



Maryland Water Monitoring Council
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
Tawes Building, C-2
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Tom Parham, Maryland DNR
Mike Pieper, KCI Technologies

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Bill Richardson, US. EPA
Ken Staver, Univ. of MD WREC
Matt Stover, Maryland Dept. of the Environment
Chris Swan, Univ. of MD Balto. Co.
Peter Tango, USGS/Chesapeake Bay Program
Chris Victoria, Anne Arundel DPW
Caroline Wicks, EcoCheck
Cathy Wiss, Audubon Naturalist Society

Minutes of the MWMC Board of Director's Meeting Tawes Building, Annapolis, MD April 15, 2014

In attendance: Dan Boward, *Tim Goodfellow, Ron Klauda, Mike Luh (alternate for Clark Howells), Janis Markusic (alternate for Chris Victoria), *Mat Pajeroski, *Tom Parham, *Mike Pieper, *Charlie Poukish, Jeff Reagan (guest), *Mark Southerland, *Ken Staver, *Matt Stover, *Peter Tango, *Caroline Wicks, *Cathy Wiss

Not attending: *Kevin Brittingham (no alternate), *Shelly Baird (no alternate), *Jim Caldwell (no alternate), *Michele Dobson (no alternate), *Sandy Hertz (no alternate), *Clark Howells (Mike Luh attended as alternate), *Ellen Lathrop-Davis (no alternate), *Bill Richardson (no alternate), *Chris Swan (Robin VanMeter attended as alternate), *Chris Victoria (Janis Markusic attended as alternate)

*Board member

Meeting convened at 10:16 AM. Chairman **Mark** Southerland welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves for the benefit of the alternates and guest.

The minutes from the February, 2014 meeting were approved without modification.

Committee Reports

2014 Annual Conference Planning

Dan Boward gave a recap of the Annual Conference Planning Committee meeting that was held on April 14, 2014. The venue was not yet known. The conference format will remain mostly the same as in previous years. There were several candidate plenary speakers including **Kent** Mountford, **Harry** Hughes, **Howard** Ernst, and **Wayne** Gilcrest. **Mark** Southerland updated the Board on his attempt to recruit **Ed** Norton as a speaker. No luck so far. **Ken** Staver will help recruit **Harry** Hughes if the Committee decides to invite him. **Jeff** Reagan recommended **William** Sipple as a speaker. Ken suggested we include a session of talks on the "reality of stream restoration" and **Tim** Goodfellow suggested we invite county executives. **Action Item** - **Dan** asked everyone to suggest new potential vendors for the Conference.

Monitoring and Assessment Committee – Ron Klauda reporting

The Committee met on March 13, 2014. About 10 people – including a new member, **Dave** Ivy – attended. The Committee discussed a possible workshop on the ICC to occur sometime in 2015.

Community Outreach and Citizen Involvement Committee – Cathy Wiss and Caroline Wicks reporting

Action Item - there was a recommendation to add a "how to get involved" button to the MWMC website. **Dan** Boward will ask **Katherine** Hanna to do this. The Committee has not met for a long time. **Cathy** and **Caroline** will talk to **Michele** Dobson and **Sue** Veith. **Action Item** – **Cathy** and **Caroline** will add **Jeff** Reagan will be added to the list of Committee members.

Information Management – Tom Parham reporting

Tom explained the status of the Clickable Map. Server issues continue to prevent the posting of the map. **Action Item** - **Tom** will review Annual Conference Power Point files to make them searchable by keyword. **Sandy** Hertz will assist with this task.

Indicators Committee – Charlie Poukish and Matt Stover reporting

Matt plans to add water quality criteria to MDE's online maps. **Action Item** – **Matt** will send links to MDE's water quality maps to Board members.

Groundwater Committee – Mat Pajerowski reporting

Mat has recruited members for the Committee, including **Dave** Bolton (MGS), **John** Grace (MDE), and **Kevin** Kepernick (Balto. Co. DEPS). He wishes to have 6-7 committee members. **Tim** Goodfellow volunteered to serve on the Committee. **Mat** wants to include a local government staffer from a coastal plain county and someone in academia (perhaps **Keith** Eshleman, **Joel** Moore, **Steve** Lev, or **Ryan** Casey). **Caroline** Wicks suggested someone from **Tom** Fisher's group **Mike** Pieper said that a hydrologist from KCI may be interested. Topics the Committee may address include drought, integrated hydrological monitoring, sea level rise, shallow groundwater processes, deicers, data sharing, and continuous monitoring. The Committee will meet for the first time in May.

2014 Workshops

Climate Change - Ron Klauda reporting

The Monitoring and Assessment Committee is planning a second MWMC-sponsored workshop (more accurately, an 'information exchange') that will focus on current or planned monitoring efforts in Maryland in non-tidal streams that can lead to adaptation, protection, and mitigation of these waters in a changing climate. The workshop will pick up where the first workshop (held in Nov. 2009) left off. The 2014 workshop will include what's been learned since then, and also provide recommendations on what new information is needed. **Cherie** Miller (USGS) and **Ron** are co-chairing the workshop steering committee, along with the help of **Doug** Redmond, **Clark** Howells, **Jim** Cummins, **Andy** Becker, and **Paul** Kazyak. Tentative time frame and location for the one-day gathering are late Sept./early Oct. at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Several Committee members suggested several other desirable outcomes from the workshop, given their areas of interest---including educational products that could emerge, developing recommendations for legislators and regulatory agencies, compiling relevant information that Committee members from the private sector could communicate to their clients. **Ron** spoke with two EPA employees who are part of their Regional Monitoring Network (RMN) just getting underway in Region 3: **Britta** Bierwagen and **Jonathan** Witt. They are both interested in talking about the RMN at the Climate Change workshop.

