furthering the integration of Citizen Science into monitoring and assessment efforts across the Bay and its watershed.

Jim Caldwell – There's new government in Howard County. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation wishes to review Howard County's MS4 permit.

Jeff Reagan – There's a Maryland Stream Waders training coming up at Jug Bay Sanctuary on Feb. 14.

Mat Pajeroski – USGS is looking into new coastal storm monitors that will measure inundation, extent, and rate. There's a new Baltimore Wilderness Coalition that will attempt to answer the question "how can green infrastructure mitigate storm effects."

Michele Dobson – Harford Co. has a new County Executive. There may be changes to the County's stormwater fee.

Sandy Hertz – SHA has a new Secretary. The Watershed Resource Registry is working on a GIS model for predicting suitability for stream restoration or preservation.

Joel Moore – No news.

Nicole Lehmer – No news.

Tim Goodfellow – There recently was a Western MD Local Govt. Exchange meeting. This is not a good venue for MWMC involvement. There's been a big change in Frederick Co. Govt. that may lead to reinstatement of stream buffer requirements.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM

Submitted by **Dan Boward**
April 14, 2015