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# Maryland

## DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

#### MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY (MACA) March 13, 2024

#### **Committee Members in Attendance:**

Stephen Brighton, Marian Creveling, Jane Cox, Dave Gadsby, Don Housley, Bob Wall

#### **Staff in Attendance:**

Dixie Henry, Elizabeth Hughes, Susan Langley, Matthew McKnight, Patricia Samford, Stephanie Soder

#### **The meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m.**

#### **Review of the December 6, 2023, MACA meeting minutes:**

The December 6, 2023, minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Don Housley and seconded by Jane Cox; the motion was passed unanimously.

#### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### **Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes**

Director Hughes provided an update on the Maryland legislative session and bills that might impact MHT. In particular she mentioned Senate Bill 616 which would create a new museum assistance grants program.

Elizabeth also provided an overview of the activities of MHT partnership with the MCAAHC in creating the Ancestral Remains Working Group, and the results of the social media outreach effort related to it.

#### **Chief Archaeologist Report — Matt McKnight**

Matt described his role in preparing a draft document for the Ancestral Remains Working Group that outlines the general process for establishing cultural affiliation under 34.04.06 of COMAR, which provides definitions for classes of evidence.

Staff held *Standards and Guidelines* meetings on December 12 and February 13, and Matt reports that we now have drafts of most of the chapters and at least 4 chapters with full layouts.

MHT began advertising the Summer Internship in Archaeology on January 10 with a deadline of February 12. This year applications were far fewer, possibly due to the loss of some of the free advertising venues MHT has traditionally used. Only 6 complete applications were received. Staff are currently scheduling interviews with 3 candidates.

On January 11, Zac and Matt went to Cumberland to participate in an on-site logistics meeting with the ASM Field Session Committee and NPS personnel. The field Session dates have been set as May 31-June 10 at the Cresap's Fort site in Oldtown and online registration is now available.

Matt reports that MHT has met with the Archeological Society of Maryland a couple of times at their request to provide guidance regarding the West River collection, which was willed to them many decades ago and they own

On the Non-Cap front, our legal team has been revamping our Non-Cap boilerplate to simplify it. Matt reports that the archaeology template has been simplified from 33 pages to 17 and that the corporate resolutions are no longer required. Now that staff have the templates, they will begin generating grant agreements for the 3 FY24 recipients.

Steph and Matt participated in the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference meetings in Ocean City last week. Matt presented on the Cresap's Fort project and judged the student paper and poster competitions. He was also second author on a paper about Calverton in an organized session on climate change, which was presented by Kristen Browne of AAHA, Inc.

MHT held its first public meeting related to the American Battlefield Protection Program Grant received from NPS. MHT has been "marketing" the project as "The Rugged Road to Revolution" and has produced a webpage and rack cards that direct people to complete a form to be involved in the project. The first meeting was held on March 5 in Bel Air and the second will be held tonight in North East, MD

Matt, Zac, and Steph met w/ Michele Johnson of the MD250 Commission on Dec. 19 to discuss how archaeology can be promoted as part of the Commission's work. We've agreed to collaborate on promotion where it fits into the study of the American Revolution or the desire for freedom where appropriate. To that end, you'll note the MD250 logo on many of the materials associated with the *Rugged Road to Revolution* project.

On December 13 Zac, Matt, and Steph collected some reconnaissance data at Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Park in association with the Jacob Jackson project (a cooperative agreement with NPS) which allowed staff to put together what was needed for an ARPA permit. That is now with NPS and the park.

On December 15, Zac, Matt, and Steph conducted a GPR survey at Maxwell Hall NRMA to investigate a concentration of 17th-century artifacts reported to MHT by an avocational archaeologist. The GPR survey yielded anomalies consistent with a 17th-century colonial domestic site with intact features like cellars, subfloor pits, and outbuildings.

On January 4, Zac, Matt, and Steph conducted a GPR survey at Chapel Point State Park to investigate a concentration of 17th-century artifacts and Woodland period artifacts recovered during a Phase I survey by Julia King. The GPR survey yielded 1 anomaly suggestive of a rectangular cellar or subfloor pit and many amorphous anomalies, which may represent Woodland or Contact period shell middens. On February 15, Matt and Zac presented on the Chapel Point State Park GPR survey results to Piscataway tribal members, DNR, and other stakeholder at a meeting organized by Dr. King.

