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#### Directors

Andy Becker, KCI Technologies  
Megan Brosh, Baltimore County DEPS  
Lindsay DeMarzo, Howard Co. OCS  
Jason Dubow, MD Dept. Planning  
Bob Hilderbrand, UMCES  
Ken Mack, Mont. Co. DEP  
Byron Madigan, Carroll Co. BRM  
Richard Mitchell, US EPA

Jeff Reagan, Biohabitats, Inc.  
Nancy Roth, Tetra Tech, Inc.  
Ken Staver, Univ. of MD WREC  
Matt Stover, Maryland Dept. of the Environment  
Chris Victoria, Anne Arundel DPW  
Alice Volpitta, Blue Water Baltimore  
Michael Williams, Univ. of MD College Park

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## MINUTES MWMC Board Meeting May 17, 2022 Virtual Meeting

**In Attendance:** Mat Pajerowski, Katherine Hanna, Matt Stover, Mike McMahon, Andy Becker, Megan Brosh, Lindsay DeMarzo, Jason Dubow, Bob Hilderbrand, Ken Mack, Byron Madigan, Richard Mitchell, Jeff Reagan, Nancy Roth, Ken Staver, Alice Volpitta, Michael Williams, Mark Southerland, Najma Khokhar

**Mat Pajerowski [Vice-Chair] called the meeting to order. (10:03 AM)**

**Opening Remarks (10:04 AM)**

Mat informed the Board that the meeting will be recorded but not publicly posted. Mike McMahon will be preparing the minutes. The recording will be posted to the original Google Meets invitation for this meeting.

**Attendees & Introductions (10:05 AM)**

Mat invited the attendees to go around the “room” and introduce themselves.

**Meeting Minutes (10:20 AM)**

Katherine Hanna sent out the minutes from the last Board meeting. Board members were asked to review the minutes. Edits will be accepted through the end of this week and Katherine will send out a form next week for approval. Matt Stover mentioned that Mike McMahon is taking minutes for today’s meeting. Mat encouraged everyone to review the minutes and offered an opportunity to discuss them. No one had comments at that time.

**Board Membership and Candidates (10:22 AM)**

Matt reviewed the five openings on the Board and the open Chair position. Matt gave the Board a final chance to nominate candidates for Board Chair. None were offered. Matt offered to be candidate for Chair. Further

nomination must be the day of this present quorum, with voting over the next week or two. Five open seats remain on the board. The current nominees are:

- Intergovernmental vacancy: Matt Harper from MNCPPC.
- At Large vacancy 1: Dr. Micah Miles of Waterfront Partnership.
- At Large vacancy 2: Rupert Rossetti.
- State Government vacancy 1: Dr. Brian Smith from DNR.
- State Government vacancy 2: MDOT's Bill Richardson and John Denniston.

Matt will send out background information for all. Everyone needs to vote, since we have fewer members to make a quorum. Please respond back as soon as possible to the poll. Matt will make one distribution for Board position voting, and someone else will send out the vote for the Chair position. With all seats filled, there will be 21 people on the Board, not including Katherine as the Executive Secretary.

Matt verified that newly-approved Board members got confirmation letters from DNR. Mat explained the process for nominating and approving new Board members.

Matt stated that if he was elected as Chair, he would like to hand over the responsibilities of the Nomination Committee. Matt has developed a Committee SOP, including email templates, which Katherine can share with the next Committee Chair.

Mat seconded Matt's nomination as Board Chair.

#### **Committee Reports (10:33AM)**

**Monitoring and Assessment**/Andy: Andy and Clark Howell are working on an in-person or hybrid October workshop on contaminants of emerging concern in conjunction with Clark's water utilities organization. Michael Williams offered to help facilitate the workshop. The Roundtable was held the Friday after the last Board meeting. There were 70 individuals registered and 48 in attendance, which was less than in the past. When the Roundtable was held at the USGS Water Science Center, there were 65 to 70 people. This year there were 25 presentations from federal, state, and local watershed group representatives. Andy commended Mark Trice's Roundtable map, now posted on the MWMC Streams Roundtable webpage. He invited people to view the map of stream sampling plans for 2022.

**Citizen Science and Community Stewardship**/Jeff Reagan: Jeff thought about a grant writing workshop for non-profit and small watershed groups. He had reached out to Sadie Drescher at Chesapeake Bay Trust, who is onboard for planning. Jeff said the Committee would like to do something in conjunction with Blue Water Baltimore and will discuss volunteer monitoring and workshops with Alice.

There are no other committee members at present. Mat requested people interested in serving on this committee contact Jeff.

