



Maryland Water Monitoring Council
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
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Mat Pajeroski
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Megan Brosh, Baltimore County DEPS
Jai Cole, M-NCPPC
Clark Howells, Baltimore City
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
Mark Trice, Maryland DNR
Chris Victoria, Anne Arundel DPW
Michael Williams, Univ. of MD College Park

MINUTES

MWMC Board of Directors Virtual Meeting July 20, 2021 10:00-12:30

In attendance: Ken Mack, Mark Southerland, Mark Trice, Andy Becker, Alice Volpitta, Clark Howells, Drew Budelis, Jai Cole, Jason Dubow, Matt Stover, Mat Pajeroski, Nancy Roth, Chris Victoria, Bob Hilderbrand, Byron Madigan, Ken Staver, Megan Brosh, Richard Mitchell, Michael Williams

Mat Pajeroski began the meeting at 10:01am.

Meeting minutes from April 20, 2021 were approved without edits.

Committee Reports

Monitoring & Assessment: Nothing new to report. Andy Becker said the committee would plan a meeting.

Restoration Subcommittee: Nancy Roth reported a May meeting and a plan to meet every other month. Issues up for subcommittee discussion included: appropriate monitoring strategies, such as how long to monitor a project and what protocols are recommended; Bill Stack's meeting with the University of Maryland; a comparison of watershed factors and biology to consider practices with the best likelihood of success. Mark Southerland remarked on the higher diversity of participants due to the virtual nature of the meetings. He mentioned a report he wrote with Nancy Roth on vertebrates in Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance systems. Nancy Roth and Joe Berg will be moderators for the two restoration sessions at the Annual Conference. Mark Southerland volunteered to present the report to the MWMC Board at the October 19 meeting. Katherine Hanna will add this to the next meeting agenda.

Citizen Science: No representative was in attendance

Information Management: Najma Khokhar was not in attendance but emailed her report. She received 41 responses to an announcement email advertising for committee membership and plans to hold the next committee meeting on September 1.

Groundwater: No committee activity, but Mat Pajeroski said there may be activity in the next quarter.

Nomination: Matt Stover shared that there was no new information from the DNR Secretary's office on the pending members. Mark Trice offered to bring up the matter with Rich Ortt, director of DNR's Resource Assessment

Unit, for insight on what to do next. Matt Stover noted that this year, he would be ending his third term, Mark Trice was ending his second, Mat Pajerowski would be ending his third, and Clark Howells would be ending his fifth term. Matt asked for anyone planning to step down to let him know and to think of someone to replace them on the Board.

Planning Committee: Katherine Hanna described the current conference plan, including the status of the conference support bidding on eMaryland Marketplace, the plan to have payment through the DNR Outdoor Store, and the agenda draft for plenary and five concurrent sessions. There was Board support for a hybrid conference in 2022, since some other conferences had returned to in-person meetings and the venue used in the past may have upgraded to have this capability. Jai Cole noted that people were paying full price registration for other virtual conferences. Nancy Roth reminded Katherine Hanna to provide the abstract submission form so that session moderators and organizers could start collecting speaker commitments.

Student: Lindsay DeMarzo is working on an informal networking session that would run 1-1.5 hours long to show students ways to follow in different professional footsteps. It would have a question and answer format and possibly occur in September. She's also interested in an interactive poster session. Andy Becker suggested it could be combined with the student poster session at the conference.

News Roundtable

Alice Volpitta: There was a recent Baltimore Sun article featuring a paddleboarding company operating in the Baltimore Harbor that uses Blue Water Baltimore data to make informed choices on safe water use.

Andy Becker: KCI has been conducting summer fish sampling and helping county groups with MS4 permits and keeping up with data.

Chris Victoria: KCI and Coastal Resources have been conducting the fish sampling for Anne Arundel County's Round 3.

Clark Howells: Baltimore City is working on monitoring for reservoir watersheds, protocols, and analyzing data. A Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan will review sourcewater resources for the region, drought management policies, and hazardous spill response plans.

