

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY
(MACA)

June 12, 2013

Committee Members in Attendance

Joy Beasley
Marian Creveling
Joe Dent
Tom Forhan

Staff in Attendance

Beth Cole
Dennis Curry
Jan Gowing
Charlie Hall
Dixie Henry
Maureen Kavanagh
Troy Nowak

The Meeting was called to order at 9:45 a. m. by Maureen Kavanagh

Review of the minutes of March 13, 2013

The minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Tom Forhan and seconded by Marian Creveling; the motion was carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Underwater Activities report – T. Nowak

The first summer project for Underwater was with MNCPP, working in collaboration with their ongoing work at Nottingham to investigate three sites that are in our site records. They are also helping a student from the University of South Hampton who is conducting Ph.D. Research in St. Mary's City, on a site that was discovered in 1994 that could be a ballast pile, dated to the 17th

century. The third project is to follow up with the family who thought they found a portion of the wreck, Levin J. Marvel, but it was probably an old pier or part of an old barge. Susan wants to take them to the actual site and give them a talk on site about the project. They received over the target money to replace the remote sensing equipment and are filing the paperwork to push that forward. In a week, they are hosting the Upper Chesapeake Bay Estuary Committee meeting here in Crownsville. This is a committee of various State and Federal organizations that coordinate different types of emergency response. The Trust's role is to coordinate protection of cultural resources for the State of Maryland.

Terrestrial Activities report – Charlie Hall

The 2013 Field Session at the Biggs Ford site under the direction of Dr. Joe Dent began on May 23 and ended on June 3, 2013. Counting the 11 staff (five from MHT), and Dr. Bob Wall's Towson University students, there were 156 participants who contributed 470 days to the project. Twenty-five units were opened and nine features were excavated. Some of the more impressive finds included the detection of a palisade line precisely where it was predicted based on Tyler Bastian's 1969-1970 work, and a mostly intact Kaiser pot, missing only its rim where a plow had no doubt impacted it. In units excavated by Wall's students an intact elk antler rack was encountered, with its tines cut off, perhaps for use as tools or projectile points. Among the surprises was the recovery of several trade beads, hinting at a brief contact occupation of the site.

To wrap up the work with the Working Group, Charlie will be sending a revised inventory to National NAGPRA, and contacting a number of tribes regarding both the inventory as well as our plans to transfer the Accokeek Creek remains to the Piscataways.

Work on the CASE Project (County Archaeological Exhibits) is continuing, with the goal of getting the archaeological collections out into communities from which they were excavated. A proposal will go to the IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Sciences) this year for a grant to fund the next phase of this project.

MAC Lab Activities report – P. Samford

We were awarded \$117,965 for a Defense Legacy grant to add Department of Defense digital archaeological records curated at the MAC Lab to The Digital Archaeological Record, a digital repository and web-based access tool founded in Arizona by Digital Antiquity.

Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland Webpage – Victorian majolica section has been posted, and substantial additions and revisions to the Tin Glazed Earthenware page will go live later this month. Bone handled toothbrushes as future entry as well as additions to colonial ceramic sections that were prepared in the early 2000s.

BCUA Collections – moving today across street to former bus station. Money given by insurance co to re-house – Liz Comer's company. Insurance co raising objections to paying conservation – collection not offered to us yet by city, although we have every indication to think that they will. Need to come before collections committee to make recommendation to Rodney.

Conservation Projects - 42 Valley Forge cannon, 5 pistols from a cache at Deadwood South Dakota, plus possibility for a number of Chinese coins and an opium pipe.

Gloria S. King Research Fellowship - Christopher Shephard completed his fellowship, funded by the 2013 Gloria S. King Research Fellowship in Archaeology. Mr. Shephard is a PhD student in the Department of Anthropology at the College of William and Mary. He is researching the exchange of copper and shell objects among Algonquian societies of the late Woodland through early Colonial periods and the rise and transformation of chiefly authority across the southern Middle Atlantic. During his fellowship, Mr. Shephard studied several archaeological collections curated at the lab to look at questions related to the nature of competitive gift-giving and feasting in the negotiation of power and authority among the indigenous societies of the Tidewater. A second research fellow, Alasdair Brooks, will arrive at the lab on June 17th for a two week stay researching several southern Maryland sites for a book on the effects of the Staffordshire ceramic industry.

