MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHEOLOGY (MACA)

June 14, 2017

Committee Members in Attendance
Bruce Terrell
Jane Cox
Joy Beasley
Marian Creveling
Joe Dent (by phone)

Staff in Attendance
Beth Cole
Charlie Hall
Dennis Curry
Dixie Henry
Elizabeth Hughes
Karen Kennedy
Patricia Samford
Susan Langley

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Review of the minutes of March 8, 2017 meeting

The minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Joy Beasley and seconded by Marian Creveling; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes
Ms. Hughes reported that the Governor’s final budget for fiscal year 2018 was especially notable as it included a return of the Maryland Historical Trust Non-Capital Historic Preservation Grant Programs. Funding for that program totals $200,000 and may be used for archaeological research and survey activities. The application deadline is August 14, 2017. Proposals for archaeological research and survey projects are strongly encouraged.

Ms. Hughes also reported that the 2017 General Assembly session was distinguished by the passage of two bills that will significantly benefit Trust programs:
• HB267; SB257 – Authorized an increase in Maryland Heritage Areas Program funding from $3 million to $6 million annually provided that these additional funds are appropriated from the state side portion of Program Open Space funding. These funds can be used to support heritage tourism development projects such as exhibit development, interpretive signage, public programming, and capital improvements involving archaeological resources.

• HB1513 – Requires the appropriation of $1.5 million to the MHT Grant Fund “subject to the limitations of the state budget.” Hopefully, this bill will lead to a significant increase in funding for the Non-Capital Historic Preservation Grant Program in FY2019.

Ms. Hughes noted that the advocacy efforts of Preservation Maryland and the Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas were critical to the passage of these bills and the retention of funding in the Trust’s various financial assistance programs.

Ms. Hughes noted that information for reappointment of members to MACA whose terms will be expiring June 30, 2018 will be sought again in the fall. She added that new Open Meeting Act training requirements for public bodies, resulting from the passage of Senate Bill 450 during the 2017 legislative session, requires that at least one member of MACA participate in a training on the Open Meetings Act and that member should be present at all meetings of the public body. Jane Cox volunteered to serve in this capacity and has completed the required training.

Underwater Activities Report — Susan Langley

Since the last MACA meeting, the Board of Public Works approved the annual submission from the MMAP. The second round of Public Scoping meetings were held for the proposed National Marine Sanctuary at Mallows Bay and the public comment period closed March 31, 2017. Thank you all for your support. NOAA reports that after preliminary sorting, 1193 comments both written and oral were received and all of these require responses. Of the total, 1003 were in support, 31 provided conditional support or took no position, and 157 were in opposition. The Secretaries of DNR in Maryland and Virginia as well as the Attorneys General for both MD and VA and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission concur and issued statements that they do not see any impact on either commercial or recreational fishing within any of the proposed Sanctuary boundaries. Nevertheless, there are a vocal few who continue to claim it will have an effect. The State, federal, and County representatives met recently with DoD at Indian Head for preliminary discussions about any concerns from the military installations within any of the proposed Sanctuary boundaries and means of resolving these. It was a positive meeting and these discussions will continue through the summer. The Final Environmental Impact Statement is planned to be completed by the end of September, at this time, in order to be able to establish and open the Sanctuary formally in 2018.

MMAP staff have been working with the USCG on a full-scale oil spill response (PREP) exercise scheduled for 3 days in September. Cultural resources will pay a role as the scenario
will involve a train derailment and contamination of the Susquehanna River by Bakken crude oil that will threaten sites on Garrett Island as well as other sites, both submerged and shoreline.

MMAP continues to provide oversight to 3 NPS Maritime Heritage Grants; two are approaching completion. One has been awarded for 2017 but NPS has not yet been granted permission to notify the recipient. MMAP plans to apply for one of these for funds to aid in 30th-anniversary projects in 2018.

