



---

**Maryland**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**  
**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY  
(MACA)  
June 12, 2024

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

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

**Staff in Attendance:**

Katie Gill (MHT intern), Dixie Henry, Elizabeth Hughes, Susan Langley, Matthew McKnight, Patricia Samford, Stephanie Soder, Zachary Singer

**The meeting called to order at 1:01 p.m.**

**Review of the March 13, 2024, MACA meeting minutes:**

The March 13, 2024, minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Jane Cox and seconded by Don Housley; the motion was passed unanimously.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes**

Director Hughes provided an update on the MD State Government budget process for FY2026. She reported that there is a general sense that the budget will be tight, but it is not yet certain whether MHT will be seeing a reduction or exactly how the Trust will be impacted.

Elizabeth also reminded MACA members to look at the terms of their appointments and that if anyone's terms would be expiring this year and they were not going to seek reappointment, to please let MHT know as soon as possible.

Elizabeth also mentioned that there is currently some reorganization going on within MDP, prompted (in part) by their impending office move, but that MHT is not being impacted.

**Chief Archaeologist Report — Matt McKnight**

Dr. McKnight began his report by introducing MHT's Summer Intern, Katherine (Katie) Gill. Katie is a graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland, and a current graduate student in Anthropology and Historic

Preservation at UMD-College Park. Katie began work at MHT on May 28, and is expected to be working with MHT until mid-August sometime.

Matt reports that the ABPP grant agreement for MHT's work on the Rochambeau encampments in Cecil and Harford counties was finalized late last year and that MHT staff held the two required public meetings (one in each county) for that project in March. The project will involve a good amount of remote sensing survey by Office of Archaeology, with follow-up ground-truthing by a firm hired by MHT. On the architecture side, they will be producing 1 new NR nomination and NR updated documentation on another site (Bush Tavern and Rogers Tavern).

On the Non-Cap front, Matt reports that all of the FY24 Non-Capital Grant agreements have been signed and those grant funds are now fully encumbered and research is underway. Legal boilerplate for the grant agreements for archaeology has been simplified from 33 pages to 17. The FY25 round has also launched and deadlines are published on MHT's webpage.

Staff continue to make slow, but steady progress on revisions to the archaeology *Standards and Guidelines*. Staff held meetings on December 12, February 13, and April 9 and we now have drafts of most of the chapters and at least 4 chapters with full layouts. Again, the goal is to have these sent out this year for review to MEDUSA users and others.

Zac, Steph, and Matt all re-certified their First Aid, CPR and AED training on Nov. 21 in preparation for our Field Session in June. Steph also inventoried and replaced expired items in our First Aid Kit. That training came in useful too.

MHT has sent meeting requests (via email, phone/voicemail, via the MCIA, Doodle Poll, and other means) to Piscataway leadership (Francis Gray, Natalie Proctor, Rico Newman, and Marc Tayac w/ cc to Peter Landeros) requesting a meeting RE the Potomac Creek remains and viable paths forward for their tribes under the new NAGPRA guidance. A meeting is currently scheduled for the evening of Tues., June 18 about their options RE the Potomac Creek remains.

Matt reports that he and Zac are currently consulting with the Delaware Nation of Oklahoma under NAGPRA's Duty of Care provisions on issues related to the Wye Ossuary. Recall that this is an eroding burial site on DNR land in Queen Anne's County. The Delaware have requested that MHT only undertake consultation with the Delaware Nation regarding the Wye Ossuary Reburial Project.

Matt also provided brief reports on the Scouts BSA Workshop and on the results of the Annual Field Session at Cresap's Fort which just ended last week.

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

Dr. Susan Langley reports that the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge has occupied a significant amount of the Maritime Program's time lately. Fortunately, last summer's emergency exercise with the Coast Guard was situated not far from the bridge, so data about heritage resources in this area had already been assembled and could be forwarded immediately. Additional meetings were held as the response progressed. Updates were provided by MEMA through Elizabeth Hughes, from the Coast Guard's Unified Command and other agencies through MHT's compliance staff.

Other meetings related to historic preservation during federal emergency response have included the Executive Steering Committee for the Area, the Area Contingency Planning Committee, and work with

the Dept. of the Interior to develop an Unanticipated Discoveries Plan (UDP) for this Region (RRT#3), a Compliance protocol (on which both Beth and Troy have commented), and a Job Aid for responders who may not be familiar with historic resources in general.

A Change-of-Command ceremony will be held at the end of the month at which MHT will recognize the departing Captain of the Port of Baltimore.

On March 29, Troy and Susan held two public STAMP (Shipwreck Tagging Archaeological Mgmt. Program) workshops, hosted by Assateague State Park, to provide guidance on using the kits available at the park. The most active months for tagging reports tend to be January through March when there is more storm action and the program has seen increasing participation.

NOAA invited the managing partners (MHT, DNR, and Charles County) of the Mallow Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary (MPNMS) to visit the Thunder Bay NMS in Alpena, Michigan to learn about the processes it used to develop a visitor's center and interpretive programs and how these were integrated into the community. At present, the MPNMS is about to start a feasibility study to collect the relevant data for comparable developments. Susan worked with the County to deploy the paddling buoys and upcoming visits include the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service. East Carolina University plans a field school in Aug.-Sept. at Mallow Bay which includes work by a doctoral student (ongoing) and a master's student. Also, a doctoral student from Texas A&M is undertaking research within the Sanctuary.