Transportation Enhancement Grant - Tricia and Ed are still waiting to hear on the status of a grant application to the Maryland State Highways Transportation Enhancement Program to create a database and website on Phase II and III collections in the Lab.

Public Archaeology/ RITES Trail project – Public archaeology began in Mid-May and will run through early July. This summer's field season is to continue ground-truthing the remote sensing result from February 2012.

Review and Compliance Activities report – B. Cole/D. Henry

Compliance staff met with the Charles County Planning Office regarding County efforts to include archeology and historic preservation in its review process and to discuss ways in which to facilitate coordination with MHT on projects having local, state and federal involvement. The County has developed a policy that requires developers to conduct "Phase IA" background research for every project, but at this time, they do not have staff to review these background studies. They visited the data recovery being done at the Warwick site, a small, late Archaic woodland site. There weren't a whole lot of features but there were some activity areas. A report is expected in the fall. They just had their annual coordination meeting with the Navy at PAX Naval Air Station with Mike Smolek. The Navy has been doing updates on its Maryland installations on their survey coverage, doing map overlays, but there are some gaps. At present, they are focusing on PAX, Indian Head and the Academy. They are also targeting areas to update survey as well as doing Phase II. There will be an intern for six weeks this summer in the Compliance Program, through the University of Maryland and SRI Foundation's, Summer Resource Management Institute. Beth just participated on an inter-agency panel at the National Transit Institute seminar on managing the environmental review process.

Dixie reports that they've been working on the expansion of the New Windsor Quarry in Carroll Co. It will expand the 50 acres gravel mine to a 600 acre gravel mine. There are three components to the project; the mining area, and underground conveyor line and several wetland mitigation sites. There were a number of sites, both historic and pre-historic. Several people in

Compliance participated in a National Park Service webinar on Traditional Cultural Properties and how the Park Service is updating their guidelines regarding the identification and evaluation of traditional cultural properties. They are considering the possibility of trying to establish Traditional Cultural Properties as a National Register property type, or to create a fifth NR eligibility criteria that would apply to Traditional Cultural properties. It will definitely influence how we assess cultural resources in projects.

Synthesis Project – D. Curry

Annapolis is almost done, which only leaves Baltimore City to do. To date, we've done 475 CRM projects, which encompassed 1068 reports, involving 923 sites. As of July 1, 2013, Matt McKnight will become a permanent employee. Dennis will be turning in his last set of book reviews for the *Journal of Middle Atlantic Archaeology*, which he's edited for the last 25 years. He has also been editor of *Maryland Archaeology* since 1989 and has requested that a search for a new editor begin. Dennis will help the new editor in transition. The book, *Foundations of Middle Atlantic Prehistory*, for which Dennis wrote the first chapter, *A Chronicle of Prehistoric Archaeology in the Middle Atlantic Region*, is being shopped to publishers. Dennis just received the faunal analysis on Heater's Island which is pretty exciting. There were some decorative carved bone pieces.

Staff Changes – M. Kavanagh

Maureen announced that this would be her last meeting before retiring at the end of June. She also filled in the blanks on what Matt's new position would encompass. He will spend 30% of his time updating the database in GIS and the remainder will be spread between maintaining the Synthesis, field work and outreach. Eventually, the synthesis will be online. Matt attended the Field Session and showed himself to be a good asset to that also. MHT/ORSR is still working on translating Maureen's position, which is 50% archaeologist and 50% GIS. Maureen will make her recommendations to Rodney and Elizabeth. Maureen sees some improvement in the budget, but would like to see the non-capital grants be reinstated.

Selection of Next Meeting Date

It was agreed that the next meeting date will be September 11, 2013, at 9:30 a.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m., in a motion made by Joe Dent and seconded by Tom Forhan. The motion was carried unanimously.