**Information Management and Communications**/Najma Khokhar: The Committee had a meeting on May 4, with 13 attendees, where members discussed quality assurance and control of data concerning best practices for data collection and analyses. Attendees described their methods, and concluded most people are using Google Sheets, Excel, or Access. The Committee will focus on bringing standard procedures for everyone as a baseline for their quality assurance with the goal of using the data for regulatory purposes. The Committee will meet again in August or September. There are actively 10 or 15 members in the Committee.

**Groundwater**/Mat Pajerowski: Mat had discussions with Jason Dubow, now a member of the Committee. Jason described a state plan for saltwater intrusion and adaptation published in 2019. There is a need for groundwater aquifer understanding of where the salt is. It is not well known that local offices, USGC, and others collect data that can provide research direction on saltwater intrusion in the state. Mike McMahon offered to drop a line to Robert Peoples at MDE, to recruit for the committee. Mike Williams recommended Kate Tully at UMD as an expert in saltwater intrusion in agriculture.

**Student Committee**/Lindsay DeMarzo: The last meeting and activity was a successful career chat in late October 2021. The Committee would like to do the career chat once a year and assist with student conference involvement. Lindsay called for attendees to reach out if interested in joining. The Committee will be starting organization of the informal chat panel in late summer. Nancy, Katherine, and Mat discussed the need for student participation at the Annual Conference and past efforts.

Katherine can send out an email requesting Committee participants to the entire MWMC email list if any Committees were interested.

**Annual Conference Planning**/Katherine Hanna: There will be a smaller, in-person conference this year. A hybrid option was considered and rejected. Mat relayed Committee discussions about concerns for COVID. The Committee will find out what the last date is to cancel and not still be obligated to pay.

Mat discussed the Committee decision not to send an interest survey, due to confidence in getting several hundred interested in in-person attendance.

Mike M offered to research possible facilities at MDE. Matt thought there is enough space in the auditorium and the location might be doable for the conference. Mat was concerned about logistics for the break-out sessions. The Maritime Conference Center bids the lowest cost option every year.

Katherine shared the conference theme will be *What are you drinking? Protecting the Source*. There are ideas for speakers and the Committee developed a list of potential sessions:

- Water Utilities
- Agricultural BMPs
- Forestry
- Groundwater/PFAS/microplastics/other contaminants
- Implementation of Local TMDLs
- Climate Change
- Equity and water resources/environmental justice
- Vernal Pools – Mark Southerland will be moderator
- Restoration

The Committee is looking for ideas for plenary speakers. She suggested bringing back the social this year and will talk to Andy about this. There will be a student poster flyer that Board members will be asked to distribute. Weber Award nominations will be accepted early this year to give extra opportunities for submissions.

Katherine welcomed volunteers to moderate the breakout sessions. Mike W volunteered to chair the Stream Restoration break-out session. Nancy volunteered to help Mike W or chair another session.

Matt stated that he had reached out to Robert Peoples in Water Supply, and that they were onboard to help, either to moderate or find speakers for talks on water utilities and source protection.

Mat noted someone at USGS is sampling at wastewater treatment plants for PFAS, post-treatment, and he will talk to that scientist for possible resources for this session.

Mat asked everyone to reach out to their contacts for session speaker recruitment.

Nancy offered to chair the Local TMDL Implementation session.

Ken Staver offered to chair the session on Agricultural BMPs.

Alice wanted to see interesting case studies presented from monitoring or “solving a mystery”. She is formulating a workshop on how to build narratives about monitoring data. She discussed examples and wants to approach from an angle of community engagement. Alice suggested it would show the data and the process of how to “narratize” or create a more compelling story for people impacted, as a teaching opportunity on how to communicate to a non-

scientific audience. Mat suggested a whole session themed Science Communication: Presenting as a Narrative. Mat asked Alice to develop this idea more.

Mike suggested this be part of the plenary. Nancy suggested it as a discussion panel during the plenary. Mat suggested the panel could replace one of the two plenary speakers or have one speaker specializing in this topic give a talk.

The next Planning Committee meeting is not yet scheduled, but the Committee will plan a meeting soon. We are reaching out The Maritime Center and putting out two other required bids.

Mike M will check arrangements and cost for MDE facilities.

Mat asked for the date of the conference. Katherine stated the date of the conference is penciled in as December 15, a Thursday. Nancy asked if there were any November dates. Katherine said the only available November dates were at the beginning of the month.

### **News Roundtable (11:38 AM)**

Mat asked anybody to announce any news from their organization that is timely and important.

Alice Volpitta: Blue Water Baltimore is in active litigation with the Back River and Patapsco Wastewater Treatment Plant. This resulted in enhanced bacteria monitoring in the Back River and wastewater treatment plant, on behalf of MDE and Baltimore County. BWB launched a citizen monitoring program last week; targeted bacteria monitoring throughout the Back River in a one-day monitoring event. The data is used as an engagement opportunity for residents to get more connected with concepts of water quality. The bacteria monitoring day will be May 26. The training day was last Thursday. If it is a successful, BWB will continue throughout the swimming season.

