



Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Robert S. McCord, Secretary  
Sandy Schrader, Deputy Secretary

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHEOLOGY  
(MACA)

June 12, 2019

Committee Members in Attendance

Jane Cox, Marian Creveling, Bruce Terrell, Don Housley, Joy Beasley (By Phone).

Staff in Attendance

Matt McKnight, Susan Langley, Charlie Hall, Karen Golder, Stephanie Soder (Intern, Patricia Samford (By Phone).

The meeting called to order at 1:04 p.m.

Review of the minutes of December 2019 MACA meeting minutes

The December 12, 2018 minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Bruce Terrell and seconded by Marian Creveling; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Underwater Activities Report — Susan Langley and Troy Nowak

**Underwater Archaeology – Susan**

Maryland Maritime Archaeology Program (MMA) staff participated in a NOAA-sponsored State planning workshop for response to Marine Debris last summer and submitted comments on the draft document engendered by the workshop. On May 9, the final version was made available: <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/emergency-response-guide/maryland-marine-debris-emergency-response-guide>. In addition, MMA staff are working together with all MHT archaeology staff toward the development of a document addressing flooding of archaeological sites; a document comparable to the one MHT developed for historic properties. Susan represented the SHPO at meetings hosted by the Dept. of the Interior, which is part of the federal working group reviewing the 1997 nationwide Programmatic Agreement on Protection of Historic Properties During Emergency Response Under the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan. The meetings, over three days, were to initiate development of a training program both to train State and federal agencies in areas/regions where they are not as aware or engaged as they should be in contingency planning, and for those

agencies then to train other organizations and agencies within their regions. They have asked if Maryland would assist in helping test and assess it and partner to present it at the NCSHPO meetings next year to States with less knowledge and experience. We, as the MD SHPO, also hosted the quarterly meeting of the Area Contingency Planning Committee in March.

The annual MMAP Board of Public Works submission was approved without comment. MMAP worked with the University of Delaware School of Marine Science & Policy for a 2-day survey of a section of the Potomac using an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV). These are devices capable of undertaking survey using side scan sonar and/or magnetometer but run independently (not towed behind a vessel) and only require periodic checking to ensure they are still on track. These can run in weather conditions that vessels cannot. As a test survey, the equipment capabilities were impressive but the data for this survey were not as detailed as we would require for archeological survey. It can be set up to gather the level we require and we are exploring the possibility of a NOAA grant to cover the equipment, field time, and staff time necessary. Subsequently, we were approached by George Mason University's Potomac Science Center about partnership potential as they seek funding for a REMUS AUV.

Staff were invited to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) to provide advice on the direction of its newly reconstituted maritime archaeology program. VDHR has hired Dr. John Broadwater, who was Virginia's State Underwater Archaeologist from 1978-1989 when the program was terminated. At present he is only contracted for a year, half time, so it is critical to ensure the program proves its worth. Representatives from North Carolina and Delaware were also invited, but VDHR's idea is to develop a tri-state initiative for maritime archaeology with Maryland and Delaware, as North Carolina's maritime archaeologist position was vacant but likely to be filled soon.

Susan attended the annual Society for Historical Archaeology in St. Charles, MO in January. She is entering her final year elected to the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA) and also serves as liaison to the Governmental Affairs Committee on which she has served since 2003. She also sits on the UNESCO Committee and Chaired the Government Maritime Managers Meeting, as well as participating on a panel for the Historic Resources At-Risk Committee (HRAC) (Attached), which addresses the impacts of climate change (handout attached). She participated in the Past-Presidents' Reception for students to represent SHPOS in a novel approach where professionals manned various tables (federal, colleges, CRM etc.) through which students could rotate to ask about career paths, in an informal environment. This year, because of the federal government shutdown she was asked to cover for missing members to host a roundtable luncheon on seeking employment in maritime archaeology.

