

Minutes of the
Fifty-Sixth Meeting of the
Maryland Heritage Areas Authority
Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center
1101 Smithville Street
Annapolis MD 21401
July 12, 2012

The fifty-sixth meeting of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority was held at the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center, 1101 Smithville Street, Annapolis, Maryland on July 12, 2012 beginning at approximately 9:40 a.m.

Authority Members/Designees Present: Matthew J. Power, Deputy Secretary, MD Department of Planning (representing Richard E. Hall, Secretary of the MD Department of Planning and Chairperson of the Maryland Heritage Area Authority); Hannah Byron (representing MD Department of Business & Economic Development Secretary Christian Johansson); John Wilson (representing MD Department of Natural Resources Secretary John R. Griffin); Melinda Vann (representing MD Higher Education Commission Interim Secretary Danette Gerald Howard); Wayne E. Clark (recommended by President of the Senate); J. Rodney Little (State Historic Preservation Officer); Marty Baker (representing MD Department of Transportation Secretary Beverley K. Swaim-Staley); Donna Ware (recommended by the Speaker of the House); Donna Dudley (Public member for Heritage Tourism); Ann Fligsten (Speaker of the House representative); Robert D. Campbell (Governor's Appointee for Historic Preservation Expertise); Vanessa Orlando (representing MD Department of Agriculture Secretary Earl Hance)

Authority Members/Designees Absent: Amy Owsley (Representative for MD Greenway); Burton Kummerow (recommended by President of the Senate); John Fieseler (MD Tourism Development Board representative); Andrea C. Harrison (MD Association of Counties representative); Marcie Taylor-Thoma (MD State Department of Education); Amy Seitz (representing MD Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Raymond A. Skinner); Vacant (MD Municipal League Representative)

Staff Present: Bernadette P. Pruitt, Phil Deters, Richard Hughes, Jennifer Ruffner, Shannon Marino, Al Feldstein

Others Present: Roz Racanello (Chair, Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas and Director of Southern MD Heritage Area); Carol Benson (Annapolis, London Town, and South County "Four Rivers" Heritage Area); Jay Parker (Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area); Peggy Erickson (Montgomery County Heritage Area); Mary Ann Lisanti (Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway); Deborah Divins-Davis (Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area); Amanda Fenstermaker (Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area); Liz Shatto and Charissa Stanton (Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area); Jeff Buchheit (Baltimore National Heritage Area); Dee Dee Ritchie (Canal Place Heritage Area); Aaron Marcavitch (Anacostia Trails Heritage Area); Dawn Hein and Nicole Christian (Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area);

Marci Ross (MD Department of Tourism /TAC Member); Elizabeth de Mozenette (Department of General Services / TAC Member)

Call to Order/Introductions

Mr. Power chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at approximately 9:40 a.m. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves. The new director of the Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West (Garrett County) Heritage Area, Dawn Hein, was introduced.

Mr. Power apologized for missing the last meeting. He thanked Jeffery Buchheit and the Baltimore National Heritage Area for hosting the April meeting. He also apologized to the heritage area directors for just getting the grant award charts to them that morning. He then announced that he would be in attendance for the first portion of the meeting and would have to leave to attend a funeral in Arlington Virginia.

Introductions and Recognition of New Members & Directors

Approval of Minutes for April 12, 2011

Mr. Wilson offered the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the Authority approves the April 12, 2012 meeting minutes as presented.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Fligsten and approved unanimously.

Appointment of MHAA Vice Chairman as required by Article V, Section 2 of Bylaws

Mr. Hughes reported that MHAA Bylaws require that at the Authority's first meeting during each fiscal year, Authority members must elect one of the Members to serve as Vice Chairman. Mr. Power asked if any member wished to put forth a nomination.

Mr. Clark offered the motion for Ms. Hannah Bryon to serve as Vice Chairman of the MD Heritage Areas Authority during FY 2013. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dudley and approved unanimously.

FY 2013 Legislative Session Summary – Matthew Power

Mr. Power provided a report on the legislative session, which was overall good news for the department and for heritage areas. The Sustainable Communities Tax Credit program survived, and MDP did not take deep cuts. He also reported that for one of the first time, there was more money in the budget at the end of the session than there was at the start, and he thanked everyone for their hard work during the session, and said those continued efforts would hopefully allow the program to maintain level funding for 2014.

