



Maryland Water Monitoring Council
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
Tawes Building, C-2
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis MD 21401
www.marylandwatermonitoring.org

Mark Southerland, Versar, Inc.
Chair

Clark Howells, Baltimore City DPW
Vice-chair

Dan Boward, Maryland DNR
Executive Secretary

Directors

Shelly Baird, Nanticoke Watershed Alliance
Kevin Brittingham, Baltimore County DEPS
Jim Caldwell, Howard County OES
Michele Dobson, Harford County DPW
Susan Gresens, Towson University
Sandy Hertz, Maryland State Highway Admin.
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 January 15, 2013

In attendance: *Dan Boward, *Shelly Baird, *Kevin Brittingham, *Ed Doheny, Beth Franks (Versar), Corrine Glover (Susan Gresens alternate), Jim Gracie, *Clark Howells, Ron Klauda, *Mat Pajerowski, *Tom Parham, *Charlie Poukish, *Matt Rowe, *Sonja Schmitz, *Mark Southerland, *Matt Stover, *Peter Tango, *Sue Veith, *Caroline Wicks, *Cathy Wiss*

Not attending: ** Jim Caldwell (no alternate), *Michele Dobson (no alternate), *Sandy Hertz (no alternate), *Sally Hornor (no alternate), *Susan Gresens (Corrine Glover alternate), *Mike Pieper (no alternate), *Bill Richardson (no alternate), *Keith Van Ness (no alternate)*

*Board member

Meeting convened at 10:16 AM. Chairman **Mark Southerland** welcomed everyone and asked all to introduce themselves.

The minutes from the October 16, 2012 meeting were approved with minor modifications.

New and Outgoing Board Members

Mark Southerland thanked outgoing Board member **Ed** Doheny and **Matt** Rowe. **Dan** Boward took a few photos of **Ed** and **Matt** receiving their Certificates of Appreciation from **Mark**. These will be posted on the MWMC website. Incoming members **Mat** Pajerowski (USGS) and **Matt** Stover (MDE) introduced themselves and described their work.

2012 and 2013 Annual Conferences

Dan provided handouts with conference statistics. He discussed attendee affiliations, the budget and other topics such as registration, the program, and the after-meeting social. **Mike** Pieper (not attending) summarized the Survey Monkey conference evaluation and he sent it to **Dan** so the Board could discuss the results. Given the increase in interest from students in 2013, there was some discussion of whether the Board should consider adding a "student" category in addition to the existing Board categories (Federal, State, Local, Non-profit, Business, At-large). **Sonja** Schmitz suggested that Annual Conference speakers be given recommendations regarding the level of

technicality for their talk. **Dan** said the talk titles on the agenda could be color-coded according to level of technicality. **Mark** suggested that speakers could be given advice on how to structure their talks. **Dan** mentioned that several people signed up at the MWMC table to possibly volunteer with the Council. Action Items – Committee chairs will email these potential volunteers as a follow-up. **Dan** also said that the first 2013 meeting of the MWMC Annual Conference Planning Committee will be held at Hollofield on April 15.

Mark recommended that the 2013 conference theme focus on high quality waters and it could address restoration, protection, and climate change.

Committee Reports

Monitoring and Assessment

Ron Klauda reported that committee members organized two sessions at the 2012 Annual Conference – Marcellus Shale and Headwater Streams. Both sessions were well attended. **Ron** recapped the October 20 Marcellus Shale and Water Monitoring workshop in Garrett County. About 105 were in attendance. The registration fee was \$50 and the event netted \$1,533. There were 8 speakers. All presentations are posted on the MWMC website and a summary of the event is pending. A Survey Monkey requesting attendees' opinions resulted in a 40% response and most of these were positive). The Committee will kick off 2013 with a meeting on January 24.

Community Outreach and Citizen Stewardship

Cathy Wiss reported that there were 24 responses to a Survey Monkey survey that was emailed to several representatives of watershed associations and other NGOs. The survey asked about goals and objectives of each organization as well as the representatives' knowledge of the MWMC. **Peter** Tango mentioned that a speaker at a recent EPA Urban Waters Initiative conference may be of assistance to the Committee. **Action Item** – **Ed** Doheny said he would send **Cathy** contact information for this person.

Information Management and Communication

Ed reported on three Committee activities. 1) **Wayne** Davis organized and moderated an Information Management session at the 2012 Annual Conference that demonstrated new US EPA web based tools that citizens can use to access various sorts of environmental data. One talked focused on discharge permit data and the other was a water quality portal that meshed STORED, USGS and other water quality data sources; 2) DNR's new "clickable map" is a work in progress. Action Item - **Tom** Parham and **Mark** Trice will complete a new draft of this map based on comments received at the October 2012 Board meeting; 3) **Ed** continues to work on key links to water quality websites to be displayed on the MWMC website.

Action Item - **Mike Pajeroski** said that he will help the Board transition into a new Committee structure following Ed's departure from the Board.

Indicators

Matt Stover reported for **Charlie** Poukish. **Matt** described **Charlie's** spreadsheet/database and the meeting that was held at the MDE's field office on December 13th 2012. The workgroup decided that the first objective is to apply the spreadsheet (or appropriate parts of it) to the MDE online searchable database that supports the Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality (303(d) List. This is a

functional approach that offers a direct water quality criteria link to specific stream use designations (I, II, III, IV, etc), and makes water quality criteria more user friendly/accessible to the general public (then would otherwise occur through COMAR). More importantly, it is an excellent opportunity to promote water quality indicators as a functional aspect of water quality monitoring; in particular how they relate to state-wide water pollution abatement and healthy waters initiatives.

