



Maryland Department of Planning  
Maryland Historical Trust

Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor

David R. Craig, Secretary  
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MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY  
(MACA)

December 2, 2015

Committee Members in Attendance

Jane Cox  
Marian Creveling  
Robert Wall

Staff in Attendance

Beth Cole  
Dennis Curry  
Jan Gowing  
Charlie Hall  
Susan Langley

The Meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m.

Review of the minutes of September 12, 2012

The minutes were reviewed but there was not a quorum to move that they be accepted.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

Underwater Activities Report – S. Langley

Susan reported on the official initiation of the public process for the establishment of Mallow's Bay as NOAA's next National Marine Sanctuary. Two highly successful public meetings have been held and the comment period remains open until Jan. 15, 2016.

She noted that Troy Nowak and Matt McKnight undertook fieldwork around Janes Island related to Sandy grant funds and Troy held 2 very successful non-diving Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS) courses he designed for that program and is in the process for developing more; some will involve diving.

The annual Dive Safety Board Meeting was held November 12 to introduce Lt. Angela Senese (USN), who is replacing Capt. Elizabeth Montcalm-Smith, to the rest of the Board. There were no significant issues.

ASM approached the Institute for Maritime History (IMH), Susan, Troy, and the Delaware ASD about interest in a potential Maritime Chapter within ASM and other mutual opportunities for trainings and cooperative efforts. A preliminary meeting was held Nov. 21 to discuss interest and possibilities. The ASM Board decided on Dec. 5 that perhaps a chapter might not be necessary at this time but want to explore integrating maritime sections into extant courses and adding some dedicated courses, such as Troy's introductory course and Susan's ship architecture course. The latter will be offered early in the New Year as a barometer of interest and potential.

Susan referenced the completion of fieldwork on the site of the *Levin J. Marvel* and presented the data at two very successful meetings; a public one in North Beach with a full house of 400 and a presentation at Herrington Harbor to its sailing club. A nomination to the National Register for its national importance in triggering the passage of national boating safety legislation (the Bonner Act), which is pretty much what are still in use was submitted but there were questions at the State Review Committee level. It will be re-submitted in March and MACA is willing to send a letter of support.

Susan will be making presentations to the MHT Board about Mallows, about the *Levin J. Marvel* and about a partially Board-funded research project about flint and chert, which she will present in DC at the upcoming SHA conference. She also reported that she has again been elected to the national ACUA (2016-2020); she previously served 2007-2011. Her two main platforms are to encourage the organization to start lobbying States to create Maritime Programs and to make them aware of the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for protecting heritage resources during oil spills and hazmat spills and response to and clean-up of these. Realization that they have a legal responsibility may aid States in justifying the establishment of maritime programs and creating employment for the students being turned-out by the various university programs.

### Terrestrial Activities Report – C. Hall

The MHT General Collections Policy calls for creation of collection-specific policies, and the creation of the Archeology Collection Policy is the joint responsibility of the Chief Archeologist and the Director of the MAC Lab. Becky Morehouse and Charlie Hall have been tasked with the creation of the policy. Once drafted, the Archeology Collection Policy will be presented to the MACA for review and approval (as required by State law). A second meeting was held in late November.

For the Maryland Archeology Month proposals were received from the Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM) ("Archeology on the Edge: Coastal Threats to Archeological sites") and from Historic St Mary's City (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Historic Saint Mary's City's archeology program). HSMC was selected for 2016 Maryland Archeology Month (MAM) and Silas Hurry of HSMC will serve as liaison to MAM Committee. HSMC will provide graphics expertise for poster design and Silas will solicit and edit essays for the booklet

ASM submitted a Sandy Grant proposal to the MHT Threatened Sites fund to develop a model of public – private partnership for the identification, evaluation, and mitigation planning for archeological sites facing coastal threats. ASM would provide the muscle; local governments would provide professional supervision. The proposed site survey will be in Calvert County (Battle Creek). St. Mary's and Anne Arundel Counties are a proposed site evaluation. Charlie thinks that there will be a lot of weekend work this spring in Calvert and St. Mary's counties. The site for the 11-day Field Session is in Anne Arundel County and is the Peleuche site (River Farm). This proposal was favorably reviewed at Maryland Historical Trust and is now at the National Park Service for approval. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Park Service Managers annual training session will be presented along with staff from the Office of Preservation Services and will focus on MHT's terrestrial permit process. DNR is the largest land managing agency in the State and our permit is cited in their State Park regulations. The permit covers metal detecting and other activities potentially damaging to archeological sites.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). We recently completed our Revised NAGPRA Inventory which was undertaken during our Working Group process. A draft transmittal letter was sent to 18 federally recognized Indian tribes and is being circulated among knowledgeable staff and former staff members for review. We are requesting comments regarding our determination that all of the remains in our care are culturally unidentifiable. We are also requesting comments regarding our expectation that a request for transfer (under state law) of the remains recovered from the Accokeek Creek site in our care will be coming from the two state recognized Piscataway tribes.

Our Board of Trustees has provided funds to support an archeological intern this coming summer.

#### MAC Lab Activities Report – P. Sanford

While the public component of excavation at the Smith St. Leonard site is complete for the season, the field crew is digging two features in one of the buildings believed to be a slave quarter. One feature is a large (4 x 10 ft.) multi-feature cellar in front of the hearth area - and it looks like it is at least three intersecting pits. The other is a smaller (2 x 3 ft.) oval pit with an unusual undercut side that extends back almost a foot beyond the top edge of the feature. Both features contain a lot of animal bone and oyster shell, although the large feature contains a large number of iron artifacts (hoes, axes, cooking pot fragments), as well as a highly decorative brass short sword hilt.

