



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY (MACA) September 11, 2024

Committee Members in Attendance:

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

Staff in Attendance:

Dixie Henry, Matthew McKnight, Patricia Samford, Stephanie Soder, Zachary Singer

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

Introduction of new committee member, Ethan Bean:

Ethan Bean, US Army Corps of Engineers, was introduced by Dr. Brighton as the newest member of MACA, replacing Joe Hoyt on the committee. Ethan brings expertise to the committee with underwater/maritime archaeological resources, and particularly from the regulatory side. The committee members welcomed Ethan.

Review of the June 12, 2024, MACA meeting minutes:

The June 12, 2024, minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Bob Wall and seconded by Don Housley; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes

No Report.

Chief Archaeologist Report — Matt McKnight

Dr. McKnight reports that MHT summer intern, Katie Gill, completed her internship on August 20. Katie is currently completing her MA at UMD, but will continue coming to Crownsville on Thursdays to complete cataloging work on the Cresap's Fort collection under an agreement with the ASM.

On the Non-Cap front, MHT received 29 Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant applications by the August 1 deadline totaling \$1,226,862.00 in requests for the \$300,000 in FY25 funds available. Nine of the applications were for archaeology projects with maybe one or two others that are “archaeology adjacent”. Staff recommendations for funding will be presented to the MHT Board at their October 17 meeting. Matt also reports that he is currently reviewing the draft technical report for St. Mary’s College of Maryland’s FY22 grant, *Tracing Piscataway History on the Ground*. That project spawned additional work at Chapel Point which is part of an FY24 project Matt is also monitoring.

Standards and Guidelines revisions are still progressing. Staff now have 5 chapters fully laid out, 2 additional chapters drafted, and a 3rd outlined. The revisions team most recently met on August 13.

The program for the 33rd Annual Workshop in Archaeology is out. Dr. Stephen Brighton will be the keynote speaker. It is going to be held on September 28 at 100 Community Place. Please spread the word widely.

Matt reports that much of his time in the last three months has been dedicated to dealing with NAGPRA inquiries, consultations, briefing letters, etc. The three really pressing issues have been consultations with the Delaware Nation RE the Wye Ossuary, repatriation of Potomac Creek remains, and responding to a letter sent out by the Senate Cmte. on Indian Affairs. A brief update on each issue was provided to committee members. Coordination exclusively with the Delaware Nation of Oklahoma continues RE the Wye Ossuary. On the issue of the Potomac Creek remains, Zac and Matt met w/ Francis Gray, Rico Newman, and Natalie Proctor (Piscataway-Conoy Tribe and affiliated sub-tribes) on June 18 to outline the processes they could use under NAGPRA to legally see the return of their ancestors. Marc Tayac and Peter Landeros (Piscataway Indian Nation) were also invited, but did not attend the meeting. A response to the Senate Cmte. is currently being finalized and will likely be sent next week.

MHT attended the CfMA sponsored *Summit of Indigenous Peoples and Archaeologists*. Dixie Henry presented on Section 106 and Scott Strickland presented on the MAC Lab facilities.

Matt reports that labwork to catalog the Cresap’s Fort artifacts is underway. Volunteers are working on the collection 2 days a week. MHT produced a 6-week post-fieldwork report that went to Josh Torres (National Capital Regional Archeologist) and Justin Ebersole (Cultural Resource Specialist for C&O Canal Park) on July 26. MHT is currently waiting on paperwork signatures so the conservation of two metal artifacts (a trade axe and a folding knife) can begin. Matt will be giving an hour-long Cresap talk in Frederick on the 24th and a segment on the dig on the PBS show *Outdoors Maryland* is expected in November.

Matt reports that in August he was also involved in fieldwork organized by Steph Soder for the Rochambeau grant in Cecil county, and ZacSinger’s PaleoDigger project at Barton (Allegany Co.).

Underwater Activities Report — Matt McKnight (on behalf of Susan Langley)

Dr. Langley reports that the Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary just celebrated its 5th anniversary. On August 17, Susan led a paddling tour for the Potomac Riverkeeper’s annual *Riverpalooza* event. East Carolina University has been working at the sanctuary under an MHT Non-Cap grant since August 26 and will be there until September 18 for a field school, focusing on two vessels (*Aowa* and *North Bend*) and they might add research in the *Mono*. In addition, there is a Texas A&M

doctoral student studying a bugeye at the Sanctuary that is not associated with the WWI fleet. The co-managers of the Mallow Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary recently held field meetings with the Bureau of Land Management and the NPS. The latter are seeking partnership opportunities, and both have funds available.