Mr. Power mentioned that he, Mr. Wilson Mr. Campbell and Ms. Divins-Davis attended Sultana Project's opening of the Chester and Sassafras Water Trails, a project funded by MHAA. He pointed out the importance for Heritage Area directors and MHAA members to attend the launching of successful programs and projects that receive MHAA funding. Attending events, even if for a little while, presents an opportunity to promote the MHAA, and to establish and maintain partnerships. He encouraged the heritage area directors and grantees to continue to invite Authority members to these types of events.

Certified Heritage Area 5-Year Plans – Update on Status of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Review

Mr. Power thanked the heritage area directors for their serious efforts with regards to getting their strategic plans submitted. Initially the plans were to be approved at the meeting, however, an extension was granted until October 2012 to allow the Technical Advisory Committee and heritage area directors more time for more deliberation and feedback. Beginning in October, he would like four heritage area directors to present their strategic plans at the next four MHAA meetings. The presentations will allow directors substantive time and a larger forum to highlight what's going on in their heritage areas and to share that information with MHAA board and their constituents. He also reminded the group that the plans will be tied more and more to performance and grant awards, so it's important to ensure there is a thorough review before the plans are approved.

Mr. Power asked if there were any other updates from members before the reviewing of the grants.

Mr. Clark wanted it noted that MHT staff members Miriam Hensley, personnel director, and Ruth Scheler, assistant grants manager, both retired. He indicated that those positions are key to the program and inquired as the status of when those positions might be filled. He did not want the movement of grants to suffer in the process of acquiring new hires. Mr. Power indicated that a couple of internal shifts and assignments have been made and MDP staff is also being used to keep up with the tasks until positions can be approved to be filled. He mentioned that efforts are being put forward to fill the assistant grants manager position. He said that the department is still managing the loss of two key MDP/MHT staff members, staff turnovers, retirements and budget issues, however, the processing of grants will be a priority.

FY 2013 Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Grant Requests

Mr. Power recapped last year's meeting with regards to the process and the three month grace period that was allowed to grantees to document their grants matches. Richard and Jen worked heritage directors and with others to have the backup match in advance and that will be taken into consideration. Last year local management entities were asked to use the same criteria and ranking sheet as the TAC and MHAA and this has been a useful exercise to know what is being expected from the MHAA and on the state level. He knows that we all will never agree totally on which projects will be funded but it is important for everyone to be clear and know what is

expected when rating and ranking projects. Mr. Power asked if any of the heritage areas had comments on this new process, and none were made.

Mr. Power verbally reviewed the 2013 MHAA Grant Applications Summary Chart and then asked Mr. Hughes to review the projects and to allow questions as he goes through the review. Mr. Hughes first thanked everyone for the hundreds of hours of their hard work and commitment in reviewing and ranking the projects. Before starting the review of grants, he was asked to summarize the process for prioritizing the ranking of projects.

Grants are submitted to local heritage area for review by their committee, and this year they used the same review sheet used by the TAC. The local committee could also add their own criteria based on local priorities. There is also the provision for non-numerical criteria, and the heritage areas are asked to provide feedback on what other criteria they consider. The local review process is used to create a priority ranking at the local level, which is provided to the TAC, and is one of the criteria included in the state ranking. The TAC then reviews the applications and completes a review sheet with the same criteria, and ranks the proposals based on that score. The color-coded chart is the recommended ranking and award amounts. The final determination of award is made by MHAA.

All of the project grants are ranked. Projects highlighted in green were recommended for full funded, projects in yellow were recommended for partial funding, projects highlighted in red were recommended to not be funded, and projects in black were either withdrawn or ineligible. Management grants and marketing grants are not ranked with the project grants, as they have a different scoring criteria. Mr. Hughes reviewed the grants by heritage area, and addressed questions as they were raised.

Anacostia Heritage Area

No questions or comments.

