Minutes of the MWMC Board of Director’s Meeting
Wye Research and Education Center; Queenstown, MD
July 16, 2019


Not attending: *Jim Caldwell (no alternate), *Jai Cole (Audra Lew, alternate), *Clark Howells (no alternate), *Byron Madigan (no alternate), *Mat Pajerowski (Chuck Walker, alternate), *Charlie Poukish (no alternate), *Bill Stack (no alternate)

*Board member

Board Chair Sandy Hertz called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. She thanked Ken Staver for planning the meeting and providing the venue. She then asked everyone to introduce themselves. Sandy mentioned that the Board may hold a multi-day retreat in the fall instead of a regular Board meeting.

Ken Staver welcomed the Board to the Wye Center. He went over its history and purpose.

The minutes from the April 16, 2019 Board meeting were approved with minor corrections.

News Roundtable – No Roundtable was held to allow time for the guest speakers.

Board Membership (Matt Stover reporting)

Byron Madigan, Chris Victoria, Ken Staver, and Michael Williams have agreed to remain on the Board for a second term. Chris’ continuance will require a vote by the Board. Matt has not heard from Charlie Poukish, Jai Cole, and Karen Wiggen regarding their continued service. Of these three, Charlie will require a vote. Sandy Hertz agreed to continue as Board Chair (no vote needed).

Action – Matt will request an answer from Charlie, Jai and Karen and send a Doodle Poll for anonymous voting.

Committee Reports

Groundwater (Chuck Walker reporting for Mat Pajerowski)

No Groundwater Committee report. There’s a new effort at USGS for predicting water use. USGS has a call for proposals for funding for the project. The Potomac basin is being considered for a study unit. NAWQA will finish next year but some long term water quality components will remain.

Information Management (Najma Khokhar with Matt Stover reporting)

Najma, Matt and Dan Boward held a recent conference call to discuss possible Committee activities. Najma has agreed to Chair the Committee and is seeking volunteers to serve as well as ideas on how the Committee can move forward. The Committee will decide whether or not to keep the Mapper active or move to something else. Matt reminded the Board that there are lots of databases available online and the Committee could perhaps provide users with a guide to agencies and organizations who own data with contact information. Action - Najma asked folks to contact her if interested in volunteering on the Committee.

Monitoring and Assessment (Andy Becker and Michael Williams reporting)
The Committee has not progressed but is working on a plan. Dan Boward had provided a list of members. Action Item - The Committee hopes to meet within two months.

Citizen Science and Community Stewardship (Jeff Reagan reporting)

Not much progress has been made. There was no habitat assessment training in the spring. Diana Muller said she would help organize a workshop related to water quality meters. Sandy said the Committee could provide links for volunteers directly to meter manufacturers. Andrew said there needs to be easier access to information that’s simple without too much reading. Matt said the Committee could benefit from CMC connections. Drew suggested twice/year webinars on instrument calibration.

Student (Joel Moore reporting)

The Committee held a conference call on July 11. Most of the discussion centered on the 2019 annual conference student session. The plan is to use a similar format to the 2018 session but allow more time for the small group discussions. Action Item – Joel will email the Board for suggestions on whom to invite to serve as a mentor. Joel is seeking diversity among the panel of mentors.

Annual Conference Planning (Dan Boward and Andy Becker reporting)

The RFP will go on eMarylandMarketplace soon. The draft conference theme is “The 25th Annual MWMC Conference – Where We’ve Been, Where We’re Going”. The plenary session may include a retrospective given by Sandy Hertz. Nick DiPasquale has confirmed for a plenary talk. Ben Grumbles declined the offer to speak and is considering a replacement. Action - Sandy and Dan will coordinate on the invitation to Governor Hogan. Several session topics have been confirmed by Planning Committee folks. Dan encouraged Board members to recommend someone for a Weber Award. Andy updated all on the social and giveaway. Social will likely occur at Checkerspot again. The venue now has more space. Andy may seek additional $ to pay for food or maybe charge attendees. KCI will help fund the social. Possible giveaway ideas include a small folio or some sort of glassware. Ken Staver said “is this the Home Shopping Network?”

Lunchtime Presentations

Ken Staver recruited four really good guest speakers: Amy Jacobs (TNC), Eric Buehl (Sea Grant), Lance Yonkos (UMD), and Tim Rosen (ShoreRivers). All four speakers gave very informative talks about projects and issues relevant to the eastern shore. If acceptable, all presentations will be posted on the MWMC website.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM

Optional Tour

A small group of Board members joined Miles-Wye Riverkeeper Elle Bassett and Chesapeake College for a tour of the College’s stormwater management and stream restoration projects. The tour lasted about one hour.

Submitted by Dan Boward
October 15, 2019