



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

Mat Pajerowski, US Geological Survey
Vice-chair

Matt Stover, Maryland Dept. of the Environment
Chair

Katherine Hanna, Maryland DNR
Executive Secretary
Directors

Byron Madigan, Carroll Co. BRM
Rupert Rossetti, Octoraro Watershed Association
Nancy Roth, Tetra Tech, Inc.
Brian Smith, Maryland DNR
Ken Staver, Univ. of MD WREC
Chris Victoria, Anne Arundel DPW
Michael Williams, Univ. of MD College Park

Andy Becker, KCI Technologies
Megan Brosh, Baltimore Co. DEPS
Lindsay DeMarzo, Howard Co. OCS
John Denniston, Maryland Dept. of Transportation
Jason Dubow, Maryland Dept. of Planning
Matt Harper, M-NCPPC
Bob Hilderbrand, UMCES
Ken Mack, Montgomery Co. DEP

BOARD MEETING REPORT

MARYLAND WATER MONITORING COUNCIL BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 22, 2024 – *HYBRID*

In Attendance (virtual):

In person: Brian Smith, Christopher Victoria, Greg Voigt, Heather Quinn, John Denniston, Julie Costantino, Katherine Hanna, Ken (M)ack, Ken (S)taver, Mat Pajerowski, Matt (H)arper, (Matt)hew Stover, Michael Williams, Mike McMahon, Najma Khokhar, Nancy Roth, Byron Madigan, Bob Hilderbrand, Rupert Rossetti, Tom Guay

Matt called the meeting to order at 9:57 AM. He announced new board members: Tom Guay and Greg Voigt. Each introduced themselves with brief background information. All other board members then reintroduce themselves.

Matt called for the review of the last Meeting Report, approved unchanged at 10:32 AM.

Membership

Matt noted that Tom and Greg will be able to vote once approved by the DNR secretary.

Chris explained that he is still working out the duties of the nominating committee. *Matt* went over committee membership extensions for Lindsay and Mat. *Matt* announced that Jason Dubow stepped down from the board. Angel Valdez and Becky Monahan were voted in (virtually) as board members. *Matt* detailed both their backgrounds and potential contributions prior to the vote.

Mat's membership was extended by virtual vote.

Chris noted a remaining academic vacancy on the board. He would reach out to friends of Sligo Creek on a potential candidate. He also would send a note to Ken S asking to extend of his own board membership. *Matt* reminded everybody to send candidate suggestions to *Chris*. *Katherine* will check on the paperwork needed to approve candidates including the ethics sign off.

Bob suggested candidates for the open academic position: Keith Eshleman & Solange Veloso at UMCES, Claire Welty & Stan Kemp at UMBC, Karen Prestegaard & Sujay Kaushal at UMD. *Michael* added Kate Tully, but suggested we consider junior researchers, who by nature of the

stage in their careers might be less busy. *Ken S* suggested Rebecca Fox at Washington College. *Tom* verified that she gave a talk on Ag runoff of farm fields. *Matt* suggested committee members use a doodle poll to select candidates. *Byron* had sent an email recommending Sue Simonson.

Committee Updates

Monitoring and Assessment (*Byron*)

The committee met twice in the past quarter. We have scheduled a PFAS workshop scheduled on January 22 at the USGS Water Science Center, a hybrid event. We are meeting in November to discuss structure and agenda. Speaker topics include WW reg updates, biosolids, landfills, DW MCLs, and monitoring studies. Committee members are reaching out to potential speakers, 15 confirmed. Regulatory issues are included to draw a wider interest. *Board Members* discussed presentation length. *Byron* touted that the diversity of interest/backgrounds on his committee contributes to a well-rounded conference.

Ken S asked if the conference included soils as a topic and suggested reaching out to MDA. *Byron* identified a speaker from Tetra Tech with a talk on GW.

Information Management (*Najma*)

The committee continues to organize webinars. They met two weeks earlier to discuss topics and presenters. She suggested combining efforts, not to repeat under different committees. She plans a meeting early 2025 to finalize topics and presenters. *Matt* was pleased with the topics and the three passed webinars. *Najma* estimated 80 people attended the continuous monitoring webinar presented by Leah Ettema. *Matt* asked the Board to share ideas with *Najma*.