In terms of our Transportation Enhancement grant and our MAC Lab collections database, data coding and entry is continuing. We are testing out the database structure, running queries on a sample of the sites to make sure the database is functioning properly.

The MAC Lab has won the 2016 Daniel G. Roberts award for the lab's contributions to public historical archaeology. This award is sponsored by the Society for Historical Archaeology and it will be awarded at the conference in January.

The Outlander exhibit was displayed to rave reviews at the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology conference in Fredericksburg and is now on display at a library in St. Mary's County. The MAC Lab is in the process of making this into an online exhibit.

The conservation lab has had a busy fall – seven Civil War era rifles from a winery in Northern Virginia arrived with 5 still loaded with black powder and minie balls. They have been safely drilled and the powder flushed out and conservation is proceeding. We also received foundation timbers from a 100 x 24 ft. c. 1750 ware house in Alexandria, Virginia. Also newly arrived is a buoy bell from Florida.

Accepting applications for the 2016 Gloria King Research Fellowship in Archaeology. Applications are due January 15<sup>th</sup> - please spread the word or apply yourself!

Accokeek Creek collection at the University of Michigan. Mostly domestic items from village - pottery, stone tools, bone tools, but also a small amount of human remains and some funerary objects. We have consulted with the Piscataway - met and talked with representatives of three of the four groups and their opinion is that we should make a formal request to have all of the materials returned to Maryland. Plan to contact curators there later this week with a formal request going in probably in January.

RITES Trail construction could start any day now and last into the spring, and MAC staff will monitor it for archaeological impacts, although they are expected to be minimal.

On the park, we are in the process of interviewing and hiring an assistant director.

#### Renner Cemetery Coffin Hardware Analysis - P. Sanford

Elizabeth Comer wants to do a re-analysis of the Renner Cemetery human remains and the Coffin Hardware. The purpose is to re-interpret it, make the information more publically accessible and to refine some of the dating. The proposal requests to x-ray the nails, get a more accurate dating on the coffins, and x-ray and study the buttons for dating, then photograph the items. There are 34 bone and teeth fragments that they would like to do non-destructive analysis, measure, identify what components and look at any pathologies on the bones, then try and figure out what skeletons they belong to. They would also like to scan about 100 burial photographs in order to possibly be able to compare the photos to the skeletons and get them joined back up. Apparently, during the excavation, the remains were not marked appropriately or the photo log was lost. They would like to be able to get the remains and coffin hardware by the third week of December. Patricia will send out the proposal for review and asks for each committee member to vote on it via email.

#### Review and Compliance Activities Report - B. Cole

SHA is continuing their 10 Phase II's for the MD404 project on the Eastern Shore. Beth went on two site visits with Rick Irvin and none of the sites that were visited were recommended as eligible. There are four other sites that the reports haven't come in on and Beth expects that some of the sites may be eligible. Charlie, and Beth saw a demonstration that Kirstie Unula is working on which is a draft archeological surveyapp for recording archeological site data while

out in the field. The consultants have started on the archeological research on the Annapolis Post Office and expect the report in December.

Dixie did a lot of work on outreach this fall, being involved in the presentation to DNR park managers. She did a presentation on the archeology review process. Elizabeth Hughes received a nice letter from the Superintendent of Parks thanking MHT for their staff involvement. Dixie also gave a presentation at the Annual Seminar for Grant Recipients, with DGS and the Comptroller's office, for all the folks who are awarded Bond Bills from the General Assembly. Dixie and Troy participated in the quarterly coordination meeting with the Corps of Engineers, in an effort to improve our coordination. One of the things they will be working on is an anticipated finds protocol that can be included into the issued permit, so when there are finds that arise there is not a scramble to figure out what we do next. This was generated by a find of three canons at one of the Baltimore pier projects.

Beth and Elizabeth Hughes have been asked to give a presentation to MDOT's planning council from all of MDOT's modal agencies; SHA, MTA, MD Transportation Authority, Aviation, the Port, etc., about the role Historic Preservation plays in transportation project planning. With the new administration, this will be an opportunity for Elizabeth, as Director, to have some face time with new people and reconfirm our partnership with MDOT.

#### Research and Synthesis Project – Dennis Curry

The Synthesis Project has three counties left, Montgomery, Prince George's and Anne Arundel, on the second sweep through (approximately 50 reports), and we will have synthesized every Phase II and III since CRM started. There are 1128 sites on the searchable database, which is on a more stable server. When new reports come in, they go right into the pipeline to get synthesis reports done. Matt is preparing a talk for the Society for Historical Archaeology in January. Each time he has given a presentation on the Synthesis, the usage goes up.

The Anne Arundel County Sandy grant is going toward a project in Pig Point, which is progressing well. We got word that we may be able to use tax credit money to fund the non-capital program. Elizabeth is still hoping to get secure money from the legislature.

Several of the archeologists have moved to new offices, and now the ASM library has been moved to a nice location. The archeology wet lab will be undergoing mold abatement and will cause a renovation to be made in that area. MHT will be spreading out within the building and most of the work is being done by the employees with money that the MHT Board has given us for materials.

#### Other Business

None

#### Selection of next meeting date – Wednesday, March 2, 2016

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m., in a motion made by Marian Creveling and seconded by Bob Wall; the motion was carried unanimously.