Staff participated in the 3-day Discoverquest weekend in Charles County as part of the WWI centenary commemoration and judged the annual Maryland History Day competition. Lectures and events included paddling tours/lectures at Mallows Bay, lectures about maritime archaeology relating to the War of 1812 to the Daughters of 1812 and at the Maryland Veterans Museum at Patriot Park, and to NOAA’s Federal Advisory Council for Marine Protected Areas, a lecture to an archeology class at the Essex Campus of the Community College of Baltimore County, and a maritime field day held by Ocean Guardian School, J.C. Parks Elementary (120 fourth-graders). MMAP has requested and received permission from the Coast Guard to keep a private aid-to-navigation on the U-1105 year-round. A second buoy has been ordered and will be swapped out when the on-site buoy requires maintenance. This will facilitate not losing the chain in the bottom sediment and reduce the number of deep dives required to deploy the buoy. At the request of volunteer dive organizations that work with MMAP, the Dive Safety Manual is undergoing revision and update by the end of August in order to submit it to the Dive Safety Board for consideration at its annual meeting. MMAP has also purchased an AED for field projects.

During April, MMAP staff and a graduate student from East Carolina University, Lauren Christian, spent 17 days in the field in Somerset County continuing remote sensing work in the vicinity of Janes Island State Park. In May, staff assisted in preparation for the annual field session including providing support during the magnetic susceptibility survey and coordinated electronic remote sensing surveys with the field session to assist in the reconstruction of the shorelines adjacent to the study area at the time of the historic occupation of the site. A number of ASM members had the opportunity to participate and gain a better understanding of electronic remote sensing surveys involving single beam echosounders, and side scan sonar and magnetometer systems.

Also, MMAP assisted the Institute of Maritime History with remote sensing survey off Mathias Point in the Potomac seeking vestiges of Hooe’s Shipyard from the colonial era.

**Terrestrial Activities Report — Charlie Hall**

**Maryland Archeology Month 2017. Wrap-up.**

- April’s celebration of Maryland Archeology Month was a great success!
- Theme: “At the Water’s Edge: Our Past on the Brink”
- Four printed products: mini-posters (1000 @ 8.5” x 11”), Full sized posters (1100 @ 18” x 24”), magnets (1100 @ 3” x 4”), and booklets (2000 @ 40 pages including cover – 10 sheets).
• Natural and Historical Resources Division of M-NCPPC’s Prince George’s County, Department of Parks and Recreation Museum and Exhibit Support Unit provided design services for the poster and magnet, and paid for the printing of mini-posters, full sized posters, and magnets.

• The booklet, containing 10 essays and information on volunteer opportunities, was printed by the Maryland Department of Transportation’s State Highway Administration.

• USPS mailing of 820 to ASM membership, Historic Preservation Commissioners, Maryland archeologists, and the interested public, mailed March 27th.

• Courier delivery of mailing to all 188 members of the Maryland legislature on March 15th.

• 1020 booklets and 1120 full-sized posters were packaged for pickup by event sponsors, ASM chapters, archeological destinations (e.g. HSMC and JPPM), and sponsoring organizations, at the annual Workshop on Maryland Archeology (March 25th).

• Budget: Donations from consulting firms = $1,700, Donations from others = $23; total costs = $3,376, costs covered by others = $2,580; net costs = $796; balance = $927.

**Terrestrial Archeological Permits.** Five permits have been issued in 2017.

• One to St. Mary’s College of Maryland for construction of a handicap ramp at the Cobb House.

• Two on lands of the Department of Natural Resources, one for construction of an interpretive trail at Catoctin Furnace, and one for the Towson Field School investigations of the Elkridge site.

• St. Mary’s College of Maryland was issued a permit for their continued investigations of the Calvert House yards, and for emergency mitigation efforts that occur through April 30, 2018. This “annual permit” represents a negotiated agreement between HSMC and MHT that defines “emergency mitigation efforts” as those for which there is little lead time, that are not gateways to larger projects, and that involve only monitoring or a few shovel test pits. Real-time reporting, including a brief description and a location map, as well as an annual report that includes all such efforts with results, is also called for.