Andy Becker: KCI is supporting medium phase 1 jurisdiction clients, as they review their potential new MS4 permits from MDE. The most interesting ongoing project is with KCI's partners in Charles County on the sediment TMDL for the Lower Patuxent. Their sites are in good condition and KCI is helping to delist that portion of their watershed.

Katherine Hanna: MBSS is launching their summer season. There will be a four-day MBSS summer training at Howard Community College, in-person. Following that we will set out into the field ourselves.

Ken Mack: Montgomery County has a program that gives small grants to congregations, private schools, etc. This year the county allowed monitoring under the grant, which were near half of the grants. A very large area of the county will be monitored for bacteria, pH, conductivity, and more. The hope is to target monitoring more closely. The county is attempting to target to both base and storm flow.

Ken Staver: The big thing in agriculture was the Bay model recalculations. There needs to be a reduction of another one million pounds of total nitrogen to meet the TMDL end reduction goal. Prices of grain and fertilizer are high due to international conflicts.

Lindsay DeMarzo: Howard County is working with the SHA on salt. Lindsay is on a regional committee with a WSSC salt group.

Mark Southerland: He will be attending the first national stream restoration conference August 1- 3 in Nashville. Mark is involved in a session with Dave Penrose looking at biological uplift. Send any positive results regarding biological uplift to Mark. There will be a panel discussion about the big picture nation-wide and the role monitoring plays in ecological uplift from stream restoration.

Mat: USGS is starting PFAS monitoring at Joint Base Andrews and Dover AFB, assuming the promised funding comes through. Fish tissue and water samples from Piscataway Creek have shown elevated PFAS, which seems to be from Andrews. This is a two-year monitoring plan, backed by the bases. USGS is trying out new fluorometer technology in the Anacostia River Bladensburg Waterfront Park for bacteria and water quality parameters. The

intent is to model predictions of coliform bacteria events in the Anacostia. Ultimately it comes from DC's endeavor to make the Anacostia swimmable.

Matt Stover: The Integrated Report (impaired waters list) was approved by the EPA. MDE finished the public comment period for the Triennial Review. They received comments from 12 different organizations and are working through evaluations of those comments to proposed regulation changes.

Megan Brosh: Baltimore County has been involved with the nuisance midge control on the Back River, with BTi spraying and weekly monitoring to study the effectiveness. The county has an environmental reporter for midges and is involved in enhanced bacterial monitoring on the Back River, weekly, all summer.

Mike Williams: Mike W participated in a STAC meeting in late March to evaluate a systems approach to crediting, that includes wetland ecosystems services in an attempt to talk about habitat co-benefits and improve restoration outcomes. The Bay TDML concentrates on nutrient and sediment reduction, but the agreement includes improvement of habitat and resources. BMPs may result in resource tradeoffs and unintended consequences. That information is available on the Bay Program website.

Mike McMahon: Mike M is involved with a project on the Choptank that involves MDE, NGOs, and municipalities. A circuit rider has been hired to assist governments.

Najma Khokhar: Nothing at this time.

Nancy Roth: She has been working with the CBP (GIT4) to develop the healthy watershed assessment and are working on its adaptation. Maryland's goal is to use it for the Tier 2 Waters Program. Recently, Nancy presented with the CBP to the California Healthy Waters Program, on how to collect, analyze, and implement watershed information.

Bob Hilderbrand: Bob finished research with SHA looking at temperatures from their stormwater facilities. There is no magic bullet for BMP stormwater mitigation for thermal protection.

#### **Action Items (12:04 PM)**

- People are to consider becoming conference moderators.
- Nomination information will be sent out and voting arranged – Board members need to vote.
- Those who spoke up to assist on the Monitoring and Assessment Committee's workshop on water utilities need to communicate with Andy and Clark.
- Those who shared ideas on the conference should feel free to join the Planning Committee.
- People need to review the minutes and send Katherine any changes.
- Nominations for the Weber Awards - given at the annual conference to someone doing outstanding work in water monitoring in Maryland - open in June.

The July meeting will be held in person on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Katherine has booked a DNR conference room for a hybrid meeting and is soliciting ideas for a lunchtime talk.

Matt suggested the Board get a speaker on eDNA. Richard offered to do a talk on eDNA from Europe, virtually. Mike M offered to ask Christine Knauss to give a talk on microplastics. Ken S suggested Larry Barber, USGS on the mixed watershed scale risks to aquatic organisms from complex chemical mixtures in the Shenandoah River.

Mat called for any other items.

**Mat thanked everyone for participating and adjourned the meeting. (12:15 PM)**