Annapolis Four Rivers Heritage Area

The recommended award to ACT, Inc. for the Wilson Farmstead Archeology project was discussed. The County has not yet acquired the property, so the award is contingent on that acquisition. Ms. Ware indicated that it was anticipated that acquisition would be complete very soon. Mr. Campbell asked about the contingency. Mr. Clark asked that acquisition of property not be a contingency of archeology projects, as it was more important to conduct the research than acquire the property. Mr. Campbell said that he would prefer not to have a standing policy, but rather look at each project as it arises. Mr. Clark agreed that was a good approach. Mr. Hughes explained the easement requirements of MHAA grants, one of the reasons the contingency was necessary. Mr. Deters pointed out that private owner of the property had not committed to archeology or an easement, so the contingency was needed.

Mr. Campbell asked where the exhibits for the Historic Annapolis Foundation's "Freedom Bound" exhibit project would be. Mr. Hughes indicated that there were going to be five locations around Annapolis, including the warehouse building which was also being recommended for a grant award.

Baltimore National Heritage Area

No questions or comments.

Canal Place Heritage Area

No questions or comments.

Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West (Garrett County) Heritage Area

Mr. Clark commented that it was good to see educational projects being funded.

Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area

Mr. Campbell asked what the focus of the exhibits at Blackwater Wildlife Refuge would be. Mr. Hughes said they would focus on the wildlife and natural resources.

Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area

Mr. Clark commended Ms. Shatto for the number of strong applications from this heritage area.

Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area

No questions or comments.

Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway

Ms. Lisanti raised a concern about the reduced funding of the LSHG management, which was reduced to remove funding for an intern. The TAC felt it was unclear what the role of the intern was and if an intern was qualified to undertake the proposed work. Ms. Lisanti indicated that there was a misunderstanding about the work of authenticating archeological resources that was proposed, that the intern would be bringing things together to determine what is real and what is not. She asked for an opportunity to provide additional information for the Authority to reconsider. Mr. Clark stated that any previous plans created would not be current, and that even if an intern is not qualified to do the work, the heritage area should not be penalized for that. He asked for the TAC and Authority to reconsider the reduction. Mr. Power stated that he would ask the TAC to consider additional information from Ms. Lisanti. Ms. Byron stated it was important to look at the qualifications of the staff who would be doing the work. Mr. Campbell noted that if there is a concern that an intern within the management structure isn't the right fit, this could be spun off as a separate project for a future grant.

Montgomery County Heritage Area

Mr. Clark asked if the Town of Poolesville Streetscape project would be coordinated with the Main Street program. Mr. Power noted that there is a strong link with the Main Street project, and Ms. Seitz serves on both the Authority and the TAC. It is a partnership that is being strengthened.

Mr. Clark raised the question of how projects like website design are reviewed, and what criteria is considered. Ms. Ruffner stated that when looking at technology projects like a website or a smartphone application, the committee looks to see if the applicant has taken into account ongoing costs, including upkeep and maintenance, ongoing hosting fees, proprietary software, and ownership of information.

Southern Maryland Heritage Area

No questions or comments.

Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area

No questions or comments.

Multi-Heritage Area Project

No questions or comments.

The recommendation of the TAC is to award 63 grants out of 104, totaling \$2,713,480. There more applications this year overall, requesting slightly less in terms of the dollar amount.

Mr. Power said it was great to see the number of applications was up, that there were many first-time grantees in many of the heritage areas. He thanked the TAC for all the hours they put in to get into a straightforward summary sheet, and he thanked the management entities for using the new ranking criteria.

Mr. Feldstein asked when notification letters would be sent to applicants. Mr. Hughes indicated those would go out in the next ten days.

Mr. Clark offered the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Heritage Area Authority approves a series of grants for the management of Certified Heritage Areas, and for projects and activities located within the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Annapolis, London Town and South County Heritage Area, Baltimore Heritage Area, Canal Place Heritage Area, Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area, Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area, Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area, Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Heritage Area, Montgomery County Heritage Area, Southern Maryland Heritage Area, and Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, under the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Grant Program as detailed and in accordance with the amounts and terms set forth in the chart titled “Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Grant Requests: FY 2013.”