Maritime staff continue to work with the NPS on an unanticipated discoveries plan for Regional Response Team #3 (which includes 5 states), and related guidance documents such as NHPA exemptions, and job aids for non-historic preservation professionals who may encounter archaeological resources during oil and hazmat spill responses.

Maritime staff will be hosting the U.S. Coast Guard's Area Contingency Planning Committee and other area agencies and responders in Crownsville on November 13.

Although the *Shipwreck Tagging Archaeological Management Program (STAMP)* usually is most active from January to about April, recent storms brought a couple of pieces up in August. They were both in Assateague National Seashore. A citizen tagged one and the NPS has now asked for its own STAMP kits. Susan went to both the federal seashore and state parks to distribute kits and tags and replenish kits. Susan will be making a couple more and hopes to run another program at Assateague in late Fall.

Jordan Cline, our current Library and archives intern, is scanning 41 quad map-sized maps of former coastlines created by the late Dr. Peter Lade at Salisbury University. Once scanned the originals will be curated by the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

Naval History and Heritage Command is working with the Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group (BAREG) to undertake some sample collection on the U-1105 and asked MHT to review their scope of work. Susan reports that it was generally very good and they are moving forward. Troy Nowak is leading the practical component of a Nautical Archaeology Society course for the BAREG on October 5 and 6 to help new members prepare for this and other work.

Troy will be presenting information on how to record structures (including vessels) at the Archaeology Workshop on September 28.

Troy is also documenting the last loose component of the Cox log canoe brought to Crownsville and will undertake additional field documentation including sections and photography.

Susan completed an article about *Vibrio vulnificus* and its impact on maritime archaeology for the Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society (MAHS).

The annual Dive Safety Board meeting will be held in-person at MHT on November 19.

A number of years ago, Susan and Dr. Raymond Hayes undertook what started as a bit of a whimsical study as to how well archaeologists can really identify European flints and North American cherts with no contextual information. This developed into a bit more hardcore science involving X-ray Diffraction studies and the information was shared at two SHA conferences. Ray plans to set up a poster and the samples at the Archaeology Workshop.

Terrestrial Activities — Zac Singer

Between June and September, Dr. Singer reviewed one application for a Terrestrial Archaeology permit.

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 is processing the artifacts from the Field Session and preparing them for permanent curation at the NPS' MRCE in Prince George's County. The lab is also working on processing the artifacts recovered from the Barton Deep Testing (PaleoDigger) excavations.

Zac also reported that he is serving on the MHT Easement committee.

Matt and Zac continue to work on NAGPRA related coordination.

On June 17, Zac, Matt, and Steph visited Dr. Julie King's Non-Cap funded excavations at Chapel Point State Park.

On June 26 and 27, Zac and Steph conducted a geophysical survey at Evans-McKinney park as part of the Rochambeau ABPP grant. The GPR survey yielded some interesting rectanguloid anomalies to follow up on.

On July 10, Zac, Matt, and Steph conducted a geophysical survey at Cecil County Public School's office building as part of the Rochambeau Battlefield grant. No anomalies of interest were encountered.

On August 1, Zac visited the Lost Towns Project for an update on their Mayr collection Non-Cap.

On August 6, Zac, Matt, and Steph conducted a geophysical survey at Elk Landing as part of the Rochambeau Battlefield grant. The work had to be cut short, though, due to inclement weather. Follow-up survey is scheduled for October.

From August 10-14, Zac led deep testing excavations at the Barton site (Allegheny County) using the automated PaleoDigger. The excavations yielded a new likely Clovis activity area buried 2.2 meters below the surface.

On August 16, Zac visited Kat Sterner at Towson University to get an update on excavations at North Point State Park (NPSP) funded under an MHT Historic Preservation Non-Cap Grant. Dr. Sterner is studying Pre-Contact occupations at NPSP.

In August, Zac reviewed draft reports for the Archaeological Society of Maryland's FY23 Non-Capital Grant for the Field Session Excavations at Chapel Branch West (Caroline County) and Towson University's FY23 Non-Capital Grant for survey at Herring Run Park (Baltimore City).