**Outreach to Native American tribes.** Anticipated Activity.

• There has been no activity associated with our outreach regarding the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act inventory update, and our anticipated disposition of those remains in our collection that we have identified as culturally affiliated with the non-federally recognized Piscataway tribes. Anticipated activity includes another round of attempted email contact, as well as attempted telephone contact, with Delaware Tribe of Indians. A second letter will be sent to all 18 tribes contacted in February of 2016 requesting any comments prior to sending our inventory update to the National NAGPRA office for publication in the Federal Register.
National Park Service Sandy Recovery Grant  Update.

- The following activities are completed:
  - A draft report of the 2016 Field Session at the River Farm site was submitted on May 28th.
  - Dr. Tim Horsley’s geophysical survey of the Lower Brambley site was completed on February 20th (report pending).
  - Testing effort of the Calverton Site with Kirsti Uunila of Calvert County was conducted as the 2017 Tyler Bastian Field Session, May 26th – June 5th (report pending).

- The following activities are anticipated:
  - Special analysis, most likely involving a soil scientist, will be conducted at the River Farm, Lower Brambly, and Calverton sites this Summer.
  - A technical writer will author “case studies” regarding the approaches, successes, and lessons learned, in each of the three counties involved in the study.

2017 Field Session  Calverton, Calvert County

- May 26th (Friday) – June 5th (Monday – note that last day was canceled due to weather)
- Kirsti Uunila, Calvert County Department of Community Planning and Building, served as Principal Investigator.
- Don and Jean McDougall, property owners, hosted.
- Unofficial attendance tallies:
  - ASM 174 volunteer days (daily counts 6 to 30, mean 17, unique volunteers ~50)
  - MHT 54 person days (daily counts 3 – 13, mean 5)
  - Calvert County 10 person days (Kirsti)
  - Lost Towns 4 person days
  - SMCM 5 person days
  - Total: 255 person days

- Four investigative efforts:
  - Magnetic Susceptibility Survey (pre-Field Session)
    - Geophysical survey method identifies areas of archeological interest
    - Approximately 800 data points collected on 5 meter interval
    - Gratifying correspondence between structures platted in 1682 and magnetic susceptibility identified Hot Spots.
  - Shovel Test Pit Survey
    - Limited survey (10 STPs) in area where magnetic susceptibility was not possible due to vegetation
  - Beach Collection
    - Low tide daily collection of artifacts from beach to south of site
    - Conducted in 10 m linear segments
  - Unit Excavation
    - Initial 1 x 2 m “test” units (3)
Subsequent 2 x 2 m units clustered in four areas:

- East – 3 2x2m units and 2 1x2m units – 1682 unlabeled structure
- East-Central – 3 2x2m units and 1 1x2m unit – 1682 unlabeled structure
- West-Central – 2 2x2m units and 2 1x2m units – post-1682 structure (?)
- West – 2 2x2m units and 1 1x2m unit – Tawney dependency

Results:

- Artifacts:
  - high density of oyster shell (prehistoric Woodland shell midden – especially in East, East-Central, and West-Central areas)
  - moderate density of brick fragments
  - moderate number of nails, largely wrought and annealed (burned)
  - low number of period-appropriate artifacts, including imported 17th century ceramics, wine bottle glass, a smoker’s companion, etc.
- Features:
  - One burned-earth feature (Native American hearth?)
  - One large trash-filled feature (possible cellar)
  - One shallow rectangular feature (?)
  - One probed but not excavated “hollow” feature (well?)
- Disturbances:
  - Tractor-facts: circular stains on close and regular interval
  - Perk test
- Conclusions:
  - 17th century site of Calverton is present on McDougall property (at least partially)
  - Subplowzone integrity is present
Calverton site with magnetic susceptibility results and investigative efforts indicated (McKnight)
MAC Lab Activities Report — Patricia Samford

The grant-funded website with a searchable database of MAC Lab went live in April. The website is named “Maryland Unearthed: A Guide to Archaeological Collections at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory” and contains data on over 4,000 contexts from 238 sites whose collections are at the lab. The Navy has agreed to give us $10,000 to add Navy-owned sites to the database. The final report for this grant has been submitted to State Highways.