Groundwater (*Mat*)

Mat said the committee has not met and he will be stepping down due to his lack of time to organize. He called for a volunteer to lead. *Mat* went over some topics his committee covered in the past. His successor would convene the committee and discuss topics for the year. *Heather* asked if committee chairs need to be members of the Board. *Mat* said no, and *Heather* offered to discuss this further with *Mat*. *Matt* thanked *Mat* for his work through the years and reminded committee chairs to send in their annual reports—a brief summary.

Student (*Matt* read *Lindsay*'s summary for the record)

The committee will again host student poster and lightening talks sessions. Students can submit until early November. Currently, two students are registered to do both and one each for either. *Lindsay* contacted her former advisor to get involved. *Matt* asked if those present who served as judges last year could again this year. If so, get in touch with Katherine or *Lindsay* ASAP.

Citizen Science and Community Stewardship (*Rupert*)

We are re-forming the committee to meet during the conference. Most members are retired. A prime topic for discussion is *what happens to the data?* Developing other topics within the confines of the Council's mission. He will send a note to *Matt*. *Matt* thanked *Rupert* for bringing the committee back together. He said the mission is wide, but not the budget, with further explanation. He asked *Rupert* to contact him with ideas and he would see if it's within the budget.

Annual Conference Planning (Katherine)

She first asked to be kept up to date on membership and event so she can send out announcements to the right people.

Conference membership remains open with almost 300 people registered. Early bird registration will close on Friday. Ten vendor tables are already reserved. There is a waiting list for non-profits. We met on the 4th to sort speaker sessions and posted a rough agenda online. *Mat* asked to reserve a table. *Katherine* instructed him to go to the DNR online store. A table comes with one person's registration. *Nancy* will also reserve a table. *Katherine* announced that one of the moderators passed away. More session moderators are needed.

She reached out to 2 possible plenary speakers: Denise Wardrop & Bill Dennison. If she does not hear by Monday, she will contact Ron Klauda, who's already registered. We have two nominees for the Weber Award, but none for the Above and Beyond Award. Please consider nominating. *Matt* announced he'd get a colleague to submit Liz Chudoba for consideration. Poster awards are covered. *Katherine* continued; we'll have a conference social again.

Matt honored Stew Comstock's passing.

Matt called for people to volunteer as moderators. *Byron*, *Chris*, & *Brian* volunteered. *Matt* thanked *Katherine* and her DNR colleagues for all their work in planning the conference. *Katherine* pointed out that we need four volunteers for the registration table. She explained their duties. *Greg* & *Mat* offered their staff as volunteers. *Matt* thought we had the laptops needed for the conference. *Katherine* asked if people had functioning plotters in their offices. *Greg* would check and *Heather* offered, and she and *Katherine* discussed the specs. *Ken S* brought up the discussion of registration limits, which *Katherine* has set at 450 with a split lunch period. *Rupert* volunteered for general assistance. *Greg* updated that his office's large format printer is working.

News Roundtable

Byron: reporting season, MS4 report, suspect control data from last year; Army Corps Monitoring. MS4 education and outreach coming up. October 26, 3rd Annual Environmental Symposium, including recycled art contest by HS students, floodplain tree planting, and UMD Insect Zoo.

Tom: stormwater mitigation and adding land-based activities to projects.

Rupert: was monitoring this morning and back out tomorrow. We monitor all year non-tidal, mostly in the Octoraro Reservoir. The reservoir supplies 0.25 M people in the Philadelphia Area.

Nancy: starting a 2nd year of geomorphic monitoring for stream stability at a number of site in Prince George's County. Finishing a stream restoration monitoring project in Columbia with possible monitoring. Restore America's Estuaries Conference in VA, focused on mid-Atlantic.

Najma: introducing my company to many new groups, trying to improve water data acquisition to accommodate data for discrete continuous sampling, biological habitat, all those data sets in one centralized location. Will have a table in the conference. Attended VA Monitoring Council.

Mike: crunching numbers for the 319 grant year-end report. We are working with Eastern Shore EJ communities on nuisance flood mitigation. Some early signs of elevating health issues. Moving

forward on a MOU with UMES research a HBCU. We have just completed hosting a Region 3 workshop for the State 319 grant managers.

Mat: year-end wrap-ups. USGS report comparing WQ in shallow groundwater near agricultural areas in Coastal Delaware. Cited a journal article of microbial degradation of PFAS.