Drew Budelis: No news to report.

Jai Cole: MNCPPC is planning to update the corridors plan from the '60s. They will also be collaborating with Howard County. The Josiah Henson Museum is opening in Bethesda.

Jason Dubow: Jason described a MD Department of Planning and Maryland Environmental Service three-year brownfield grant, as well as a three-year brownfield grant awarded to Frederick County. These related to studies of groundwater and surfacewater contamination and results should become available later this fall.

Katherine Hanna: DNR's Resource Assessment Service was under the leadership of a new director, Rich Ortt of DNR's Maryland Geological Survey, following the retirement of Bruce Michael. The Maryland Biological Stream Survey's summer sampling was in full swing, with plans to sample the mainstem Patapsco River in the coming week. This is the first year of Round 5 sampling, which was designed to examine the 0-order streams that were previously considered too small, and a surprising number of the streams were not seen to be ephemeral at the time of summer sampling.

Ken Mack: Montgomery County is looking at citizen science funding, with some interesting results, one of which was a robotic remote-controlled car controlled through the internet. Work is also continuing on the MS4 permit, with some changes. There has been some pushback on stream restoration, which seemed to be driven by a lack of hydrology knowledge. A potential response may be to hold informational webinars.

Mark Southerland: The Howard County general plan, HoCo By Design, is moving forward. The Patapsco Heritage Greenway is looking for new members. This organization has equal emphasis on environment and heritage.

Mark Trice: Mark pointed out that the MWMC website needs to be updated with the recent meeting minutes and agendas. He floated the idea of an outdoor Board meeting in person, with potential speakers on different topics.

Mat Pajerowski: USGS is on maximum telework policy with travel restrictions in place, but this may change soon. He wondered what the Board's comfort level was on in-person meetings and requested Katherine send out a poll to Board members. Mark Trice suggested the Tawes Garden or a state park as an outdoor venue. Ken Staver pointed out that outdoor meetings are difficult to make hybrid. Chris Victoria's office returned to the office this week, allowing for

up to three telework days a week, and has a conference facility available. Richard Mitchell shared that the EPA was back in their offices sans mask, but this may change.

Matt Stover: MDE has entered into its triennial review of water quality standards and has new protections in store for coldwater-designated streams as well as new descriptions for Tier II waters and new water quality criteria for human health.

Megan Brosh: IDDE is occupying much of her time, and fish season is underway, with new interns this summer.

Nancy Roth: Collaborating with engineers to do tree surveys and geomorphology in Northern Virginia. Tetra Tech is entering the fourth year monitoring in Maryland for invasive species management. Other offices are working with EPA on water quality to make a local government version.

Richard Mitchell: Spending time in the field on the National Wetland Survey and at other sites not sampled last year.

Michael Williams: Michael has ramped up taking students out to the field and monitoring a stream restoration near the University of Maryland campus for sediment and nutrient reductions. The project is currently in Phase 2 encompassing the bottom third of the reach on a stream that feeds into Paint Branch.

Bob Hilderbrand: Bob is working on a project funded by the SHA to monitor temperatures at the outfalls of different BMP structures. He also is working on a CBT funded research proposal for October related to 16S sequencing of samples to look at details in locations with lack of biological uplift. The eDNA method for microbes can match a BIBI 80% of the time.

Mat Pajerowski: USGS is working on improving detection of PFAS in a lab, as well as by a top assay approach for overall types of PFAS. One goal is to develop a surrogate for monitoring. Also, some stormwater ponds in Baltimore County and Baltimore City are being checked for PCBs, chlorinated compounds – microbial communities that can break down contaminants may be present. There is also Potomac River monitoring for early warning of contaminant issues.

Lindsay DeMarzo: Howard County is looking at a big stream restoration on a dairy farm, which is experiencing difficulties with the beaver population affecting the restoration, ponds constructed too deep, and flow diversion away from monitoring devices. Mark Trice told her about a past conference, BeaverCon, that might have resources for the beaver problems.