



Maryland Water Monitoring Council
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
Tawes Building, C-2
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www.marylandwatermonitoring.org

Clark Howells, Baltimore City DPW.
Chair

Sandy Hertz, Maryland State Highway Admin.
Vice-chair

Dan Boward, Maryland DNR
Executive Secretary

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Kevin Brittingham, Baltimore County DEPS
Jim Caldwell, Howard County OES
*Mindy Ehrich, Chesapeake Bay Program
Tim Goodfellow, Fred. Co. Dept. of Planning
Ellen Lathrop-Davis, Comm. Coll. Balto. Co.
Richard Mitchell, US EPA
Joel Moore, Towson University
Diana Muller, MAEOE
Mat Pajerowski, USGS
Mike Pieper, KCI Technologies

Charles Poukish, Maryland Dept. of the Environment
Jeff Reagan, Stormwater Consulting, Inc.
Nancy Roth, Versar, Inc.
Ken Staver, Univ. of MD WREC
Matt Stover, Maryland Dept. of the Environment
Chris Swan, Univ. of MD Balto. Co.
*Mark Trice, Maryland DNR
Chris Victoria, Anne Arundel DPW
Caroline Wicks, UMCES

*Nominee

Minutes of the MWMC Board of Director's Meeting Tawes State Office Building January 13, 2016

In attendance: *In attendance: Dan Boward, *Kevin Brittingham, *Caroline Donovan, *Clark Howells, *Ellen Lathrop-Davis, *Richard Mitchell, *Joel Moore, *Diana Muller, *Mat Pajerowski, *Tom Parham, *Mike Pieper, *Charlie Poukish, *Jeff Reagan, *Nancy Roth, *Matt Stover, *Peter Tango, **Mark Trice, *Chris Victoria*

Not attending: **Jim Caldwell (no alternate), *Tim Goodfellow (no alternate), *Sandy Hertz (no alternate), *Ken Staver (no alternate), *Chris Swan (no alternate)*

*Board member

** Nominated Board member (not yet approved)

The meeting convened at 10:05 AM. Chairman **Howells** welcomed everyone and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves. During introductions, Board nominee Mark Trice mentioned that he has been instructed to submit forms issued by the State Ethics Commission related to service on a Board or Commission. **Action Item - Dan** Boward said that he would follow up on this to determine if all MWMC Board members must submit these forms or only State employees. **Matt** Stover mentioned that **Mindy** Ehrich (UMCES/Bay Program) has accepted her nomination to serve on the Board. **Dan** will prepare the needed paperwork for Secretary Belton's approval. The Board also said goodbye to **Tom** Parham and **Peter** Tango.

Minutes from the October, 2015 Board meeting were approved as submitted.

2015 Annual Conference

Dan Boward and members of the Annual Conference Planning Committee summarized the 2015 Annual Conference. About 485 folks attended the event that included 58 talks, 31 posters (including seven student posters), 12 exhibitor tables, 13 vendors and sponsors and, of course, the famous Maritime Institute all-you-can-eat buffet lunch. Former Maryland DNR Deputy Secretary **Frank** Dawson received the ninth annual Carl Weber Award. The day concluded with the post-meeting social at Heavy Seas Brewery.

Mike Pieper presented results from the Annual Conference Survey Monkey Survey. Suggestions from the Survey (and Board members) include: 1. because the Maritime Institute cafeteria was quite full during lunch, some suggested staggering the lunch break in 2016, 2. The 2016 conference should not conflict with other regional meetings, 3. The talks should all be 20 minutes instead of a mix of 30 and 20 minutes, 4. hold a raffle (e.g., a kayak) at the end of the conference, 5. put information on parking at Heavy Seas in the social flier, 6. schedule the more popular talks toward the end of the day to encourage attendees to stay. **Action Items - Dan** and **Mike** will edit the survey to include questions about "age" and "was this year's conference better than previous years?"

Committee Reports

Monitoring and Assessment (Chris Victoria reporting)

The Committee will meet some time in February, 2016. **Nancy** Roth mentioned that there's a Stream Restoration Monitoring Subcommittee workshop scheduled for June 8 and it is primarily intended for regulators at MDE and practitioners. The subcommittee has been reviewing papers on the topic of stream restoration monitoring. CBT funds might be available to support the workshop and there may be a small fee for registration. **Action Item - Richard** Mitchell will talk to EPA staff about support for this workshop and provide information to **Nancy** Roth and **Scott** Stranko.

Citizen Science (Caroline Donovan reporting)

The Committee met in October, 2015 and had a conference call the week of January 4, 2016. **Action Item - Caroline** asks members of the Board to "like" and post on the MWMC Facebook page. The Committee is looking into setting up a MWMC LinkedIn account

(group). There is a volunteer on the Committee, **Marla** Duley, who will lead this effort. **Action Item – Caroline** will tell **Marla** to proceed with the LinkedIn account. The Committee is planning a workshop sometime in June, 2016. The theme will be MDE acceptance of citizen data./citizen science for dummies. **Sherm** Garrison (DNR) has offered to help with this workshop. A venue in Anne Arundel County may be available at no cost. **Richard** Mitchell said EPA may be able to assist. Peter Tango reminded everyone of the Bay Program's tiered framework for monitoring and the new citizen monitoring effort managed by the Alliance. There was lots of discussion and ideas offered. **Matt** Stover mentioned the Ambient Water Quality Monitoring System (AWQMS) and the possibility of adding Maryland citizen data to this system. **Action Item** - The Committee has updated the watershed group spreadsheet and will send it to **Dan** and **Sandy** Hertz for review. Contacts on the list will be used for a Survey Monkey survey.

