



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

Sandy Hertz, Maryland Dept. of Transportation
Chair

Mat Pajerowski
Vice-chair

Katherine Hanna, Maryland DNR
Executive Secretary

Andy Becker, KCI Technologies
Megan Brosh, Baltimore County DEPS
Jai Cole, M-NCPPC
(P) Lindsay DeMarzo, Howard Co. OCS
(P) Jason Dubow, MD Dept. Planning
Clark Howells, Baltimore City
(P) Ken Mack, Mont. Co. DEP
Byron Madigan, Carroll Co. BRM
Richard Mitchell, US EPA
Joel Moore, Towson University

Directors

Diana Muller, Maritimas
Jeff Reagan, Biohabitats, Inc.
Nancy Roth, Tetra Tech, Inc.
Bill Stack, Center for Watershed Protection
Ken Staver, Univ. of MD WREC
Matt Stover, Maryland Dept. of the Environment
Mark Trice, Maryland DNR
Chris Victoria, Anne Arundel DPW
Michael Williams, Univ. of MD College Park

(P) = Pending

MWMC Board Meeting

August 19, 2020

Virtual

Attendance: Drew Budelis, Jai Cole, Lindsay DeMarzo, Jason Dubow, Katherine Hanna, Sandy Hertz, Clark Howells, Najma Khokhar, Ken Mack, Richard Mitchell, Joel Moore, Diana Muller, Mat Pajerowski, Nancy Roth, Bill Stack, Mark Southerland, Matt Stover, Mark Trice, Chris Victoria, Michael Williams

Board meeting began at 10:02.

Approval of Minutes

Sandy Hertz and **Joel Moore** requested minor changes to the minutes from the Board meeting on June 5th. A motion to accept the minutes with those changes was approved. The away meeting of the Board was suggested to be moved tentatively to the spring meeting. Board members were asked to send ideas to **Katherine Hanna**. New members were reminded to send their contact info and the name of their alternates to **Matt Stover**.

Committee Reports

Planning Committee – **Katherine Hanna** detailed the decisions made at the Planning Committee meeting held on June 12, including committing to a virtual conference, posing a theme relating to the health connection between humans and the environment, top plenary speaker choices, and breakout session topics.

Student Committee – **Joel Moore** will be rotating off the Board at the end of the year. **Lindsay DeMarzo** is currently serving as committee co-chair and will take over as chair at that point. Joel stated the possibility of reconfiguring or rescheduling the Student professional networking session. **Jason Dubow** mentioned conference software (<https://socio.events/>) that could be used for a poster session. Lindsay also reached out to other conferences for presentations formats, but believes it should be kept simple.

Monitoring and Assessment Committee – **Chris Victoria** described progress on the eDNA workshop as being limited to postponing the workshop into early 2021.

Groundwater Committee – **Mat Pajerowski** informed the Board that the committee had nothing to report.

Citizen Science – **Diana Muller** mentioned it was a great time for virtual trainings, and people are in need of guidance on using data. She suggested organizing such a training following that theme. **Sandy Hertz** recommended Diana check out the Maryland Climate Leadership Academy and their Esri model for sea level rise and storm surge, as well as the Watershed Resources Registry, which can incorporate data from other agencies. Diana thought a 45-minute to an hour length for a training video would work well. **Bill Stack** described a recent workshop from Bob Shedlock on urban flooding provided to the Urban Water Partnership on the topic of colluvial flooding of streets. Bill will check with Bob as to whether it could be made available to the Board.

Information Management Committee – **Najma Khokhar** informed the Board that the committee had nothing to report since the last Board meeting, but would consider working with **Diane Muller** and the Citizen Science committee toward the idea for a data training.

Annual Conference

Sandy Hertz recommended we find out our ability to spend from our fiscal personnel. **Joel Moore** noted that Towson hosted other virtual events, and it might be possible for them to host us for a few half days. **Mark Trice** said that Chesapeake Research Consortium has an existing contract with his group, and they might be able to assist on this as well. **Sandy Hertz** mentioned there may be a state list of providers of virtual services. **Michael Williams** noted that overall, virtual attendance is down and we might need to consider postponing the conference.

Drew Budelis suggested sending out a save-the-date poll to determine potential attendance and preferred conference format. **Mark Trice** found that Google Meeting can host up to 1000 attendees in another version not used by the state, and would check with IT. He will talk to CRC about their virtual conference strategy. Mark suggested we may need to reduce expectations and focus on the impact of the conference content. **Sandy Hertz** asked **Katherine Hanna** to send an email with the draft theme and list of topics, mentioning that there may not be enough data yet for Covid-19 topics. She felt strongly that there should be no charge to attend, since it won't be the same experience and opportunity. The state currently isn't permitted to pay for staff training. **Matt Stover** agreed with using a simpler format that did not extend 4-5 days. **Michael Williams** suggested we allow people to donate to support the conference.

Sandy Hertz suggested that the conference could be made into an annual focus rather than a conference, spread over 6 months, no charge, with a topic each month featuring discussion speakers, with one session dedicated to student networking, and an annual outreach event to connect to membership. **Jason Dubow** was in favor of determining what's of value to the membership, and wondered how the outside appearance would shift if it was not held as an event. **Mat Pajerowski** pointed out that spreading the conference out may diminish it in the public view, and he preferred to scale it down but keep a conference format, possibly also holding spread-out topic meetings to maintain visibility over the whole year. **Jai Cole** was in favor of cancelling conference, holding spread-out talks, and then reconvening in 2021. **Mark Trice** pointed out that budgets will be worse by the same time next year. **Bill Stack** mentioned putting on conferences where the attendance dropped but the conference was still successful, and is in favor of a plenary day and spreading workshops over 3 months. He also noted that the Chesapeake Stormwater Network had changed their conference schedule to every other year. **Sandy Hertz** is in favor of announcing to the membership a plan for a non-traditional approach and sending a survey on workshops. Vendors would be paying for their name and logo to be displayed on the conference page.

News Roundtable

Jason Dubow: Patuxent River Commission has been discussing PFAS in the Naval Airstation surface aquifer. They may have presenters for PFAS we can contact.

Mat Pajerowski: USGS has a monthly seminar on water topics, will share the link for the next seminar.

Jai Cole: Some hot topics for talks have been related to environmental justice and its distribution, the push for open space and water quality, and how things might change through the upcoming presidential election.

Mark Trice: A data downloader tool for non-tidal data is being developed, and beta testers are welcome. Collection of tidal data has resumed as of May, but there are roadblocks to finalization and posting.

Richard Mitchell: EPA's National Ecological Assessment may be extending a 1-year survey across two years, since some states won't be surveying this year.

Bill Stack: stream restoration: updating protocols for TMDL reporting to more robust requirements that include monitoring. The TMDL credit tweak to emphasize reconnection to the floodplain is going to the Urban Stormwater Workgroup for review. We have found consultants abusing the current credit system, which should be more science-based. Bill offered to send a draft of the new protocols, and while some of the updates are available on the CWP website, the new updates refer specifically to floodplain emphasis.

Action Items

Jason Dubow – send information on described software for virtual conferences

Bill Stack – talk to Bob Shedlock about sharing his presentation

Katherine Hanna – look into Chesapeake Research Consortium with Mark Trice

Drew Budelis – work on survey to attendees on format with Katherine Hanna

Katherine Hanna – email Board with the meeting theme and breakout session topics

Mat Pajerowski – send information on USGS seminars

Joel Moore – check with Towson regarding their conference platform