On January 30, Zac and Matt met with DNR folks at Patapsco Valley State Park to discuss a stone stringer from the original B&O railroad alignment that had been uncovered along a hiking trail. Zac, Matt, and Steph will assist with documenting the stone stringer in the summer or fall.

On February 8, Zac, Matt and Steph conducted a GPR survey at Patuxent River State Park to investigate a potential location for the Alf Brown's saw mill identified by the Friends of the Park group. The GPR survey yielded an anomaly consistent with a mill race, but did not produce evidence for intact foundations for a sawmill.

On February 20, Matt and Zac visited the Pocomoke APR and recorded the location of the datum and backsight with the Emlid GPS. They found the APR to be well maintained and in good condition.

On March 1, Zac, Matt, and Steph visited Wye Island NRMA and located a location that meets the conditions from the MOU for establishing an APR for the Wye Island Ossuary remains (to be discussed further under new business).

## **Underwater Activities Report — Susan Langley**

Susan Langley reported that the Maryland Maritime Archaeology Program's annual submission to the Board of Public Works was passed without discussion.

Susan noted that Dr. Kin Wah Chew had been appointed to the Dive Safety Board and that the Board has its full complement of members again. Dr. Chew is an expert in Underwater and Hyperbaric Medicine.

Underwater Archaeology Permits have been issues to students from Temple University (Chester River), East Carolina University (Mallows Bay), and Texas A&M University (Mallows Bay). East Carolina University (ECU) has indicated it will apply for a permit for a field school and a Master's student at ECU plans to request a permit for his fieldwork. An inquiry has been received expressing interest in a permit for a for-profit venture. As this would entail posting a bond and covering staff expenses as observers so the current Program rate sheet is being updated.

MMAP continues to work with the Dept. of the Interior and the U.S. Coast Guard to develop an Unanticipated Discovery Plan (UDP) for Region 3 (RRT#3), which includes 4 States and the District of Columbia, and a Job Aid for spill responders who are unlikely to recognize archaeological historic property. Susan and Troy Nowak made a co-presentation with DOI at the last RRT#3 meeting. In addition, MMAP is representing Maryland, with three other States, to assist the U.S. Coast Guard in developing a Nationwide Programmatic Agreement to improve compliance when vessels are decommissioned and disposed of since the USCG tends to do this in large numbers, portions of fleets, or entire classes of vessels.

Troy and Susan have been recording the log canoe found in Calvert County two years ago and have been working on documenting a number of its smaller elements in Crownsville. The vessel is very unusual, and the plan is to publish an article about it.

Susan attended the Society for Historical Archaeology conference in Oakland in January and chaired the Government Maritime Managers Meeting, participated on the UNESCO, Government Affairs, and Heritage at Risk Climate Change Committees, and she gave a paper and participated on a panel discussion of the Shipwreck Tagging Archaeological Management Program (STAMP). The latter has seen an increase in interest and activities, so Susan and Troy are partnering with the DNR at Assateague State Park to offer two workshops on March 29. Susan provided a flyer, which is also available on the STAMP page of the MHT website.

Other outreach activities include: presentations by Susan to the NOAA North Carolina lecture series and to the Charles County Chapter of the ASM. She will also teach the Law & Ethics class for the Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society, and is scheduled to make a presentation to the Underwater Archaeology Society of Chicago, both of these are at the end of March. Susan and Steph Soder are participating in the Rockville Science Day in mid-April. Troy participated in meetings about alternative materials in construction and for oyster substrate.

Troy will be on extended family leave from mid-April through July.

### **Terrestrial Activities** — Matt McKnight (on behalf of Zac Singer)

Between December and March, Dr. Singer reviewed two applications for Terrestrial Archaeology permits.

Zac reports that the MHT Volunteer Archaeology Lab has been regularly meeting on Tuesdays from 9AM-3PM. Lab days have regularly attracted 5 to 10 volunteers. The lab is currently cataloging and preparing collections for curation from The August Selckmann collection, which was recently donated to the State. The collection is mostly Pre-Contact artifacts from Frederick County.