The lab held two two-day workshops; one in April and the other in mid-May, with a full registration of 20 participants for each session. Ed Chaney did a session on projectile points, Mara Kaktins of Ferry Farm ran a workshop on glass, Nichole Doub on conservation and Sara Rivers Cofield and Rebecca Morehouse had a session on collections management.

Public Archaeology is currently underway and will run until July 1. Despite the rainy weather, participation numbers and hours are up from last year. This year we are focusing on the slave quarter area.

A new section on bone handled toothbrushes has been completed for the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland webpage and the North Midlands-type slipped earthenware has been expanded to include a more complete dating and identification essay and many more examples. Revisions have been made to the Prehistoric Ceramics and Projectile Point sections of the Diagnostic Artifacts website. The Mount Vernon Archaeology Department is allowing us to use some of their finds on our website as well. A page on table glass is under development.

We awarded two Gloria King Research fellowships in 2017. One fellowship went to Zac Singer from the University of Connecticut, who will be looking at the use of weathering amber chalcedony at 18BA483 (Piney Grove). The second fellowship was awarded to Katelyn Kean, a St. Mary’s College of Maryland graduate who has been working at Montpelier. She is doing spatial analysis on two slave quarter sites in Calvert County: the Roberts Site and Smith St. Leonard.

Lab staff picked up 70 boxes of artifacts from Catholic University. These collections, primarily prehistoric sites excavated by Bill Gardiner over the years will need to be inspected and rehoused.

In conservation news, the new conservation treatment database developed by Nichole and Greg Brown is up and running. Julie Flynn joined the staff earlier this week as a 12-week contractual employee. She will be cleaning, documenting and preparing for rehousing the Bald Friar petroglyphs.

Three lab staff members have written and submitted chapters for an edited volume entitled New Life for Old Collections. Editors for the volume are Rebecca Allen and Ben Ford and the volume is to be published by the University of Nebraska Press.
Personnel - Annette Cook’s final day of employment at the lab was April 28th. Sara Rivers-Cofield went out on maternity leave on April 27th and gave birth to Roderick Clark Cofield that same day. Francis Lukesic was made a permanent employee at the end of May, filling the position left vacant by Caitlin Shaffer, and we will be hopefully soon advertising to fill Francis’ vacant position.

Review and Compliance Activities Report — Beth Cole and Dixie Henry

- The Review and Compliance Unit continues to handle a high volume of reviews, including review of individual projects and Phase I and II archeological reports. They also participated in numerous project specific meetings/site visits as well as targeted outreach efforts to improve agency/program coordination.

- Beth has been coordinating with SHA’s new Cultural Resources Group Leader, Steve Archer, on routine as well as programmatic issues. SHA, MHT and FHWA are negotiating amendments to Maryland’s Programmatic Agreement for Minor Highway Projects which is set to expire in September 2017. The amendments will extend the duration of this effective agreement and provide further efficiencies in the agencies’ consultation efforts under Section 106. The agencies also executed a Memorandum of Agreement for the US 219 project to resolve its adverse effects on historic properties including the Little Meadows Archeological District. The agencies reached consensus on a draft treatment plan for the district, which will be finalized in conjunction with completing construction design. The treatment plan entails an integrated program of data recovery, research, and public interpretation. Critical unresolved issues include the ownership and disposition of artifacts recovered from private property by the Phase I and II to date, as well as upcoming Phase III work.

- Beth revised a Request for Proposals for conducting Phase I/II archeological investigations for the proposed National Sailing Hall of Fame (NSHOF) project in Annapolis. The investigations are a requirement of the Programmatic Agreement among MHT, DNR, and NSHOF who is leasing the state-owned land from DNR for their proposed project. Design plans have not yet been developed for the undertaking. NSHOF has issued the RFP and is seeking proposals from consulting firms to conduct the work.