Susan and Nichole Doub visited the vessel on display at Martinak State Park at the request of DNR. The vessel, thought to be a rare pungy or a slightly earlier vessel developing toward a pungy form. The vessel was in better condition than anticipated and Nichole and Susan are gathering quotes to have a dendrochronological study undertake. DNR was asking if there wasn't somewhere it would be better interpreted and sheltered indoors. At 50 feet long, an indoor venue is a difficult prospect. On June 10, Oxford Tree-Ring Laboratory collected nine samples to undertake testing on the wood and, as sapwood was present in two places, potentially confirming its age.

The University of Maryland discovered a box of artifacts in their lab with some typed labels and hand-written notes alleging they were from a Spanish galleon. With input from colleagues at the University of West Florida, the specific vessel referenced was identified but there is nothing to demonstrate any connection to these artifacts. The main box had not been recently unpacked

(newspapers in which they were wrapped dated to 1991) but no staff or students worked in Jamaica and no one is known to have worked underwater so no one knows the source of these materials. Sara Rivers-Cofield looked at photos of the buttons, a buckle, and religious medallions and Silas Hurry also looked at photos of the religious medals. Bill Utley, IMH, confirmed the presence of grenades (inert as they are broken open from lack of conservation). The collection is 18<sup>th</sup> century and contains some wonderful objects, but despite 4 pieces of eight, there is nothing to definitively prove the vessel was Spanish. The folks at UWF have not yet commented on the photographs. UMD wants to send the collection somewhere more appropriate than under a table in their lab but want to send the entire collection (no cherry-picking). If UWF does not want it, it might be worth using as a teaching collection or, as Sara suggested, if just an example or type of object is needed as representative for loan or display, these might be used rather than sending provenienced materials and risking their loss or damage.

In February, two weekends were devoted to ship architecture classes on the historic ships in Baltimore. The Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society (MAHS), the Institute for Maritime Archaeology (IMH), and the Maritime Heritage Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia participated on a half-day training on the sloop-of-war *Constellation*. The following weekend, 10 East Carolina University graduate students, a Texas A&M student, and some MAHS students who had been unable to attend the previous weekend, participated in training on the Coast Guard Cutter *Taney*, the submarine *Torsk*, the *Constellation* and then the Liberty ship *John W. Brown*. Susan also provided the annual Law & Ethics lecture for the MAHS introductory course in underwater archaeology.

Other outreach efforts included participation in the annual Public Workshop in Archaeology (Susan addressed the shipwrecks of Curtis Bay), public lectures including the State Archives and Atlas Obscura, and the award ceremony for Ocean Guardian School North Point High School, making a presentation about climate change and Maritime Archaeology for the College of Southern Maryland, and offering a First Aid/CPR/AED class for volunteers and staff among other meetings and events. Susan attended a lecture by the organizer of the annual Sea Glass Festival to clarify that shore finds are still artifacts and there are still reporting requirements. The big news came with the Governor's announcement (Attached) when the Mallows Bay Sanctuary documents were posted on the Federal Register on May 31 for 30 days of public awareness. On June 17, Secretary McCord will sign the MOA for MDP and Reuben Collins, the President of the Charles County Commission will sign for the County. The Secretary of DNR is yet to be scheduled. All signed documents will be filed by July 1 to ensure they are posted in the Federal Register by July 8 and then Congress, and the Governor have 45 days to review them. If there are no concerns, the Sanctuary should be formalized by the end of November. There have been several events at Mallows (J.C. Parks Elementary annual field day, Diving With a Purpose and Junior Scientists in the Sea events were held by Henry Lackey and North Point High Schools, and participants from NOAAs Capitol Hill Ocean Week [CHOW] came on a paddling tour).

Susan is still managing five NPS Maritime Heritage Grants as three have completed or almost completed their projects (Port Discovery is holding receptions June 13 and 14 in celebration).

### Permits for Terrestrial Archeology

We have received and processed six applications for permit to conduct terrestrial archeology on State-owned lands since our last meeting in December. Five of the projects are compliance-driven (University of Maryland, Federal Railroads Administration, Maryland Transportation Authority – two projects, and Historic St. Mary's City), and one is research and compliance (HSMC).