Information Management (Tom Parham reporting)

Tom demonstrated the DRAFT online water monitoring map developed by DNR's **Kevin** Coyne. This map portrays sampling locations and contact information for the collecting agency/organization. Future versions will include links to watershed associations. **Mark** Trice said it will be possible to cluster sites viewable as scale-dependent. **Action Item – Tom** will send a link to the map to the Board so members have an opportunity to review and submit comments. **Action Item – Dan** will add to the citizen monitoring Survey Monkey survey a question about "what watershed" is included in each organizations work. Mike Pieper suggested that a watershed layer be added to this map.

Groundwater (Mat Pajerowski reporting)

See the road salt workshop below. **Mat** said the Committee plans to meet in late February or March of 2016.

Student Committee (Caroline Donovan reporting)

The Committee has had no recent activity. **Caroline** asks for a volunteer on the Board to serve as Co-Chair. She said the Board should also consider adding a slot for a student representative on the Board.

Lunchtime Presentation – Caroline Donovan

Caroline summarized the survey conducted by UMCES (with CBT support) through Opinion Works. The survey was conducted in 2013 and 2015 and it gauged respondents attitudes toward various water quality BMPs and other actions that could impact water quality such as pet waste removal. It also modeled changes in water quality in the Bay following landowner actions.

2016 Workshops

Road Salt – Mat Pajerowski reporting

A draft agenda was prepared in late 2015 and **Mat** received some commitments from speakers. The initial workshop date was January 26, 2016 but it has been rescheduled for April 13 or April 19 at the Patuxent Wildlife Center in Laurel. **Mat** has made some revisions to the agenda. It includes speakers from SHA and Frederick Co. and it will address such topics as salt impacts on streams, groundwater, reservoirs, and wildlife. **Mat** is attempting to recruit a speaker from Mass. and he is seeking a keynote speaker. Attendance is expected to be about 100 and the only cost will be for catering (perhaps \$25/person).

Stream Monitoring Roundtable – Dan Boward reporting

The MWMC-sponsored Stream Monitoring Roundtable will be held Feb. 19 at the USGS Water Science Center in Catonsville. **Andy** Becker (KCI) is handling most of the logistics. There are 22 people registered. Nine folks have said they will present about their monitoring program. An online map of multi-agency/organization sampling points will be available during and after the event.

News Items from Board Members

Ellen Lathrop-Davis – None

Charlie Poukish – There was a very large fish kill in Middle River and much public outcry via Facebook. The flurry of activity went on for about a month. The kill was caused by a toxic alga. This bloom was unusual for early November.

Matt Stover – None

Jeff Reagan – The Maryland Stream Restoration Assn. will hold it's social on Jan. 13, 2016.

Caroline Donovan – None

Mark Trice – Mark is looking forward to working with the Board.

Diana Muller – Diana and her husband Andrew have two papers on their models in press. **Action Item – Diana** will send links to her papers to the Board once they are ready.

Chris Victoria – None

Dan Boward – Jeff Simmons of Mt. St. Mary's College is planning a conference titled "The Future of Maryland Streams" on April 2. MBSS spring training will be held at Oregon Ridge Park on February 26, 2016. MBSS summer training will be held at Howard Community College May 23-26, 2016. Stream Waders training will be held at the Smith Center near Rockville on February 20, 2016.

The Marcellus Monitoring Coalition training will be held at New Germany State Park on March 26, 2016. A new Explore and Restore Maryland Streams workshop will be held at the Howard County Conservancy nature center on April 16.

Joel Moore – None

Clark Howells – Baltimore City has a new system control/data acquisition protocol for monitoring reservoir intakes.

Kevin Brittingham – The Balto. Co. Council shot down the County's stormwater fee. Funds will be phased out over 3 years with no funds remaining in 2018.

Tom Parham – Tom's groups is reviewing tidal and non-tidal monitoring programs.

Peter Tango – CBP is discussing its continuous monitoring strategy. James River chlorophyll criteria are under review by VA DEQ and EPA.

Mike Pieper – KCI continues to assist local government agencies with their TMDL and restoration plans (Howard, Anne Arundel and Charles Counties). Assistance is also provided for watershed assessments and MS4 permits to agencies in the Patapsco and Wicomico River watersheds and Mattawoman Creek, Zekiah Swamp and Deer Creek watersheds.

Mat Pajeroski – USGS is working to deploy a water monitoring station and interpretive signs at the Pier 6 water/trash wheel in the Jones Falls. This continuous monitoring station would likely measure pH, water temperature, turbidity, DO and salinity. USGS is working with Maryland SHA on a project to evaluate sediment impacts from highway construction.

Submitted by **Dan** Boward
April 5, 2016