- Beth coordinated with the City of Frederick and Goodwin and Assoc. regarding completion of Phase I archeological investigations for the Monocacy Blvd. Central Section, covered under a MOA with the COE. The MOA required the City to complete the archeological investigations once it had obtained ownership of parcels to which access had been denied during original survey efforts. Construction had inadvertently begun before completion of the archeology and local advocates notified MHT about their concerns. Upon contact from MHT, the City immediately halted construction and had Goodwin proceed with the Phase I and a damage assessment. Based on the damage assessment, it does not appear that the construction initiation caused any damage to archeologically sensitive areas. Completion of the Phase I work is underway.
• Beth participated in a NPS – National Capital Region Section 106 training for park superintendents, maintenance chief, and cultural resources staff and gave a presentation on Working with the SHPO. The training was well attended by the region’s park staff and offered good opportunities for furthering our NPS partnership.

• Beth and Charlie met with facilities staff from St. Mary’s College of Maryland to discuss improved coordination with MHT for both compliance purposes and issuance of terrestrial archeology permits for work on campus. MHT and SMCM will be working to develop a Programmatic Agreement to standardize and streamline coordination for the College’s emergency and minor projects and pursue other permit efficiencies.

• Dixie and Beth continue to work with involved federal and state agencies to help streamline the Section 106 review of Ellicott City flood recovery assistance, including actions assisted or permitted by the COE, MDE, FEMA, NRCS, and DHCD.

• Dixie and Beth met with DNR and Charles County Recreation and Parks regarding the County’s proposed lease of a portion of Chapel Point State Park, anticipated low impact development actions, and associated archeological issues. DNR will retain ownership of the park and be responsible for coordinating environmental review of any planned actions.

• Dixie and Beth attended and helped with planning/logistics for MHT’s Weather It Together workshop. Dixie organized the session presented by the Corps of Engineers – “Planning and Mitigation: Introduction to Army Corps’ Flood Proofing Technical Assistance.” Representatives from the Corps’ Planning Division discussed various flood-proofing techniques, recent and ongoing flood-proofing studies (including the Ellicott City study), and the role of the Corps as an important resource for local governments and communities striving to reduce their flood risk and protect their cultural resources.

• Dixie and Beth, along with Elizabeth Hughes, have had multiple meetings with DHMH and the MD Stadium Authority regarding possible development opportunities and potential effects on historic properties here at the Crownsville State Hospital property. In order to make an informed evaluation of the property’s present historical significance and contributing resources, a Determination of Eligibility form would need to be prepared with an updated historic context for the district and a comprehensive list of contributing and non-contributing buildings. Prior to any construction or ground-disturbing activities, Phase II testing would also need to be conducted at two archeological sites in an effort to interpret the sites’ boundaries and assess their eligibility for the National Register.

• Dixie coordinated with MDE, DNR, and Great Bay Solar to assess the impacts of a permit violation when a laydown area and an employee parking area were installed within the boundaries of archeological site 18SO371 at the Great Bay Solar PV Plant Site #1 – an area that was to be avoided and preserved in place during construction given the presence of potentially significant early-19th century deposits and a small family cemetery associated with the Sidney Miller farmstead. Avoidance of site 18SO371 and compliance with MHT’s recommendations were included as conditions of the MDE authorization and the CPCN license. On March 21, 2017, MHT was notified by MDE and HB Solutions that
subcontractor Dixie Construction had installed laydown and parking areas within the boundaries of site 18SO371. As noted by Phoenix Solar, this error occurred because the site boundaries had not been transferred to the Civil Issue-for-Construction Drawings. Upon discovering the permit violation, MDE and HB Solutions instructed Dixie Construction to remove all equipment from the area and to install signs indicating that no further disturbance is to take place. Following our review of the information and site photographs that had been provided to MHT, we provided recommendations (protective fencing, correction/revision of all site plans, evaluative testing and appropriate site treatment) in an effort to address the permit violation and the impacts to site 18SO371.