Troy and Susan took out the Jon boat to trial its new jet drive motor, which performed well and was easier to handle than anticipated.

Troy is on family leave and undertaking limited work from home until the end of July. However, he participated in a photogrammetry course in Massachusetts for a week and said it was extremely worthwhile. The long-awaited sub-bottom profiler is expected to arrive by June 14 and Troy has been working on developing plans to trial it.

With respect to outreach, Susan and Steph Soder participated in the Rockville Science Day. Susan was interviewed by a student from Maritime High School in Des Moines, Washington, and participated on an international panel organized by the Graduate Students Association of the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology. The panel was made up of maritime archaeologists from both North and South America and the topic was *the challenges currently faced by maritime archaeologists*.

The Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group (BAREG) has deployed the U-1105 dive buoy for the season.

### **Terrestrial Activities — Zac Singer**

Between March and June, Dr. Singer reviewed three applications for Terrestrial Archaeology permits.

Zac reported 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 will be processing the artifacts from the Field Session and preparing them for permanent curation at the NPS' Museum Resource Center (MRCE) in Landover.

Maryland Archaeology Month (MAM), April 2024 was a great success. The theme for Archaeology Month was “African Diaspora Archaeology: A Collaboration with Descendants”. Donations for MAM 2024 totaled \$4950 including \$3350 from many CRM firms, a \$350 donation from the Council for Maryland Archeology and \$1250 from Montgomery County’s Archaeology Program to assist with printing the booklet. Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, MDoT was unable to cover the costs of printing the booklet this year. The MAM Committee is very thankful for Montgomery County’s Archaeology Program for arranging the printing through their offices and covering over half of the booklet printing costs.

Due to price increases associated with printing the MAM materials, MAM ran a deficit this year (which was covered by prior year surpluses) and the committee will need to strategize for 2025, to either increase funding or decrease costs. MAM may need to have a larger digital presence and less printed materials. The MAM print run included: 150 full sized posters, 2000 mini-posters, 800 magnets, and 2000 booklets. 750 packages (1 mini-poster, 1 magnet, and 1 booklet) were mailed to stakeholders in the archeology community, 191 packages (1 mini-poster and 1 booklet) were mailed to the MD legislators, the remaining materials are being distributed to MD Arch Month Institutional Sponsors, ASM Chapters, and local Universities for distribution at public events held during archaeology month. The Maryland Archeology Month Poster designed by Scott Strickland won second place in the Society for American Archaeology’s Annual State Archaeology Poster Contest.

16 MAM events were listed on the official MD Archaeology Month Calendar of Events, which is hosted on the MAM website. Additionally, CfMA and MHT recorded interviews with the MAM booklet contributors, which were posted on Youtube. A guest blog by archaeologists with Anne Arundel County’s Cultural Resources Division highlighting excavations of the Whitehall Overseer’s Quarters supported by a FY22 MHT Non-Capital Grant was posted to the MHT blog.

On April 20th, Zac participated in the ASM Spring Symposium and presented on fluted points that he has documented in avocational collections. And on April 21st, Zac presented on the Maryland Fluted Point survey at the Natural History Society of Maryland.

Zac is planning two upcoming excavations to examine site with Paleoindian components: the “PaleoDigger” at the Barton Site in August, and excavations at the Piney Grove site in October.

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

Dr. Samford reports that the MAC Lab Expansion construction project, projected to take 15 to 18 months, started on May 13. The loading dock is under construction, as is the new isolation room under the back overhang. Demolition will begin this week in the field processing room, which will double in size when we knock down the wall between it and the current isolation room. Initial groundbreaking for the new curation wing took place earlier this week.

The Board of Public Works approved the move and storage contract with Von Paris at its June 5th meeting. After all of the official paperwork is signed, staff anticipates that the move of the oversized objects will be completed by the middle of July.

The Lab is funding the *Witnesses of Wallville* project under a grant from the NPS. The grant funds are being used to study the rural community at the end of the peninsula where the park 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. The popular booklet outlining project findings has been completed and staff will be handing them out to the public starting with the Juneteenth/Community Day celebration at the park on June 15. A display table is also planned. The Lab has completed drafts of both

interpretive panels and is working on two new sections for the StoryMap on the people of Wallville and working in Wallville.

Tricia reports that work continues 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.

Sara River-Cofield and Tricia continue to work with Greg Brown and Mary Kate Mansius on revamping the *Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland* webpage, which will be renamed *Diagnostic Artifacts*. Greg and Mary Kate 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. They have been doing some consulting, including with Montpelier in the wake of the fire that damaged their archaeology lab, and with Mount Vernon on conservation of a number of wine bottles containing cherries.

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. The cmte. held two meetings in local communities where human remains have been recovered to get local input and buy-in from folks in Queen Anne's, Charles, and Calvert counties. Future meetings will take place in Wicomico and Anne Arundel counties. The cmte. received word this week that it had a successful grant application to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for conducting DNA analysis and facial reconstruction work on some of the ancestral remains.