Headwater Streams - Mark Southerland reporting

Action Item - Mark will check with **Doug** Redmond on updates on potential speakers. The workshop will probably include new information related to the recent EPA Waters of the State ruling. **Mark** asked everyone to keep the workshop on their "radar".

Stream Monitoring Roundtable - Dan Boward reporting

Forty-seven people attended the 7th Annual Maryland Streams Roundtable that was held at the USGS Water Science Center on February 27, 2014. Twenty groups gave 10-minute presentations on their sampling programs and 14 groups submitted 2014 sampling site point data for display on a web-enabled map. This map was used to locate areas of overlap and identify potential opportunities for collaboration. Power Point files and the map will be posted online.

Lunchtime Presentation

DNR's **Christine** Conn gave a talk titled, "Better Integration of Water Data into Local Planning". Her talk was essentially a summary of talks presented in her 2013 Annual Conference session on the same topic. She provided some examples of how MWMC can get involved. Much discussion followed **Christine's** talk. **Tim** Goodfellow said that MWMC can assist the counties in locating water quality data. **Christine** suggested that the upcoming MWMC Annual Conference include a talk on impervious surface and its effect on fish. **Ron** mentioned the Clean Water Action Plan and the Surf your Watershed website. He asked if this information can be updated since it is 15 years old. **Mike** Pieper said there could be a synthesis of old MS4 permits (discharge characterization reports) for the 2104 Annual Conference. As a potential Action Item for the Information Management Committee, **Christine** said MWMC could develop a clearinghouse of research projects that would be helpful to those wishing to integrate water quality data into planning.

Summer "away" Board meeting

Ideas proposed for the July 15 meeting – Coastal Bays, New Germany State Park, Salisbury, St. Mary's County, Solomon's Island. **Mark** suggested that the "away" meeting could serve as a retreat and include retired MWMC leadership. **Mat** Pajerowski suggested that we have the "away" meeting in October instead of July. Dan said he would ask the New Germany SP management about hosting the retreat for the October Board meeting (Oct. 21).

News Items

Tim Goodfellow – Tim will soon be swimming 3 miles across the Nanticoke River. He sees opportunities for improvement coming with the change in Frederick County leadership.

Ken Staver – There is a Midwest Natural Cover Crop meeting coming soon. Maryland has a very high proportion of cover crops relative to conventional crops.

Mike Luh – Many trees came down in Balto. City watersheds over the winter due to storms, etc. Mike's group is working with citizens to replace these trees. The City's monitoring program review has been completed and approval is expected by the end of 2014.

Caroline Wicks – EcoCheck is producing a report card for Baltimore Harbor, Gwynns Falls, and Jones Falls. The report card includes information from turbidity thresholds.

Janet Markowitz – No news reported.

Mike Pieper – KCI is working with Balto. Co. DEPS on a project to evaluate the efficiencies of former dry stormwater ponds that are now wetland. KCI is working with Charles County on a watershed assessment as part of the County's WIP and NPDES requirements. Other projects include MBSS style sampling in the Little Gunpowder watershed to support Tier II designations and a project in Spring Grove, PA.

Mat Pajeroski – **Mat's** projects include 1) groundwater monitoring in the Chester River Watershed, 2) new, real-time water monitoring in Montgomery County, 3) a study of the impacts of Hurricane Sandy in Dorchester County focused on salt marsh loss, 4) Assateague Island groundwater studies looking at sea level rise, saltwater intrusion, changes in the freshwater lens, and listed species habitats.

Matt Stover – A new 303(d) list is due for completion in June, 2014. The Piney Run cold water release model predicts that the improvement should support a coldwater fishery. Chloride criteria will be reviewed by late summer.

Robin VanMeter – **Robin** is working on a project to examine pesticide loads in streamflow and vernal pools and amphibian body burdens.

Mark Southerland – Work on the MD Science Center Polluted Runoff Exhibit continues. A four-page brochure is available to everyone.

Ron Klauda – The MD Synoptic Stream Chemistry Survey 25 Year Report is almost complete. Two regions appear to be showing improvement in acid/base chemistry since 1987.

Jeff Reagan – Thanked the Board for letting him attend as a guest.

Cathy Wiss – Audubon's Ten Mile Creek testimony was successful. Montgomery County Council members enjoyed learning the science. There is a 6.7% impervious cap for the watershed. Poolesville High School has a "monitoring club".

Charlie Poukish – Attended a meeting where blue catfish consumption was encouraged.

Tom Parham – Tom met with the Patuxent River Commission regarding watershed planning. Back River midge blooms continue and a panel has been formed to address the issue.

Peter Tango – The Insights Report is not complete. Action Item – Caroline will send Dan a link to the report for posting on the MWMC website. Most monitoring funding that was reduced 2 years ago has been restored with help from the Bay states. The new Bay Agreement received over 2000 comments. CBP is now working on incorporating them. CBP working with MDE on a TMDL reassessment.

Meeting adjourned at 2:11 PM

Submitted by **Dan** Boward
July 15, 2014