- Dixie also prepared copies of the Great Bay Solar project file and Phase I archeological survey report for the Office of the Attorney General in response to a Public Information Act (PIA) request from the Concerned Citizens Coalition in Princess Anne, MD.

- Dixie attended the annual Power Plant Research Advisory Commission meeting to discuss upcoming and ongoing Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) cases such as the Biggs Ford Solar project, the Mattawoman Energy Natural Gas project, and the BGE Baltimore Harbor Transmission Line project.

Research and Synthesis Project — Dennis Curry

Matt McKnight added 15 additional synopsis reports to the archeological synthesis database in the past three months. Sites were added in Anne Arundel County and Annapolis.

Matt attended the Middle Atlantic Archeological Conference in Virginia Beach on March 16th-19th, and presented research on evidence of a contact period component at Biggs Ford (18FR14) uncovered during the 2013-2015 ASM field sessions.

A considerable amount of Matt's time was dedicated to preparing for the ASM field session: establishing and surveying in an excavation grid for the site, preparing preliminary site maps, and assisting with the collection and interpolation of magnetic susceptibility data for the placement of test units. The latter part of May was dedicated solely to the excavations at 18CV22.

In addition, Matt gave presentations to a second-grade class in Howard County in March ("The Tools Archeologists Use") and the Monocacy Chapter of ASM ("Persistent Place, or Just Passin' Through? The Contact Period Occupation at Biggs Ford (18FR14)”) in April.

The 26th Annual Workshop in Archeology was held on March 25, 2017. Nearly 100 people heard presentations on the slaves of Mount Vernon, resistance landscapes in Dismal Swamp, hazard mitigation for archeology, colonial fortifications, basic lab procedures, the Ellicott City flood and MHT’s response, a laser scanner demonstration, and new research on the Higgins Paleoindian site.
Staff continued to monitor two grant projects: Pig Point and related sites (funded by the Maryland Legislature) and Anne Arundel County sites affected by erosion (funded by NPS Hurricane Sandy money).

The map-based version of Medusa (incorporating standing structure inventories, archeological site files, and the synthesis project) was launched on May 1, 2017. Reactions from users have been very favorable.

The MHT Library reorganization is still pending.

Various Trust staff members continue to assist the National Park Service with the development of the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail. This massive water trail project is proposed to extend from Virginia to New York, and the SHPO offices from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York are being tapped for interpretive data relevant to the project.

Eight candidates applied for the MHT 2017 Summer Internship in Archeology, and four were interviewed. Ryan Miranda, who holds a BA in Anthropology from Washington College and will be attending East Carolina University for graduate studies in their maritime program, was selected for the position. Ryan began work on May 24, and immediately started helping with the annual field session, where he served as field lab director. He will also be helping Charlie Hall with report preparation, and assisting Troy Nowak with maritime projects.

Staff assisted with two artifact collection-related matters. The first concerns upgrade of Historic Annapolis’ Archaeology in Annapolis collections and transfer to the University of Maryland library. A memorandum of agreement is under development, with MHT’s role and ownership of the artifacts yet to be resolved. The second dealt with a series of collections excavated in the 1970s-80s and stored at Catholic University’s Anthropology department. The building in which these artifacts were stored is slated for demolition (due to 2011 earthquake damage), and CUA approached the Trust looking for a new curation facility. Staff from the MAC Lab retrieved 60-some boxes of artifacts from more than a dozen sites and integrated them into JPPM’s collections; a search for associated paperwork and records is now underway.

On May 14-16, Dennis Curry, Greg Brown, and Mary Kate Mansius participated in a seminar on 17th century colonial encounters in the Potomac Valley held at Stratford Hall, Virginia. Thirteen participants reviewed and critiqued 19 draft chapters for an NEH-sponsored book.

Other Business
None.

Selection of next meeting date — September 20, 2017

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m., in a motion made by Bruce Terrell and seconded by Marian Creveling; the motion was carried unanimously.