Zac continues chairing the Maryland Archeology Month (MAM) 2024 committee, this year with co-chairs from CfMA's DEIJ committee. The finalized theme is "*African Diaspora Archeology: A Collaboration with Descendants*". Topics discussed during MAM will include collaborations with descendant communities to study the African Diaspora, Underground Railroad archaeological research, the archaeology of the domestic landscapes of the enslaved, documentation of African American cemeteries, and efforts to return human remains of African descent to direct descendants or culturally affiliated groups.

Zac also reported that he continues to serve on the MHT Easement committee.

Matt and Zac continue to work on NAGPRA related coordination and are organizing for a potential repatriation request related to the Potomac Creek culturally affiliated human remains from sites now located within Piscataway Park.

On February 1, Zac documented an avocational collection from near Zekiah Swamp. Zac is working with the collection owner to fill out site forms.

On February 5, Zac, Steph, and Becky Moorehouse triaged the collection of August Selckmann and brought it to the MHT/Crownsville lab for processing and cataloging for eventual curation at the MAC Lab.

## **MAC Lab Activities Report** — Patricia Samford

MAC Lab Expansion – The Board of Public Works approved the construction contract of Coakley Williams on February 28 and the contract was signed late last week. Staff anticipates a pre-construction meeting will be held in late March or in April. At this point, the construction project, projected to take 15 to 18 months, will not begin until sometime in the late spring or early summer.

The Lab received three bids for the moving and storage of the oversize collections and protection in place for the SS Columbus paddlewheel. MAC Lab staff provided feedback on these proposals and the paperwork for getting the project before the Board of Public Works is on an uncertain timeline.

The NPS *Witnesses of Wallville* grant is studying the rural community at the end of the peninsula where JPPM is located from the post bellum period to the mid-20th century. Our focus is on the Black community and changes in the demographics of Wallville during this period. Since the last MACA meeting, staff have completed washing and cataloging of artifacts from Phase I archaeological testing at four late 19th and early 20th century sites associated with the Wallville community. Staff have completed a draft of one interpretive panel and a project booklet for the public on the project, and are also working on a second interpretive panel, and two new sections for the StoryMap on the *people of Wallville* and *working in Wallville*.

Scott Strickland, Alex Glass and Tricia Samford are working on a cultural resource management plan for the park which will include an overall property history, summaries of all known archaeological sites on the park and any work done on them, mapping of all structures and cultural features like roads, fence lines, utilities (both modern and as revealed through maps, photographs and lidar). The plan will include predictive modelling for as yet undiscovered sites and address the effects of climate change on the park's cultural resources.

Lab staff reviewed the Archaeological Collections in Maryland and Maryland Archaeobotany websites for sensitive information, which was redacted.

The MAC Lab assisted MHT staff with creating a historic and precontact type collection for the Crownsville lab.

Sara and Tricia continue to work on the long and slow process of revamping the *Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland* project, which will be renamed *Diagnostic Artifacts* (since we will be incorporating artifacts from other states like Virginia, Delaware and NC). Greg Brown and Mary Kate Mansius are doing the design and construction work for the new website and substantial progress has been made over the last three months. The new site will be mobile device friendly and will be searchable through the use of tags.

Conservation continues to ramp down for the expansion project, since the treatment lab will be directly affected by the construction. We have been doing some x-ray surveys for outside clients but are trying not to take in any large projects.

MHT staff and staff of the MCAAHC's working group to determine how to repatriate ancestral remains of African ancestry to lineal descendants or local communities continues to meet monthly. This spring,

we will begin setting up meetings within counties and communities where human remains have been recovered to get local input and buy-in.

Final planning is underway for 2024 Discovering Archaeology Day on April 13th. The lab hopes to be able to hold the event in and around the MAC Lab, as we have done for the past two years, but are awaiting final word about when the expansion construction project will begin.