In addition to this normal permit activity, I was contacted by Sargent Michael Friend of the Department of Natural Resources who inquired regarding outstanding permits in Garrett County. Sargent Friend was investigating an individual who he believed was illegally excavating a site in Potomac Garrett State Forest. The individual was found to have conducted an excavation without a permit, but the work had been performed in early 2017, and was outside the statute of limitations.

### Maryland Archeology Month 2019.

The theme for 2019 was *The Magic and Mystery of Maryland Archeology*, which focused on the ritual use of objects to influence the supernatural. Sara Rivers-Cofield was our principal partner, and did a terrific job of shepherding the poster through development, and of corralling the many authors of booklet essays. We printed 1,100 full-sized posters, 1,100 mini-posters, and 1,100 magnets, and the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration donated the printing of 2,100 booklets. Direct mailing of mini-posters, booklets and magnets included 276 Archeological Society of Maryland members, 103 area archeologists, 357 Historic District Commissioners and staff, MACA members, MHT Board of Directors, and requesters, for a total 820. Hand delivery of the same products to each of the 188 Maryland legislators was also accomplished during the last week of March. Distribution of allotments of full-sized posters and booklets to ASM Chapters, institutional partners, county programs, and universities, for re-distribution to the public at events, and outlets totaled 950. There were 28 public events held across the state during the month.

Costs included \$2,770 for printing and \$701 for mailing, totaling \$3,641. Contributions totaled \$2,980, including those consulting firms (\$2,350) and from the Council for Maryland Archeology (\$600), and from one individual (\$30). The deficit of \$661 was covered by the surplus donations fund (\$4,737 brought forward from past years).

### Field Session 2019 at the Billingsley Site

The annual Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology was held at the Billingsley site (18PR9) between May 24<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The event was hosted by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, who administer the state-owned property under a 99 year lease as a wedding venue. Principal Investigators Matt McKnight and Stephany Sperling were responsible for the research, which was focused on investigating magnetic susceptibility and gradiometer results with the goal of identifying the contact-period Patuxent Indian component at the site. Other staff included Stephanie Soder, field lab director and paperwork

ninja, Kristin Montaperto, Troy Nowak Exa Grubb, and myself. Over the 11-day session we had a daily average of 25 volunteers (total volunteer days 274), with a maximum of 36 and an outlier minimum of 7 (the last day, traditionally “back-fill day”). Eleven 2x2 m units were excavated revealing 8 features.

### Cemetery Issues

Since the last MACA meeting we have received five requests for consultation under the 2018 legislation that requires owners of burial sites that are 50 or more years old to consult with MHT regarding the proper treatment of markers, human remains, and the environment surrounding the site. One was an informal phone call about a family cemetery, one was an official notice phone call from the Maryland Anatomy Board regarding an unanticipated developer-related discovery, two were developer-initiated, and one was from a Worcester County Sheriff’s Office detective seeking assistance in his investigation of a cemetery desecration.

Development of protocols is underway for the implementation of the 2018 legislation that requires owners of burial sites that are 50 or more years old to consult with MHT regarding the proper treatment of markers, human remains, and the environment surrounding the site. I am especially troubled by the poor quality of reporting, and of the field work that supports it, of ground penetrating radar investigations.

### MAC Lab Activities Report — Patricia Samford

The lab is still awaiting the two final shipments of collections from the Baltimore Center for Urban Archaeology excavations around 100 boxes each, previously scheduled to arrive in June and August of 2018.

The lab has been able to fill the curation assistant position. Alice Merkel started work at the lab at the beginning of May. She graduated from Cleveland State University and came to us fresh off from a year-long internship at Montpelier. She began the process of checking each box in collections storage against the information in the collections inventory database. This inventory verification is in preparation for the eventual collections move that will take place in the next couple of years. She completed years 1969-1983, equaling just over 900 boxes. In addition to her work with Becky and collections, she is assisting Ed with Public Archaeology. In Becky’s words, she is pretty sur this is the best hiring decision ever!