Zac is planning excavations at the Piney Grove site in Baltimore County from October 2-8 to further sample a quarry-related site in hopes of yielding diagnostic artifacts.

MAC Lab Activities Report — Patricia Samford

Dr. Samford reports that the MAC Lab expansion construction, projected to take 15 to 18 months, started on May 13. The loading dock work is complete, and the new isolation room under the back overhang is framed up. The exterior structure of the new curation wing has been completed, with the exception of the roof, which is anticipated to go on in October. The crew is working on installing the second floor this week. Underground fuel tanks are being removed this week in compliance with current regulations and subcontractors are working on the new fire suppression system. Von Paris moved the oversize artifacts from the lab to their offsite storage site during the second week of July with no issues.

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. The Lab's focus is on the Black community and changes in the demographics of Wallville during this period. Public Archaeology program this year focused on a site associated with that community—most likely a late 18th to early 19th century quarter. Staff have participated in several outreach events about the project: at the local Juneteenth/Community Day celebration at the park on June 15, at a talk for interns at PEARL and Chesapeake Biological Lab in July, and at the Sotterley Day of Unity and Healing in August. We were approached by the Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) about working with their staff to create a small (50 square foot) temporary exhibit on Wallville for their museum. An exhibit plan and draft text have been approved by JPPM staff and CMM, and we will meet with CMM on September 19 to continue work on the exhibit.

Park staff are applying for Chesapeake Gateways grant funding to create a long-term 1,000 square foot exhibit on the Wallville community, which will be installed in the Exhibit Barn at JPPM.

Becky Moorehouse provided information on dog burials in the State's archaeological collections to Dr. Matt Hill of the University of Iowa.

Sara and Tricia continue to work with Greg Brown and Mary Kate Mansius on revamping the *Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland* project, which will be renamed *Diagnostic Artifacts*. 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.

The Conservation staff continue to ramp down for the expansion project, since the treatment lab will be directly affected by the construction. Staff 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. Nichole is co-writing a chapter for the follow-up edition to *The Conservation of Artifacts Made from Plant Materials*.

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. We held one community meeting in Wicomico County in August and will hold another community meeting on September 28 in Charles County. The working group members met with Dr. Alondra Nelson – the Harold F. Linder chair and professor in the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study on September 4 about DNA testing and privacy issues. Becky and Tricia attended a meeting with Raquel Fleskes, Professor at Dartmouth University's Historical Genomics Lab, to discuss DNA testing on the individuals that are part of the African-American Ancestral Human Remains Project.

Sara River-Cofield published an article on 300 years of darning traditions in the Fall 2024 edition of *Pieceworks* magazine. This article used artifacts from the MAC Lab collections.

Sara has also been giving talks on equestrian related topics—at the Marlboro Hunt Club and then at Clarity Riding Stable in August. She has an upcoming talk on the 18th-century stable at the Smith St. Leonard site for the Equine History Collective.

Scott Strickland participated in the CfMA Summit on September 5, presenting on the MAC Lab.

Tricia assisted with a Maryland State Arts Council film project on artifacts of Chesapeake hoodoo. Scott and Tricia provided B-Roll footage of excavations at the Spout Farm public archaeology site.

Tricia will be presenting a talk on Thursday night for the Howard County Parks and Rec Department on the archaeology of Baltimore.

Review and Compliance Activities Report — Dixie Henry

Dr. Henry reports that Project Review submittals remain at a steady volume. In the past 3 months (June, July and August), the PRC unit reviewed a total of 1,395 state and federal projects. 128 Determinations of Eligibility (DOE's) were completed in those 3 months. 112 of those were produced for MDTA's Chesapeake Bay Crossing Study.

Dixie and Beth participated in multiple monthly and quarterly interagency meetings to facilitate agency coordination, including: MDE/COE JE meetings, MDOT SHA quarterly meeting, coordination meetings with DNR, EPA, FEMA, US Coast Guard, and MDOT's interagency meeting for the FSK Rebuild project.

In August, Beth and Dixie attended a coordination meeting and site visit with the US Coast Guard at Curtis Bay Yard to meet and greet new staff, discuss current projects, and review Section 106 consultation moving forward. The Yard includes one NR listed archaeological site that is well-removed from the core working area of the facility.