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this approval is contingent upon sufficient funding being made available in the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this approval is contingent upon grant recipients (Grantees) providing written documentation to Authority staff of the availability of cash matching funds and in-kind contributions dedicated to the project, as required by the Authority’s statute and regulations and detailed in the grant agreement, prior to the disbursement of grant funds. Documentation may consist of financial statements, commitment letters, or other proof acceptable to

Authority staff. Disbursements of grant funds may not exceed the total amount of the grant award, or the amount of documented available cash matching funds and in-kind contributions as required by law and regulations and detailed in the grant agreement, whichever is less.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the staff to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority is authorized to prepare any documents necessary or useful in order to carry out the Grants in conformance with the terms set forth in the chart titled “Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Grant Requests: Fiscal Year 2012.” Staff is further authorized to make adjustments to the scope of work, timetable, and budget, including the specific allocation of Authority grant funds and the amount of matching funds that must be provided by the Grantee, subject to requirements of law and regulations, and provided that these adjustments do not appreciably alter the programs, work, activities or products of the grant project as approved by the Authority.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Byron and approved unanimously.

Ms. Byron stated that she was very impressed with the quality of the projects. She also wanted to know if staff and TAC could look into what types of national awards that the MHAA might be able to apply to possibly gain national recognition. Ms. Racanello stated that many other programs have been shut down, while our program is alive and growing. Mr. Hughes noted that he had recently been contacted by the State of Oregon, who are looking to start a heritage areas program, and when they contacted the NPS for advice, they were directed to Maryland.

Ms. Shatto asked when partners could be told of the grant awards. Mr. Power indicated that the heritage areas should hold off on bulk announcements until the MDP communications folks can issue a press release.

Mr. Power left the meeting and handed it over to Ms. Byron.

Mr. Clark reminded the group that the FY 2014 budget is now in consideration, and he encouraged the heritage areas to share the news of the grant awards with the Governor and Eloise Foster, and elected officials, to thank them for their support, ask them to continue to fully fund the program. Few elected officials get thanked for doing the right thing, and it’s very helpful to set up for success.

War of 1812 Sailabration Report – Hannah Byron

Ms. Byron reported that the event was very successful and they are still basking in the afterglow. The economical impact figures will not be available until September. The event brought national exposure and incredible interest from national and international media outlets. Great partners worked with them. Hits on the social network sights went through the roof - 1.2 million. The marketing was great, partnering with Visit Baltimore. The Visitors Center had a record number of visitors. The Blue Angels were a huge draw. Another bigger and better event is planned for 2014. She thanked Mr. Bill Pencek and the teams that did a great job.

Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund Report (R. Hughes)

Mr. Hughes reported that as of May 30, 2012, the MHAA financing fund available balance was \$397,556.33 in an interest bearing account. The report was distributed at the meeting. The balance will go down a bit as the grant awards were slightly over the \$2.7 million available, and as the report is from May, it will go down a bit more. Ms. Byron asked if the available balance would roll over. Mr. Hughes indicated that some of the allocation (up to 10%) can be used for administration, and some of that is reflected, but that spending authorization is not available for the total amount of money, and would need to be approved.

Status of Statewide Heritage Area recognition and certification efforts (R. Hughes)

Town of St. Michaels, Talbot County – Report on completion of all requirements for inclusion in the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area

Mr. Hughes reported that the Town of St. Michaels in Talbot County was now a part of the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area. It was always anticipated as a part of the heritage area, and was included in the management plan. There was a change of administration before the heritage area was certified in 2004. The town never completed the process of amending their comprehensive plan, and did not, therefore, meet the statutory requirement. This has now been completed, and based on the original approval; the Town of St. Michaels is officially part of the heritage area.

Patapsco Heritage Greenway Recognized Heritage Area – Update on efforts to complete requirements for certification

This is the final recognized heritage area that is still in the system. It includes the two counties of Howard and Baltimore counties along the Patapsco River. There had been some effort a couple of years ago to become certified. Howard County was very interested in moving forward, but Baltimore County declined to participate at the time. Mr. Hughes asked and is still waiting for something in writing about their interest. Ms. Byron thinks that a lot of changes have been made and more education is required for Baltimore County to move forward.

