



Maryland Water Monitoring Council
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
Tawes Building, C-2
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www.marylandwatermonitoring.org

Mark Southerland, Versar, Inc.
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Sally Hornor, Anne Arundel Comm. College
Mat Pajerowski, USGS
Tom Parham, Maryland DNR

Mike Pieper, KCI Technologies
Charles Poukish, Maryland Dept. of the Environment
Bill Richardson, US. EPA
Sonja Schmitz, Comm. College Balto. Co.
Matt Stover, Maryland Dept. of the Environment
Peter Tango, USGS/Chesapeake Bay Program
Keith Van Ness, Montgomery Co. DEP
Sue Veith, St. Mary's County
Caroline Wicks, EcoCheck
Cathy Wiss, Audubon Naturalist Society

Minutes of the MWMC Board of Director's Meeting Tawes State Office Building April 16, 2013

In attendance: Dan Boward, *Kevin Brittingham, *Michele Dobson *Sally Hornor *Clark Howells, Jonathan Kramer (guest), *Mat Pajerowski, *Tom Parham, *Charlie Poukish, *Bill Richardson *Sonja Schmitz, *Mark Southerland, *Matt Stover, *Peter Tango, *Keith Van Ness *Caroline Wicks, *Cathy Wiss

Not attending: *Shelly Baird (no alternate), * Jim Caldwell (no alternate), Ron Klauda, *Sandy Hertz (no alternate), *Susan Gresens (no alternate), *Mike Pieper (no alternate), *Sue Veith (no alternate)

*Board member

Meeting convened at 10:15 AM. Chairman **Mark** Southerland welcomed everyone.

The minutes from the January 15, 2013 meeting were approved with a minor modification. The Board decided to not print copies of the previous Board meeting minutes to dispense at future Board meetings.

Annual Conference Planning

Dan Boward reported on the April 15, 2013 meeting of the MWMC Annual Conference Planning Committee. The theme will be "Conserving Maryland's High Quality Waters: From Monitoring to Action". Possible session titles include EPA's Healthy Watersheds Initiative, Tier III waters, headwaters, Biological Condition Gradient, the economics of protection vs. restoration, brook trout habitat, stormwater utilities and stewardship. **Kevin** Brittingham recommended including a session on Trust Fund monitoring. Ideas for plenary speakers include someone from MET the Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club or **Tom** DeMoss (formerly EPA). There will be no full printed program (pdf will be posted online). Registration should be available via credit card. The Student Poster Award will continue with an additional \$25 prize for second place. The social will be held for the second year. **Clark** Howells agreed to Chair a new Carl Weber Award Committee and members include **Sally** Hornor, **Tom** Parham, **Cathy** Weber and **Michele** Dobson. **Michele** asked if we should consider inviting Douglas Towney to speak since she heard him speak at a recent conference. **Action Item** – **Michele** will check on Douglas' fee and availability. She'll also explore putting together a session for the annual conference on Bayscaping.

Committee Reports

Monitoring and Assessment (report by Mark Southerland and excerpts from email from Ron Klauda to Dan Boward dated April 15, 2013)

Cherie Miller (USGS) will take the lead to organize a workshop focused on Climate Change in Maryland. **Andy** Becker (DNR), **Clark** Howells, and **Ron** volunteered to work with **Cherie** on a workshop steering committee. Target time frame is February or March 2014. An effort will be made to build on the climate change workshop that the M&A Committee organized and sponsored in November 2009. The steering committee will also look for an appropriate location for the 2014 workshop.

Doug Redmond (recently retired from MNCPPC) and **Mark** Southerland will serve as co-leads on a Committee-sponsored event (either a one-day workshop or a technical session at the next MWMC Annual Conference on December 5) focused on Headwater Streams. They will build on the Headwater Streams session they organized at the 2012 MWMC Annual Conference. That MWMC Annual Conference Planning Committee would need to approve the inclusion of this topic in the 2013 Conference, if **Doug** and **Mark** prefer this option.

The Committee also talked about organizing a workshop focused on success stories in Stream Restoration that, if the idea takes off, would be held in late summer or early fall 2014. The focus of this workshop could span the range of places where stream restoration projects are being carried out, and include fish passage projects, the importance of aesthetic goals for restoration projects, the importance of clearly describing restoration project goals, and the need for included realistic restoration potential/expectations in the description of project goals. The workshop could also include a discussion on how streams are prioritized for restoration actions. Ron will ask **Paul Kazyak** (DNR) if he will take the lead on this M&A Committee-sponsored workshop. **Stan Kemp** (University of Baltimore), **Jim Cummins** (ICPRB), and **Beth Franks** (Versar) volunteered to serve on the workshop steering committee.

Ron, Mark, and Clark are still interested in meeting with County planners (and/or County sustainability unit staff) to open a communication channel with the MWMC that will, hopefully, result in water monitoring data being used in land use decisions at the County level. No firm plans were developed for continuing this Committee task that started with a questionnaire in 2011. **Action Item** – **Mark** will contact **Christine Conn** (DNR) to get more traction on this effort with the Planners.

Ron volunteered to develop a technical session focused on Tier III Streams (Outstanding Natural Resource Waters) at the 2013 MWMC Annual Conference. **Andy** Becker knows someone in PA with experience in designating Tier III waters. **Ron** will talk with this individual, folks from MDE, and someone from DNR to help him develop this session-----if the Annual Conference Planning Committee approves this topic's inclusion in the 2013 Conference.