In August, Beth and Dixie participated in 2 Project Review and Compliance work sessions to review all the current and pending ACHP Program Alternatives that relate to Maryland including - Alternative procedures, Exemptions, Nationwide and Prototype Programmatic Agreements, Standard Treatments, and Program Comments (a total of 49 Program Alternatives that are relevant to Maryland), all put into place by the ACHP or federal agencies to streamline 106 for particular programs or categories of undertakings or types of resources. As the ACHP continues to actively advance program alternatives, MHT staff wanted a good handle on all of the existing alternatives as they relate to MD agencies, resources, and programs. These work sessions were prompted, in part, by the ACHP's "Proposed Program Comment on Accessible, Climate-Resilient, Connected Communities." This proposed Program Comment consolidates four originally proposed Program Comments into one and has been raising some concerns regarding the potentially more limited role of SHPO's and other consulting parties in the review of various types of transportation, energy, and housing projects.

In July, Beth conducted research and prepared a detailed MHT Memo to FEMA, MHT's Archaeological Assessment and Recommendations for the Annapolis City Dock Flood Resiliency Projects in response to FEMA's request for technical assistance from SHPO. Beth and Dixie participated in a follow-up meeting with FEMA's Region 2 staff to discuss MHT's recommendations and FEMA's next steps for the identification of archaeological resources that may be impacted by the four FEMA assisted Annapolis City Dock Resiliency projects. MHT awaits submittal of the draft Scope of Work for archaeological testing, once FEMA has reviewed it. The formal Section 106 consultation for these undertakings will be handled by FEMA under our statewide Programmatic Agreement for Maryland.

Dixie attended the tribal consultation summit organized by CfMA on September 6 and co-presented with Kari Sprengeler of MDOT/SHA. They provided an overview of the Section 106 consultation process and

recommended best practices for ensuring appropriate consultation w/ Maryland's indigenous communities.

Synthesis Report — Stephanie Soder

Ms. Soder reported that she completed the most recent update to the Archaeological Synthesis Project on August 28, to keep up with the 6-month update schedule. Since the last update, 21 sites were either added or updated. Steph reported that she hit several problems during this update, so the database needed to be reconfigured so that only new and updated reports were generated instead of all 1400+ site reports. Before the next update, which is penciled in for February 12, 2025, staff will need to do more work to hopefully identify any problems and streamline the updating process.

Recently completed counties in the Synthesis database include Anne Arundel County, with Calvert County nearly completed, and Frederick currently being undertaken.

Steph is currently working with Cultural Resource Information Management staff (Greg Brown and staff) to create a MEDUSA layer for both the professional and the public synthesis database sides. The locations of the public entries will be randomized but this will still provide a visual aspect of the database instead of only searching it by county or name/number.

Over the summer, Steph participated in four *Junior Ranger* programs and three *Park Pals* programs with DNR, as well as a career fair for the program at Tuckahoe State Park. Overall, it was well-received. She reports that she has a few new outreach activities created, and that this set the stage to participate in a round-robin style fieldtrip program in October at Tuckahoe, as well as a *Senior Ranger* program with them next spring or fall. Based on the success of this year, Steph would like to pick new parks to engage with for the next summer so that we can expand the program

Since the last meeting, MHT had two Scouts complete the merit badge that they couldn't complete during our merit badge weekend this spring, bringing our total up to 23 completed merit badges (in 2024) and 4 with partial merit badges.

Steph reports that staff completed fieldwork at two sites in Elkton Maryland, and a third one was started but the second day was rained out. Fieldwork will continue in late October. Staff surveyed with the magnetic susceptibility meter, fluxgate gradiometer, and ground penetrating radar. One of the locations resulted in no anomalies. At the other site (a recreational field) there were interesting anomalies: what appears to be a historic road trace and three shallow, square features that are approximately 15 feet across. This is particularly interesting because the French ovens used during the Revolutionary War were about 16 feet across and could be round or square, so we're looking forward to getting these hopefully ground-truthed. The Town of Elkton planning department staff seem open to the possibility of us metal detecting around this area in the woods that seems to be relatively unchanged by potential landscaping of the recreational fields. We are planning to be at Bush Town (Abingdon) in Harford County either in the late Fall or early winter. Letters to Port Deposit/Bainbridge landowners were sent out to see if they would be willing to have us survey in the agricultural fields surrounding Cummings Tavern, but no response has yet been received.

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

With no other business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM, in a motion made by Bob Wall and seconded by Marian Creveling; the motion was unanimously approved.