MHAA Quarterly Progress Report

Ms. Ruffner reviewed the quarterly reports for management entities. Their focus this quarter was on the completion of the five year plans. Staff will be working with heritage area entities on direct, internal and external performance evaluations and the collection of baseline and actual data.

Update on Grants Lifecycle Management Software- Jennifer Ruffner

Ms. Ruffner reported that for some time MHAA has been trying to obtain software to manage the grants. In January an RFP was released and MHAA received three proposals from two companies. She was informed by the Department of Information Technology and the Office of the Attorney General that due to a problem with the RFP process, it was a failed procurement, and the process had to be started again. Unfortunately, the spending authorization for the funds expired at the end of FY 12, so the funds must be reauthorized and approved by the Department

of Budget and Management. The last funding authorization process took eight months. Mr. Clark asked management to take into account that grants may be processed later because of staffing shortages and the lack of the software. He also suggested that the expectations on performance measures for heritage areas may need to be adjusted in light of the associated delays. Ms. Byron asked if there was anything that MHAA members could do to help get the funding sooner than eight months. She suggested that Mr. Power could let Secretary Foster know that the subject came up at the meeting, and Authority members are concerned about keeping this process moving. An update will be given at the next meeting.

Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas (MCHA) Report

Ms. Roz Racanello reported that the MCHA has been busy with a number of projects. Along with the reinstatement of funding, many participated in the Sailabration event and shared a tent with the NPS Star Spangled Trail in a prime location near the tall ships and visitors center. They were mobbed with visitors day and night. Locals and visitors came early and patiently stood in line. In addition to Marylanders, people from Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the Carolinas attended the event. Some of the directors had a wonderful experience being helicoptered out on the USS San Antonio and sailed back into the harbor on the ship. They had a wonderful dinner with the Captain and Admiral and the staff was extremely gracious. In addition to one of Ms. Racanello's board members, lots of reporters, Secretary Richard Hall, Ms. Taylor Thoma, Mr. Marcavitch, and members of the 1812 Commission attended too. She distributed at least 3000 each of guides and maps from her heritage area at the event.

Mr. Marcavitch got a good price on an ad for the inside cover of the new Scenic Byways guide. All the heritage areas chipped in together to pay for it.

Ms. Racanello distributed a graphic depiction of a banner with all of the heritage area logos that was hung at a Maryland Municipal League event. Mr. Parker, Ms. Fenstermaker and Mr. Marcavitch manned the booth. Each heritage area sent information that was primarily shared with government town employees. They had many great giveaways for drawings. It was a new experience for MCHA and she thanked Mr. Marcavitch for getting it started. She hoped that next year's budget would allow for other shared activities among the heritage areas.

MCHA plans on attending the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo).

Mr. Campbell asked if it would be possible to modify the existing MHAA logo to say "Heritage Areas" plural. Mr. Hughes indicated that looking at branding was in the strategic plan.

Mr. Wilson mentioned the importance for municipalities and counties understand that this the Heritage Area Program is funded by Program Open Space.

Ms. Byron reported that the Transportation bill had passed finally, which included some good and some bad news. The good news was that the funding for Recreation Trails was continued. The bad news was that the Scenic Byways program was not funded.

Dr. Baker said that the new bill bundles programs under the heading of "Transportation Alternatives," which includes TEP, Recreation Trails, Safe Routes to School and so on. Administration of the funds

will change, with half of those funds allocated through metropolitan planning organizations, but the details are still being determined.

Mr. Hughes noted that he spoke with Terry Maxwell of SHA, who indicated that all currently funded Byways projects are fine and will move forward, but that FY 13 and FY 14 are not funded. Mr. Clark asked what would happen to the Byways program in FY 13 and FY 14, and Dr. Baker said they may try to backfill with state funds, but it is too early to say. Ms. Ross pointed out that with projects still in the pipeline, the program will still be operating, but over the next two years a strategy is necessary to get the program restored – the current language says it is “eliminated.”

Heritage Area Director Reports

Montgomery County Heritage Area – Ms. Erickson reported that they won an Emmy for their Civil War film, and their Civil War app is available. They had a very successful Heritage Days. There is a new intern working with social media sites for them, and as a result, their website hits have gone way up.