Our hiring of a contractual employee to provide archaeological monitoring of ground disturbance during the Patterson House renovation has been temporarily put on hold. The park is in the interview stage of hiring an Outreach Coordinator, who will be responsible for maintaining the park’s website.

The conservation lab is currently treating an anti-ship mine from World War II that was found buried on the beach at Cape Henlopen, Delaware, as well as an artificial leg for a Confederate

veteran. The lab was able to purchase a digital x-ray after the developer for the old analog x-ray became non-functional and non-repairable.

The conservation lab staff have been down in Virginia quite a bit over the last two months, performing a conservation assessment for the Skiffe's Creek project – 100% assessment of collections from 50 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century sites in the Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown area. (almost 2,000 boxes of artifacts, as well as study collections). The funding for this project came from Dominion Power as part of the mitigation for a gas line being constructed across this area.

Although the siding, roof replacement and foundation repair work project began in the late winter, difficulties with the contractor has put this project on hold until a new contractor can be hired.

Raquel Fleskes from University of Pennsylvania has successfully extracted DNA from all 18 burials from the Patuxent Point site and in September will try to do the DNA sequencing. CT scans and photos of the elements used for testing were taken prior to destructive analysis.

Tricia completed compiling photos and data for the thimble page for the website, and will begin utensils later this summer. Sara is submitting a proposal for funding research that would allow her to add four new sections to the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland webpage- bits, saddles, horseshoes and artifacts of horse care. Sara and Tricia are also beginning a project that will completely reformat the Diagnostic Artifacts website using Wordpress to make it mobile-accessible and easier to search.

Sara started an Instagram feed called little\_metal\_things to share artifact IDs.

Sara and Kerry Gonzalez taught a webinar on x-radiography for the Society for American Archaeology. The free webinar filled up at 75 registrants and was well received by participants. Sara also presented her Maryland's Magical Artifacts talk at the annual ASM workshop in honor of Maryland Archeology Month.

JPPM 's new director, Greg Pierce, will start work on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Review and Compliance Activities Report — Beth Cole and Dixie Henry

- Beth and Dixie are unable to participate in the MACA meeting today because they are attending DNR's Power Plant Research Advisory Committee meeting where Dixie will be giving a presentation on *Working With MHT/MD SHPO* to share information regarding the Section 106 review of proposed energy projects licensed by the Maryland Public Service Commission. The PPRP Advisory Committee is comprised of a wide range of state agency representatives, and meetings are also attended by interested companies and consultants representing the energy industry.
- The Review and Compliance Unit continues to handle a large volume of reviews, including review of individual projects and Phase I and II archeological reports – particularly for proposed new solar energy projects. They participated in numerous project specific meetings/site visits as well as targeted outreach efforts to improve agency/program

coordination. Beth and Dixie regularly participate in monthly interagency meetings with MDE, COE, MDOT SHA to address cultural resources issues for a wide range of projects. Dixie also completed the review of 144 DNR Trust Fund grant applications for various environmental restoration and outreach projects statewide as part of DNR's grant evaluation process.