Matt and **Charlie** will pursue the possibility of MDE IT personnel helping with this project "in house". If successful, we may also pursue linking the information to the DNR Stream Health website as well.

The group decided that because there are many potential indicators to add to the list, beside water quality standards, that we would start small and go from there. There were several suggestions for potential future activities, including adding biological and land use metrics, or other potential narrative criteria. **Clark** suggested that we might bring representatives from other MWMC groups together to see if it is possible to apply this initiative to other water monitoring/management projects. **Dennis** volunteered to compile a list of past workshops to investigate how standards (indicators) might have related to them. Current Committee members include **Charlie**, **Clark** Howells, **Dennis** Genito, **Sandy** Hertz and **Matt** Stover.

Lunchtime Presentation

Jim Gracie (Brightwater, Inc.) gave a brief Power Point presentation on a proposal by the Maryland Stream Restoration Association to establish a Stream Restoration Institute. He discussed the goals of the Institute, funding, staffing and other logistics. Jim stressed that the Institute would need to be guided by stakeholders from diverse backgrounds. After his talk, the Board discussed various options and provided opinions. **Jim** finished by stating that he'll be seeking get a bill introduced in 2014 and he's seeking MWMC Board support. **Action Item - Dan** said that Jim's presentation will be posted on the MWMC website.

As a follow-up to **Jim's** talk, **Beth** Franks (Versar, Inc.) discussed DNR's plans to establish standard protocols for monitoring nutrients, sediments, biology, and geomorphology at Trust Fund restoration sites. She mentioned that the US FWS is helping with this effort and there will be a training session on Feb. 28 at Oregon Ridge Park for all interested parties.

Mark Southerland then asked the Board to discuss **Jim's** proposal. There was a clear consensus about the need for standard monitoring methods at restoration sites and all thought that there should be a clearinghouse for data. Some voiced concerns regarding funding stability. **Action Item – Mark** will follow up with an email to **Jim** stating the Board's views.

Workshops

Water Words that Work

Dan briefly reported for **Tom** Parham. This workshop may occur in spring or summer 2013.

Planner's Conference

Ron Klauda and **Mark** Southerland are working on this. Unlike the MWMC presentations at the MACO Conference, this would be a presentation/workshop just for planners. DNR's **Tony** Redman may be recruited to assist.

Stream Monitoring Roundtable

Dan Boward reported that the fifth Maryland Streams Monitoring Roundtable will be held on March 7, 2013 at the USGS Water Science Center. As in previous years, monitoring groups and agencies were asked to submit sampling points for display on a common map. These groups and agencies will also be invited to give a brief overview of their program. The day will end with open discussion of monitoring plans and other activities.

News Items

Sue Veith – County staff need guidance on how to establish stream monitoring programs. This discussion could be a part of MWMC activities during a Planner's conference. **Action Item** – **Sue** will look into the availability of LinkedIn water quality discussions.

Clark Howells – Staff participated in a recent press release on new records of zebra mussels in Maryland.

Matt Stover – MDE staff are working with DNR's **Tony** Prochaska on revisions to MDE's stream temperature criteria for Use 3 waters. These revisions will be pertinent to COMAR, the 303(d) list, designated uses, Tier II Waters and MDE's GIS projects.

Ed Doheny – Through the Urban Waters Initiative, USGS is looking at Baltimore City water data and identifying gaps so that monitoring may be optimized. USGS may install a new gage on Herring Run. The agency has a new policy of reviewing water records every two months instead of at the end of the water year. The 2012 Water Year Record for surface waters report is near completion. **Ed** will give a talk on pre-and post restoration data in Minebank Run on February 21, 2013 at USGS.

Mat Pajerowski – USGS will be hosting seminars about once/month. The agency has a boat retrofitted with an IR camera. The boat is scanning for underwater seeps (currently cold water). Staff are evaluating more than two decades of stream flow and climate data and examining correlations.

Matt Rowe – MDE is completing it's Triennial Review as required under the Clean Water Act. All water quality standards are being examined. The Board recommended that MDE organized a special session on this effort at the 2013 MWMC Annual Conference.

Ron Klauda – DNR is completing "guiding principles" for stream and river management and these will be posed on the DNR website. These will be a part of DNR's Environmental Review's guidelines for stream restoration projects (29 principles).

Dan Boward – MBSS and Stream Waders efforts continue. MBSS will again monitor sites around dam removal projects in the Patapsco River as well as Tier II segments to support MDE.

Mark Southerland – Versar has a new contract with Arlington County, VA. Monitoring at the Clarksburg SPA is complete. Staff are comparing grey and green infrastructure in Howard County.

Cathy Wiss – Ten Mile Creek data collection continues using DNR's Stream Waders BIBI. **Cathy** asked if ANS data can be used for Tier II designations.

Corrine Glover – Towson U. is working with Biohabitats on a project in Towson Run. She is assisting with water quality collections.

Caroline Wicks – EcoCheck’s non-tidal monitoring protocol document is languishing. Staff are involved in planning the Mid-Atlantic Volunteer Monitoring Conference to be held June 7-8, 2013 in Shepherdstown, WV (NCTC). A “save the date” will be forthcoming.

Peter Tango – **Katie** Foreman is leaving CBP (moving to Portland). The latest Bay Barometer will be released soon with 2011 data.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM

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