Annapolis, London Town and South County Heritage Area – Dr. Benson shared that the space for the meeting, the Wiley Bates Heritage Legacy Center, is one of their key stakeholder sites. They awarded 3 mini-grants to pair schools with heritage sites to create heritage quilts, which was a tremendous success. ALTSCHA has hired a new staff person to replace Aleitheia Warmack. Victoria Villano will be a wonderful addition to the organization. Anne Arundel County has a new marketing director, who is really linking the heritage area in the new marketing website. Maryland Day did not have great weather, but was still well attended. ALTSCHA is in the process of putting heritage field trip resources on their website, and will be holding an Educators Showcase in October. They are also planning another interpreter training session, Mythbusters 2.

Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area – Mr. Parker reported that he has been negotiating with all 3 counties and all the towns for support for the heritage area. Ocean City removed the heritage area visitor kiosk from their visitor center, but they were able to engage the director of the Chamber of Commerce, and the kiosk is now located there, and is getting thousands of hits. The Recreation Trails program is working on a project on Smith Island, with 6 educational path signs installed, and they hope to install a platform over wetland. The 1812 activities have been successful, including Music and Militia. The heritage area is currently in a cash flow crunch, but are optimistic and have great programs.

Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area – Ms. Davis reported that she is working to rebuild relationships to put the heritage area in a more sustainable position. The structure of the board is being changed to include more committees and partnerships, and that stakeholders are realizing the importance of not just the grants, but of the heritage area organization.

Anacostia Trails Heritage Area – Mr. Marcavitch reported on 1812 events coming up in August, including an 1812 encampment at Riverdale, a Bowie Baysox game to support the heritage area, Star Spangled Explosion ice cream from the University of Maryland dairy, 1812 Bitter Beer at Franklin’s in Hyattsville and other programs. They are working on a new brochure with a

revised map and Spanish translation. The Route 1 Ride is moving forward, the number 17 bus will be wrapped to look like a circulator bus rather than public transit. In October there will be a program at Bostwick, which was damaged during the derecho and previous storms.

Baltimore National Heritage Area – Mr. Buchheit reported that Baltimore was one of 6 National Heritage Areas to be chosen as part of an economic impact study for national heritage areas, and invited authority members to come to focus groups. They are about halfway through their comprehensive planning process. They are now a fully functioning 501(c)3, and things are going well after the first six months. 1812 passports have all been distributed, so they have to reprint them. They will now be charging for their walking tours, and in less than 2 months have brought in \$3,200 in tour fees.

Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area – Ms. Christian introduced Ms. Hein again, she started on Monday as the new director. They have a number of programs coming up, including a Civil War program in Oakland focusing on the raid of Fort Alice, the On Glory, Fall Foliage Tours will be happening, and a new walking tour of Oakland museums is being developed.

Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway – Ms. Lisanti reported that they are teaming up with partners to create an Upper Bay branding strategy, including a passport program with the DMOs which was unveiled at Sailabration. A senior center / boys and girls club display was just completed in Havre de Grace, a 7 foot wall which displays events or structures within town from 1812 that no longer exist and have a particular story. They are also working on finishing a draft of the scenic byway corridor management plan.

Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area – Ms. Shatto reported that the First Call weekend was a success, and the Washington County Fine Arts Museum unveiled their new exhibit, funded by MHAA, with record attendance. They have produced a Top Ten highlight page of ways to celebrate the Sesquicentennial. The display of Lee's lost orders, the first time they have been displayed outside of the Library of Congress, opens at Monocacy in August. Their Civil War film will premier at the Weinberg Center in Frederick in September, and will air on PBS as well.

Canal Place Heritage Area – Ms. Ritchie reported that she has started her new position as director, and thanked everyone for their patience during the transition. They are in the process of updating their management plan, and are looking at expanding the heritage area boundaries, beyond just Canal Place. They are working with the National Park Service and the City of Cumberland. They are moving forward to get the Footer Dye Works building listed on the National Register, and are moving forward with stabilization of the building.

Southern Maryland Heritage Area – Ms. Racanello reported that there is a new county website, Destination Southern Maryland, with new 1812 pages, created by a history class at St. Mary's College.

The meeting adjourned at 12:26.