JPPM will be holding their 2024 Public Archaeology sessions on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in May. Staff will be working on two sites this season – at the Stearns Site, a precontact village that was investigated in the 1980s by Dr. Laurie Steponaitis and also by Dennis Pogue. We will be putting some units in an area where the park wants to construct steps down to the riverfront. This site is the location of the annual Patuxent River Wade-In, so making the currently unstable path down to the water is a priority. Staff will also be putting in some units in a mid to late 19th century domestic site on a high bluff area directly south of the Sukeek’s Cabin site, a late 19th century Black homestead. Maps and census records suggest that this site may have been occupied by some of Sukeek’s relatives. The lab has received 22 applications for our Public Archaeology internship and will be interviewing up to 7 candidates beginning next week.

Hannah Wells began work on March 7 as the MAC Lab’s Digital Archivist, a permanent position we received as part of the capital expansion project. Hannah attended the University of Nebraska for history and archaeology, and following undergrad, she attended the University of Maryland MAA program. She is coming to the MAC Lab from the National Museum of Health and Medicine, where she was the digital archivist for digitized records, images, and films.

Scott created and finalized the Maryland Archeology Month poster.

Scott Strickland joined a panel discussion for Montgomery Parks' Digital Heritage Symposium unveiling of AR/VR experiences at the Oakley Cabin African American Museum and Park

## **Review and Compliance Activities Report — Dixie Henry**

Project review submittals remain at a steady volume. In the past 3 months (December, January, February), the PRC unit reviewed a total of 1,398 state and federal projects.

Dixie completed the review of 225 grant proposals from DNR’s “Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund” program and their “Restoration Through Resiliency” program.

PRC reports that they are seeing a very high volume of project review requests so far in 2024, and the new e106 system is functioning well and has been well received by customers. Dixie has drafted language regarding the use of the e106 system for the updated *Standards & Guidelines*.

Dixie and Beth participated in multiple monthly and project-specific interagency meetings to facilitate project reviews and agency coordination, including: MDE/COE JE meetings, MDOT SHA quarterly, MDTA Bay Bridge Crossing Tier 2 study, NPS parks, FEMA Region III, BOEM Offshore wind initiatives, and more.

Staff reviewed and signed a revised draft of the Programmatic Agreement for the Corps’ Baltimore Metropolitan Coastal Storm Risk Management project. This project will require multiple cultural

resources investigations – including some archaeological survey work.

Dixie attended MDOT/SHA meeting introducing their “Native Trails to Roads” research project documenting Native American trail systems and their connection to historic roadways in Maryland. AECOM will producing the report and mapping for that project, and all of the resulting data will be entered into MEDUSA.

PRC Staff continue to devote considerable time to assisting DNR in facilitating its historic preservation compliance for projects on DNR park lands. Staff participated in multiple DNR/MHT project coordination meetings and participated in an onsite meeting at the Elkridge Furnace Inn with DNR, Howard County and the property’s lessee to discuss potential corrective measures for a number of unauthorized construction activities that have taken place over the past several years – including some that have impacted at least one, possibly two, archaeological sites on the property.

### **Synthesis Report** — Stephanie Soder

On February 22, Stephanie completed the latest round of Synthesis updates. She added 43 new sites to the database and so far, the URLs etc. seem to be working with the new MHT website. The next update is penciled in for August 22, 2024 to keep up with the 6-month update schedule.

Right now, Steph is focusing on balancing between counties that have a lot of sites to be added and those that don’t have too many so that counties can be completed while still getting through larger counties. She is currently working on Anne Arundel County, Annapolis, and Harford County. She recently finished up Baltimore County, Baltimore City, and Carroll County. Dorchester and Charles are almost done, with one site left for each.

MHT will be hosting a Scout Merit Badge Workshop like last year. The dates are set for May 11 for the lecture day and May 18 & May 19 for the fieldwork days. We opened registration on Feb 13 for the merit badge and we have 38 scouts signed up (with a cap of 40). We have sent out a call for help from CAT candidates; the lecture day is almost covered but we need more for help for excavation days.