- Beth and Dixie gave a presentation on *Section 106 and Working with MHT/MD SHPO* to the Branch meeting of the Baltimore District Corps of Engineers, attended by approximately 50 staff from the Corps' Regulatory and Planning offices. The meeting fostered productive dialogue between Corps and MHT staff regarding the review process and interagency coordination.
- Beth attended multiple agency coordination meetings/site visits with our federal/state agency partners to discuss project updates, planning efforts, and general Section 106 coordination and enhance our working relationships. Key agencies/facilities included the following:
  1. NPS – Catoctin Mountain Park: biennial coordination meeting, project and planning study updates and site visits.
  2. NPS – C&O Canal NHP: multiple progress meetings regarding the proposed new park headquarters and visitor services facility in Williamsport. NPS just submitted its draft Phase I archeological survey report for MHT review.
  3. NPS – Hampton Mansion and Fort McHenry: biennial coordination meeting at Hampton Mansion, project and planning study updates, site visits.
  4. NIST Gaithersburg Campus: continuing meetings on the development of a campus wide Programmatic Agreement; MHT awaits submittal of NIST's Phase I archeological survey report.
  5. NASA Goddard: participated in 2 meetings and a site tour regarding NASA's master plan updates and proposed negotiation of a Programmatic Agreement to streamline review of Section 106 consultation for their campus.
  6. FEMA National Emergency Training Center: annual coordination meeting and site visit under their Programmatic Agreement, project and planning study updates.
  7. MDOT SHA and MTA: continuing quarterly coordination meetings on various project and program issues.
  8. FTA/MTA: Held 2 meetings to continue development of a Programmatic Agreement to cover Section 106 review of MD Transit Administration projects, now that they have their own dedicated Cultural Resources staff archeologist.
- Beth and Dixie conducted an initial archeological assessment, using Medusa and Synthesis data, of 100 existing MHT easement properties under consideration for possible divestiture and prepared written comments for Matt McKnight.
- Beth and Dixie participated in the MHT Archeology Workshop and attended one day of the MHT/ASM field session at the Billingsley Site. They also attended the annual *Mount Vernon Regional GIS Symposium*, which included presentations on: Immersive virtual reality for Virginia's archeological sites, Resource based historical research using the 1858 DC City Directory, Forgotten Places of the MD Women's Suffrage Movement, and MDOT SHA's I-495 & I-270 MLS project streamlining survey documentation and coordination using ArcGIS
- Dixie concluded her one-year detail as Acting Chief Archeologist – happily turning over the reins to Matt McKnight! She is very appreciative to the Review and Compliance staff and archeology staff for helping to make the experience possible and to make it feasible to

balance two positions. It was an invaluable experience, but she is glad to now be able to re-focus 100% on compliance work.

- Dixie has been able to resume attending the monthly MDE/COE interagency meeting for discussion of multiple state and federal projects such as the Nice Bridge replacement, the BGE Key Crossing utility line project, and US Wind's MarWin offshore wind project.

### Research and Synthesis Project — Matthew McKnight

#### **Chief Archeologist's Report and ORSR Report**

Matt McKnight moved into the position of Chief Archeologist on March 27<sup>th</sup>, relieving Dixie Henry who had been serving in an acting capacity since February of 2018. One of Matt's first actions after taking on the position was to draft a hiring freeze exemption and a revised MS-22 for review by MDP. Since Matt is wearing two hats until that position is filled, he will be combining the Chief's report with the Research and Synthesis activities for the time-being.

Work continues on the "Archaeology of Colonial Maryland" edited volume that is a product of building the synthesis database. Since the last MACA meeting we selected a design firm, Today Media, Inc. to lay out the book, and the print firm, Jostens, Inc. (yes, the yearbook people) to handle printing and shipping. In February, Matt McKnight completed the copy editing for the chapters and finished authoring the 5 sidebar sections for the book, and sent all copy and images to Today Media for design work. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the designers presented 4 layout concepts to MHT staff and we selected one for the final design. We are expecting a draft layout in June.

On the NonCap front...we successfully pushed all 5 of our FY19 Archeology Non-cap grant agreements out the door for signature by the grantees and got the money encumbered by the fiscal year budget deadlines. And we have also held the first (June 11<sup>th</sup>) of two Non-Cap Workshops for the FY20 Grant Round. The other workshop will be held on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Intent to Apply forms are due on July 12<sup>th</sup>, with complete applications due September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Darrin Lowery's FY2018 Non-cap Honga River Survey now complete and the final report was accessioned into our library in April. And I've received the draft technical report from Tim Horsley with the results of St. Mary's City's NonCap The Search for the 1634 Fort. Tim was able to eliminate one surveyed area from contention (the traditional site) and was able to identify several anomalies of interest on the Mill field property that will require ground-truthing. St. Mary's is utilizing their annual summer field school to do some of that work this year...so stay tuned for an update at some point.