Community Outreach and Citizen Stewardship (Michele Dobson reporting)

Caroline Wicks has developed graphs of results from the watershed association survey that's posted on the MWMC website but these graphs were not available at the Board meeting. **Dan** Boward reminded the Board that **Sue** Veith is researching the creation of a LinkedIn Group for MWMC. There was much discussion related to social media, Facebook and LinkedIn. **Action Item** – **Tom** Parham will contact DNR's public communication staff and ask about DNR requirements related to social media. **Sonja** Schmitz said that, if the MWMC sets up a social media presence, someone will need to volunteer to maintain it. **Sonja** will seek a volunteer for this task.

Information Management and Communication (Mat Pajeroski reporting)

Tom Parham said that the Google Map Project (i.e., the updated Clickable Map) has stalled for various reasons. **Mat** asked for advice on how to continue with Committee work. **Action Item** – **Mat** will communicate with **Michele** and **Sonja** to discuss ways the two committees can work toward better MWMC communication.

Indicators (Charlie Poukish reporting)

Charlie provided some background on the database that the Committee is developing. **Matt** Stover provided an overview of what's been developed thus far (MS Access file demonstration). The goal is to have the database be a one-stop-shop for folks seeking information on various pollutants, etc. **Matt** sought feedback on how to improve the database.

Lunchtime speaker

Jonathan Kramer gave a talk on the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center in Annapolis. It included an overview of the Center and its history as well as three examples of Center projects. Jon said that he will allow MWMC to post his Power Point presentation on the MWMC website.

Workshops

Tom Parham said that the *Water Words That Work Workshop* will be held at the USGS Water Science Center on April 24. There are 42 registered as of April 15.

Dan Boward updated the Board on the 6th **Annual Stream Monitoring Roundtable** that will be held on May 2 at the USGS Water Science Center. There were 24 registrants and 11 presenters. **Kernell** Reis of USGS will give a lunchtime presentation on StreamStats. Sixteen agencies/organizations had submitted stream monitoring point data for the "big map" that will be created – for the first time – in ArcGIS Online platform.

July Board meeting

The July Board meeting will be held on July 16. Previous July meetings were held in Frederick (2012), Conowingo (2011), Washington College (2010), Greenbrier State Park (2009) and St. Mary's College (2008). The Board decided that the July 2013 meeting should be held in Southern MD or the Lower Eastern Shore. **Caroline** suggested CBL as a possible meeting place. **Tom** said Horn Point is a possibility. **Action Item** – **Tom** and **Caroline** will inquire about the availability of Horn Point and CBL. **Bart** Merrick can possibly assist with Horn Point.

News Roundtable

Michele Dobson – The county council is voting on the new stormwater fee. A decision is due July 1.

Cathy Wiss – ANS sampling results are being considered in the Ten Mile Creek limited Master Plan Amendment. Staff from ANS and Biohabitats have briefed the Mont. Co. Planning Board. **Cathy** mentioned the June 2013 Mid-Atlantic Volunteer Monitoring Conference to be held in West Virginia.

Tom Parham – **Tom's** group has 31 shallow water fixed monitoring stations in 2013. He's organizing a workshop to be held at the end of May to discuss various topics related to status and trends in Potomac River water quality, including interviews with fishermen who say that the river is improving. This information may be used as a CBP success story.

Caroline Wicks – **Caroline** discussed the Mid Atlantic Volunteer Monitoring Conference to be held June 7-8 at the National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia. **Action Item** – **Dan** will ask **Katherine** Hanna (MWMC webmaster) to add the Save the Date flier for this workshop to the MWMC website. Registration will be \$144/person for the two days.

Keith Van Ness – **Keith** discussed the Ten Mile Creek Limited Master Plan Amendment. Mont. Co. DEP's data will be used. County planners wanted to know "what will happen if development occurs? How sensitive are the streams to development?" The EPA's Biological Condition Gradient, which is more sensitive than an IBI, will be used in the process.

Brian Richardson – A recently-completed NARS Report is available. MD DNR is sampling 24 sites in 2013.

Mark Southerland – The Maryland Science Center has a new outreach program addressing stormwater. Mark seeks ideas from the Board.

Matt Stover – There are new 303(d) list solicitations that may contain more NGO data. The Triennial Review is due soon. Here, standards will be reviewed with possible improvements in designated uses. MDE may use stonefly presence/absence to upgrade certain streams from Use 1 to Use 3.

Sally Hornor – Beach bacteria monitoring will commence in May. Some monitoring is in response to a 2005 sewage spill. Sally will be comparing bacteria counts and nitrogen concentrations. The AA County stormwater utility passed but a success story is needed if funding is to continue.

Sonja Schmitz – CCBC is researching barcoding for caddisflies – two streams with two different genera.

Mat Pajeroski – Funding for USGS-sponsored gages is stable despite cutbacks. A 2010 Water Use Report is being finished. USGS is looking at making water use available via StreamStat.

Kevin Brittingham – Baltimore County will likely pass its stormwater utility fee soon. The County is waiting for its new MS4 permit. Trust Fund monitoring is all a "buzz".

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM

Submitted by **Dan** Boward
July 16, 2013