Steph has been working with DNR to set up an archaeology component of the Junior Rangers program. It may be similar to the Backwoods Explorers camp that MHT did last year, but with a few tweaks. It will use the same grab-and-go materials created for that program. It will help them cover their “People” and “Conservation” topics – two of the 7 covered in the program. This year will include north and eastern parts of the state –Elk Neck SP, Tuckahoe SP, Martinak SP, and Cypress Branch SP – over the course of two weeks. If this year goes well, MHT might try to make this a rotating program around the different parks that have them throughout the state.

At the MAAC conference, Steph presented with Julia Berg and Sarah Mason, two educators from the Eastern Shore and ASM members, on a paper called: "Hand a bunch of 12-17 year-olds spears...sure, what could go wrong?" Creative Solutions to Public Engagement in Archaeology. She is unsure of the attendance numbers, but it seemed well-attended and was well-received. All three presenters had a lot of people speaking with them after the talk.

MHT will be at the Rockville Science Day (Steph and Susan) in April. They counted 3500+ attendants last year so this might be a good way to get a lot of interaction with the public.

Steph has been running the lab on Zac's behalf while out on paternity leave. Volunteers are working on the Selckmann collection and likely will continue to do so until he's back.

Steph will be attending a metal detecting workshop in Virginia at the beginning of next month

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **NAGPRA/MCIA Update — Matt McKnight**

Matt reported that the National NAGPRA Office recently published updated guidance on the interpretation and implementation of NAGPRA. We are still digesting the changes, but the SAA has provided a useful overview which is available at [https://documents.saa.org/container/docs/defaultsource/catf/final\\_nagpra\\_rule\\_fact\\_sheet\\_revised-\(1\).pdf](https://documents.saa.org/container/docs/defaultsource/catf/final_nagpra_rule_fact_sheet_revised-(1).pdf). Two changes which dramatically impact our situation going forward include 1) the new "Duty of Care" requirements particularly for funerary objects, and 2) the removal of the option to request that the Secretary of the Interior approve repatriation of culturally unidentifiable human remains to State-recognized tribes. As you may recall, we have been anticipating someday receiving a joint request for Potomac Creek remains from the two state-recognized Piscataway tribes. That no longer is a possibility and there are no options for an exemption. Under NAGPRA there IS still an option for a state-recognized tribe to do a joint request with a federally recognized tribe. We have spoken briefly to Keith Colston (MCIA) about holding a meeting with Piscataway leadership and others on this topic.

We have amended the MOU we entered into in 2012 regarding the creation of the Appropriate Places of Repose (APR). We have amended it to create an APR at Wye Island NRMA. This new APR will be established solely for the remains eroding out of the Wye Ossuary. We anticipate collecting the remains from the Wye East River and excavating the remains still present in the bank of the river for reburial this spring/summer. We are currently drafting letters to the National NAGPRA Office, and the federal tribes with an interest in Queen Anne's County updating our human remains inventory documents. We are seeking consent under MHT's duty of care for 1) MHT removing the eroding Wye Ossuary and reintering the human remains and any associated funerary objects in the newly established appropriate place of repose at Wye Island NRMA and 2) MHT engaging a forensic anthropologist to assist in completing a basic inventory of said remains for Wye Ossuary.

### **Patuxent Point DNA Analysis Results — Patricia Samford**

Tricia reports that the MAC Lab has received correspondence from Raquel Fleskes indicating that the Patuxent Point Individuals are now almost fully analyzed and she is interested in publication of the results. Raquel found some intriguing evidence for relatedness within the burial clusters, which suggests a differentiation of burial practices based on kinship. Back in 2019, Raquel filmed the process of ancient DNA extraction for the projects on which she was working (including the Patuxent Point Individuals) and used the footage to create 5- and 12-minute videos that showed what an ancient DNA lab looks like and



documented how we go from bone to DNA sample for community members. The videos proved to be very successful community engagement tools for the Charleston African American community. Raquel wants to determine if MHT would be comfortable with a publication in some form, given the provenience of the samples used in the video. Raquel plans on having an ethics section in the paper, which discusses sample provenience and illustrations of human remains.

**Selection of Next Meeting Date** — Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 1:00 PM in the MHT Executive Conference Room (or virtually).

After discussion of other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM, in a motion made by Marian Creveling and seconded by Bob Wall; the motion was unanimously approved.