Three hundred people attended the 2024 Discovering Archaeology Day on April 13th. There was great representation and activities from archaeologists from across the state.

The park held its 2024 public archaeology sessions on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in May, with 102 people contributing 332 hours of work. Volunteers worked on two sites this season – at the Stearns Site (a precontact village that was investigated in the 1980s), and at a mid to late 18th century domestic site on a high bluff area directly south of the Sukeek's Cabin site. Artifact density was very light at the latter site and no subsurface features have been found. At this point staff archaeologists suspect it was the site of a briefly occupied quarter for the enslaved.

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

Dr. Henry reports that project review submittals remain at a steady volume. In the past 3 months (March, April, May), the PRC unit reviewed a total of 1,493 state and federal projects.

Dixie and Beth participated in multiple monthly and quarterly interagency meetings to facilitate agency coordination, including: MDE/COE JE meetings, MDOT SHA quarterly meeting, DNR, FEMA, BOEM Offshore wind initiatives, and more.

Beth and Dixie attended a meeting with the NPS to discuss archaeological investigations that are being carried out in preparation for proposed rehabilitation and site preservation work at Hampton National Historic Site.

Beth and Dixie (along with Zac Singer) participated in a meeting of the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) regarding potential options for the long-term preservation of the Higgins Site. Staff are currently exploring the possibility of an MHT easement with our Counsel, Adam Snyder.

Beth, Dixie, and Troy have all participated in weekly meetings with MDOT SHA, MDTA, FHWA, the ACHP, and consultants on the Francis Scott Key Bridge Rebuild project. Staff have already reviewed and provided comments on a Programmatic Agreement has been drafted to streamline the Section 106 review for this progressive design build project.

Dixie attended an all-day in-person Interagency Coordination Meeting for the MDTA's Bay Bridge Crossing Tier 2 study to discuss preliminary alternatives that have been considered for that project.

PRC staff received and reviewed MDOT/SHA's draft report that they produced for their "Native Trails to Roads" research project documenting Native American trail systems and their connection to historic roadways in Maryland. Staff are providing comments on the draft report back to SHA today, and all of the resulting data and mapping will be entered into MEDUSA.

Dixie has participated in multiple meetings with CfMA's Native American Liaison Committee (NALC) – along with Matt and Zac – to discuss their upcoming September "summit" on Section 106 and tribal consultation in Maryland. Dixie and Kari Sprengeler (MDOT SHA) will be co-presenting and providing an overview of Section 106 and the important role of consulting parties, and we have been devoting considerable time to developing our presentation.

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

The next update for the Maryland Archaeological Synthesis Project is penciled in for August 22, 2024 to keep up with the 6-month update schedule. Since the last update, 14+ site synopses have been drafted or updated.

Steph is currently working on Anne Arundel County, Calvert County, and Frederick County. Recently completed cities/counties include Annapolis and Harford, Dorchester, and Charles Counties.

Steph reports that MHT hosted its (now) Annual Scout Merit Badge Workshop on May 11 and 19. The Saturday field day scheduled for May 18 was cancelled due to rain and thunderstorms, but most of the scouts that were scheduled for Saturday were able to come on Sunday the 19th. A total of 27 scouts participated, with 21 completing the badge. One scout is scheduled to participate in a later field survey to complete the badge, and 5 received partials. Follow-up emails have all been sent to see if we can get the 5 partials to complete the remaining requirements. Five volunteers from the ASM assisted MHT over the course of the two days.

Overall, we had better attendance last year than this year, but we had 6 scouts fail to show up without notice, and 9 dropped out with less than a month's notice.

Other public outreach included a presentation for the Senior Rangers program with DNR at Bohemia Manor State Park. A total of 23 seniors (55 and older) attended and it was well received. The outreach included a quick discussion about archaeology with Q&A, passing around teaching artifacts, practicing with the atlatl and spear, and ended with a hike and showing them how to use the mdFIND app. They seemed very engaged, asked good questions, and asked for more information on public archaeology opportunities.

In April, Steph attended the Advanced Metal Detecting for the Archaeologist workshop in Malvern Hill, VA. The workshop consisted of one day of classroom work, and two days of field survey. The class was extremely helpful and so far, MHT has used the metal detector out at Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary twice, though no immediate ground-truthing was completed for either part of the survey.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **MHT Guidance on Handling Citizen Inquiries About the Disposition of Human Remains — Matt McKnight**

Dr. McKnight provided a brief overview of the guidance drafted in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, for MHT to provide in situations where an institution or a member of the general public approaches MHT with human remains and asks MHT either to take possession of the remains or to provide guidance on how to responsibly dispose of the remains in accordance with Maryland law. A number of different scenarios were outlined and steps and options for each type of situation are provided in the document. MACA members reviewed the document, but no action was taken.

**Selection of Next Meeting Date** — Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 1:00 PM in the MHT Executive Conference Room (or virtually).

After discussion of other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:17 PM, in a motion made by Jane Cox and seconded by Marian Creveling; the motion was unanimously approved.