Katherine: MBSS recently completed 4 reports on the removal of Bloede Dam on the Patapsco River that addressed the resident fish, migrant fish, eels specifically, and the benthic macroinvertebrates that we were monitoring in that zone.

John: in a project with Walmart implementing some SmartPond devices to get MS4 credit at a much lower cost per acre. Hopefully save upfront and O&M money. *Brian* asked, *what makes a pond smart?* *John* replied, connected to the web, it monitors the weather automatically open to release water before impending storms. With multiple ponds in an area, you can stagger water release, reducing the hydrograph peak over time.

Ken M: closed out monitoring for the summer, preparations of annual MS4 report, restoration work, handful of grant applications going out for new projects, and taking folks out to visit some of our favorite projects over the last couple of years on Thursday.

Heather: working on data analysis and reporting, proposal writing, groundwater sampling at a stream restoration of a Sassafras tributary. This winter, pulling out all wells and the entire monitoring stations of the surface water at that stream restoration (and writing final post restoration report for that). In the next two weeks, monitoring of vertical ground movement along the East coast will be ongoing by MGS and various partners to assess potential land subsidence to due regional groundwater withdrawals and as related to sea level rise etc. Continuing GW quality monitoring for a variety of projects, like chloride. Projects planned for possibly some groundwater quality studies at DNR properties; continuing work on radionuclides in southern Maryland.

Greg: used to manage 303 (d) water quality standards programs. In February, started managing our 404 program. Working with Army Corps of Engineers on a new function-based mitigation. This new protocol incorporates MBSS methodologies to assess the quality of the stream habitat. Rolling that out over the next several months and got a lot of good feedback from DNR.

Chris: working on MS4 reporting. Finished our summer sampling for our countywide program and waiting for deliverables from KCI. Started a study of the impacts of different perimeter vegetative management of our stormwater and wet ponds. This study continues for three years

Brian: monitoring season coming at the end of this month. Removing a few continuous monitoring sites after October, because of how funding and projects are set up these days. Deployed four new continuous monitoring stations in the Choptank, in conjunction with two deployed DO sensor arrays. Wrapped up our hypoxia cruises for the summer and putting together the final report. Results probably show average early summer levels, that increased later in the summer.

Ken S: an ag report on the local news showed the fall drought is extreme. We had a wet start to the year, but we're go on the downside fast. Soil moisture profiles are super low and non-existent in terms of the research monitoring edge of field runoff. We're not going to hit our new term reduction

goals, by the official counting system. With the farm bill stalled in Congress, ag's operating under a sort of an ongoing resolution for conservation.

Matt: designating new standards for cold water obligate species found in warmer waters. There are some concerns regarding the North Branch Potomac River. We're scheduling a public hearing and comment period. Since last meeting, we received EPA approval on our IR and 3Ds lists. We put out advance notice regarding training overview of quality standards. These are revisions of new water quality criteria designated uses and anti-degradation policy, available for public comment on new proposed regulations. We're hiring someone else.

Matt H: have submitted our proposals for our annual MS4 permit. Actively working identifying macroinvertebrates and compiling results from both spring and summer monitoring efforts. In the early stages of submitting for next year permits. We have numerous designs for stream restoration projects in every Montgomery County watershed. We received temperature monitoring data collected for years from Sligo Creek, trying to assess a tributary that gets groundwater discharge from the DC Metro Red Line infrastructure.

Action Items

Membership

- Follow up tasks regarding continuity of membership
- Katherine will check on the paperwork to approve candidates, including ethics sign off
- Requesting everybody look for candidates for the open academic and volunteer positions
 - Contact Chris regarding open positions
 - Suggested candidates include Kate Tully, Solange Filoso, Rebecca Fox
- Need a committee chair for the groundwater committee

Annual Conference

- The student committee needs judges for the poster session
Brian, Lindsay, John, and Matt H were judges last year
- We need nominees for the Weber and Above and Beyond awards.
- Heather and Greg have volunteered the use of their office plotters
- Moderators and volunteers for the registration table are needed
- Submit annual committee reports to Katherine by the end of October

Dates set for:

- Citizen Science Committee webinar and workshop
- Information Management Committee and webinar
- Monitoring and Assessment Committee workshop

Adjournment (12:29 PM)