Minutes of the MWMC Board of Director’s Meeting
Howard County Conservancy, Gudelsky Center, Woodstock, MD
July 17, 2018


Not attending: *Jai Cole (Dave Sigrist alternate), *Byron Madigan (no alternate), *Diana Muller (no alternate), *Charlie Poukish (no alternate), *Chris Victoria (Janis Markusic alternate)

*Board member

Board Chair Sandy Hertz called the meeting to order at 10:09.

Former MWMC Board Chair Mark Southerland welcomed the Board and guests to the Conservancy. Mark is a current Conservancy Board member. He described several HCC activities, including engaging kids through nature and art, an annual Wine in the Garden event, watershed report cards, hosting the 2018 MWMC Habitat Assessment Workshop and assisting with monitoring efforts in Davis Branch.

The minutes from the April 17 meeting were accepted without changes.

Board Member and Officer Changes

Matt Stover (Board Nomination Committee Chair) said Clark Howells (local gov’t. representative), Matt Stover (state gov’t. representative), Mark Trice (state gov’t. representative), and Mat Pajerowski (federal gov’t. representative) are up for re-election in 2018. Clark and Matt’s nomination will require a special vote since they both have served two or more consecutive terms. Action – Matt will poll the Board (Doodle) to vote for Clark’s continuance and Dan will poll the Board (Doodle) to vote for Matt’s continuance. Matt will email Mark and Mat to determine their willingness to continue on the Board.

Committee and Workshop Updates

Groundwater (Mat Pajerowski reporting)

No Committee meeting since the April 2018 Board meeting. The MWMC intern has completed his internship and Mat briefly described the goals of the intern’s work. Action – Mat will review the intern’s work by September and report to the Board. There was some discussion on similar work done by other states. Action – Sandy suggested that Mat and the intern could present at the October Board meeting. Action – Mat will set up a Committee meeting before September.

Information Management (Sandy Hertz reporting; the Committee has no current Chair)

Action – Sandy requested Board members to considering stepping up to be the Chair. Sandy mentioned that the Chair does not have to be a Board member. Current Committee activity focuses on making the mapper more public-friendly. Action – Board members should send suggestions/interest to Dan/Sandy. Action – Mat will inquire about a potential Chair at USGS.

Monitoring and Assessment (Andy Becker and Michael Williams reporting)

Andy discussed plans for a MBSS IBI workshop. A steering committee will convene on August 3 at MGS to discuss the format of the workshop and a companion “how-to” document. Workshop goals focus on ensuring that data collectors are using comparable data management and analysis tools. The tentative date for the workshop is November 2, 2018 at USGS. Action – Matt Stover asked that
October 16, 2018

Submitted by Dan Boward (with assistance from Sandy Hertz)
October 16, 2018

Citizen Science and Community Involvement (Jeff Reagan reporting)

Karen Wiggen has looked into the possibility of having the second MWMC-sponsored stream habitat assessment workshop at the Charles Co. Soil Conservation District Office. The event may be held sometime this fall. The office was formerly occupied by the Isaak Walton League and is quite close to Zekiah Swamp. Action - Jeff said that the Committee needs to determine a date and recruit trainers. Dan Boward briefly updated the Board on macroinvertebrates.org and the upcoming basic benthic macro taxonomy training to be held at Anne Arundel Community College.

Student Committee (Joel Moore reporting)

The Committee did not meet this quarter but a meeting is planned for the upcoming quarter to plan the 2018 student-professional networking session for the annual conference. Action - Joel asked for Board members to consider suggestions for the networking session and for intern opportunities.

Annual Conference (Dan Boward and Planning Committee reporting)

The Planning Committee met on June 15. The Maritime Conference Center is the confirmed venue. The theme remains Science, Stewardship and Citizen Involvement – Working Together for Clean Water. Will Baker and Dominique Lueckenhoff will be the plenary session speakers. Several invited speaker sessions are confirmed: MS4 permitting, forests and water quality – emerging toxic contaminants, urban ecology/community involvement; sewage infrastructure, marine debris (trash), environmental reporting, citizen monitoring. Andy Becker and Kevin Brittingham will oversee the student poster session. KCI (Andy) will again provide funding for the giveaway, student poster and social (location TBA per Andy). Clark will lead the Weber Awards. There was some discussion of the 2019 conference (25th anniversary). Mark Trice gave an update on potential venues (Cambridge Hyatt; Salisbury University). He asked for feedback from the Board on whether to have as multiple days (e.g., Friday and Saturday). Jeff Reagan suggested looking into the NCTC in Shepherdstown, WV. Action - Dan would look into this. Ken Staver said we need to consider why should we consider extending to 2 days (consider finances, etc.). Richard Mitchell suggested pairing up with the Mid-Atlantic biologist meeting or SFS? Action – Richard will check into the SFS schedule and get back to the Board. Bill Stack suggested having a celebration at the National Aquarium. There was a suggestion for having a second day with workshops. Banquet dinner could highlight the 25-year history and hold the award presentation.

Lunchtime Presentations

Stream Temperature Modeling for TMDL Development and Implementation in Nontidal Cold Water Streams in Maryland – Guido Yactayo (MDE). This talk focused on stream temperature modeling and coldwater streams. Included climate data that the Chesapeake Bay Program provides. Chesapeake Conservancy high resolution (1-meter) land cover data set for riparian canopy was also used. Guido’s talk was followed by lots of Q and A. This talk will be posted on the MWMC website.

How can Water Monitoring Help Convey the Value of Ecosystem Services and Habitat Connectivity to Citizens? - Bill Mahoney (Howard County Office of Community Sustainability). This talk focused on the need to influence public opinion and behavior. Joel said these actions need to be reinforced in schools. Action – Bill asked Board members to send him ideas for messaging to the public. This talk will be posted on the MWMC website.

An Update on Chesapeake Watershed Monitoring and New Directions for the USGS - Joel Blomquist (USGS). Joel started with an overview of CBP monitoring programs. He discussed financial concerns in MD for sites to remain on line. The non-tidal monitoring network contains 120 sites for load and trend reporting. USGS provides $11 million for Chesapeake Bay studies each year. An advisory committee makes recommendations on what efforts to reduce and what efforts to augment. Bill Stack said there’s a big disconnect between local governments and the CBP but there are recent improvements because of the TMDLs. This talk will not be posted on the MWMC website.

Davis Branch, an Aquatic Rebirth - Mike Trumbauer (Biohabitats; for Mike Thompson). Mike’s talk focused on the restoration work done in Davis Branch on the HCC property. He covered need, design, challenges, and improvements noted to date. Mike’s talk will be posted on the MWMC website. Mike then offered a walking tour of the Davis Branch restoration work. A few hardy folks walked the stream channel despite the somewhat constant rainfall.

A News Roundtable was not held due to time constraints.

Meeting adjourned at about 2:00 PM