In Late December, after the MACA meeting, Charlie, Troy and Matt carried out a magnetic susceptibility survey at Wye Island State Park. We were attempting to locate any evidence of a Native American Village that might have been located near a known ossuary in the park. We were unable to locate the village in the area we surveyed. We had similar results from a survey we undertook in Smallwood State Park in late February. That project was an attempt to re-locate a shell midden documented by the Wilke-Thompson survey in the 1970s. We found no

concentrations of oyster shell in the cove identified by Wilke and Thompson, and a magnetic susceptibility survey of the mapped location of the site returned no anomalies. We believe the site was possibly mapped in the wrong cove.

In February, Matt completed a draft chapter for the final Biggs Ford report, focusing on the Contact-period component identified there during our 2013-2015 field sessions with the ASM. The chapter was sent to the other authors of the final report for their comments.

In March and April, Matt obtained quotes and completed a purchase justification for the acquisition of a Bartington Grad601 Dual Sensor gradiometer. That purchase was successful and we now have added a new significant remote sensing capability to our toolkit.

Matt participated in the annual MAAC meetings in Ocean City from March 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. He presented a paper on the Trust's magnetic susceptibility work.

Matt also presented an expanded version of his MAAC paper at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop in Archeology held here at Crownsville on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. He helped out other MHT staff the day of the event and managed AV equipment for the day.

Matt attended the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) in Albuquerque from April 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> and got some specifications and preliminary cost quotes for our next hoped-for big purchase: a GPR system.

In April and May, Matt coordinated with Charlie, Dixie, and Beth about response to MHT's planned termination of several easements with known archeological sites. Twelve were originally proposed for termination. Staff did some quick research and recommended that seven be removed from the terminate list based on either synthesis reports that suggested additional research potential, or data from site reports suggesting same. Three were taken off the terminate list, but four still remain.

In May, Matt and Charlie coordinated with Tricia, Becky Moorehouse, and Elizabeth on the Smith-Price cemetery issue and other issues related to non-Native human remains in the Trust's care.

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, Matt, Troy, and Charlie returned to the Billingsley site to conduct additional magnetic susceptibility work in the farm fields to the east of the Hollyday House. No anomalies were identified there, but a potential anomaly was identified on the next ridge to the east. It warrants additional investigation and is a good match for a European-built structure shown on the 1670 Augustin Herrman Map. Staff also participated in several field session planning meetings with M-NCPPC staff about the work at Billingsley (18PR9). Matt agreed to be the Co-PI for the 2019 field session, along with Stephanie Sperling of PG County Parks. In Late April and early May, Matt, Troy, and Charlie were again at Billingsley laying out the grid for the 2019 Field Session, working with M-NCPPC staff to conduct a close interval (1 m) MagSusc survey within the previously documented anomaly, and carrying out a gradiometer survey that was used to place units for the field session.

Charlie Hall will discuss the Field Session results in greater detail, but Matt wanted to mention one of the people who joined staff out in the field May 24<sup>th</sup> through June 3<sup>rd</sup>...our summer intern, Stephanie Soder. Stephanie is from Maryland but got her degree in Maritime Studies from East Carolina University and served as our field lab director and paperwork ninja during the field session.

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, Office of Archeology staff went on a site visit near the headwaters of the Bush River...a site that some local historical/genealogical researchers have identified as possibly being 17<sup>th</sup> century in age. We will be going on another site visit on the 20<sup>th</sup> to Denton to look at a site that Ed Otter believes may be related to the initial European settlement of Denton to look at the feasibility of doing remote sensing work there.

### Other Business

Selection of next meeting date — *Wednesday, September 11, 2019* at 1:00 PM in the MHT Executive conference room.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m., in a motion made by Bruce Terrell and second by Don Housley; the motion was unanimously approved.