

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHEOLOGY
(MACA)

December 4, 2019

Committee Members in Attendance

Don Housley, Jane Cox, Marian Creveling, Bruce Terrell (By Phone), Joy Beasley (By Phone)

Staff in Attendance

Matt McKnight, Karen Golder, Susan Langley, Beth Cole, Dixie Henry, Charlie Hall, Elizabeth Hughes, Anne Raines, Patricia Samford (By Phone)

The meeting called to order at 1:04 p.m.

Review of the minutes September 2019 MACA meeting minutes

The September 11, 2019 minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Don Housley and seconded by Marian Creveling; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes

The outlook for the fiscal year 2021 budget is generally positive, but funding of the Maryland Historical Trust's various grant programs would not be announced until the release of the Governor's budget which is due no later than January 15, 2020. At this time, the Maryland Historical Trust's Director is unaware of any legislation expected to be introduced this session that will have a particular impact on archeology.

Underwater Activities Report — Susan Langley

The report, *Terrestrial and Underwater Archeological Surveys, Janes Island State Park, Somerset County, Maryland* was completed by Troy Nowak. This two-volume report represents a multi-year Hurricane Sandy Disaster Recovery Project, funded by the National Park Service Historic Preservation Disaster Relief Fund.

Governor Hogan, Secretary McCord, Secretary Haddaway-Riccio of DNR, Charles County Commission President Reuben Collins II, and Dr. Neil Jacobs, Under Secretary of Commerce and Rear-Admiral Tim Gallaudet of NOAA were joined by Mervyn Savoy and Mario Harley of the Piscataway peoples as well as about 400 representatives or organizations and agencies as well as individuals and community supporters to formally designate the Mallows Bay - Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary. This is the first new Sanctuary to be established in almost 20 years, the first in Maryland, and the first in a riverine environment. East Carolina University has proposed a field school for May-June 2020 and may be interested in longer term field commitments as well as graduate students interested in these topics. A UMES doctoral student has also expressed an interest in undertaking research in the Sanctuary. Organizations are already booking paddling tours for the upcoming year. MDP just announced that the Sanctuary would receive a Maryland Sustainable Growth Award; nominated by DNR.

In the Minutes for the last meeting, Susan described the dendrochronological testing her program funded to obtain a date for the vessel remains at Martinak State Park. The results indicate that it is a very early Pungy or a vessel form developing toward a Pungy. There are no historic Pungeys remaining; the *Lady Maryland* is a replica. The park had contacted Nichole Doub to request an assessment of the vessel's condition, which was surprisingly good. While the testing was being done, members of the public stopped by to ask questions and DNR expressed concern that they were not able to interpret it better. Since 2019 is the 50th anniversary of the recovery of the second half of the vessel, Nichole and Susan developed a poster, a weatherproof version, and printed 1000 color brochures to assist and will provide DNR with the electronic template to reproduce additional materials when these are needed.

Some outreach activities included hosting a free public lecture in October by Aaron Hamilton about his research on the U-1105. Susan represented MHT on at panel at the National Aquarium as part of the Blue Beacon Series. Of the eight National Park Service Maritime Heritage Grants being managed by MHT, 4 have been completed and closed out.

Upcoming activities include, Susan attending the Society for Historical Archaeology Conference in Boston, where she will complete her final term on the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA) but will continue to serve on the Governmental Affairs and UNESCO Committees and will join the Heritage At Risk Committee (HRAC) addressing climate change. She will continue to Chair the Government Managers Meeting, will co-present a poster session with Raymond Hayes that is an outgrowth of her previous flint/chert research, and will mentor 3 students (TAMU, UWF and U of Haifa, Israel).

Terrestrial Activities Report — Charlie Hall

Permits for Terrestrial Archeology

We have received and processed two applications for permit to conduct terrestrial archeology on State-owned lands since our last meeting in September, bringing the total number to nine for 2019. Both of the current permits were for surveys on Maryland Military Department lands; Camp Fretterd in Baltimore County, and the Havre de Grace Military Reservation in Harford County. The Havre de Grace survey was conducted without a permit as the consultant was unaware of the need for one, highlighting an educational opportunity for both State agencies and consulting firms.

Maryland Archeology Month 2020

The Kick-Off meeting was held on October 29th here in Crownsville. Four of the five institutional sponsors (Historic St. Mary's City, M-NCPPC Prince George's County; Council for Maryland Archeology, MHT, Archeological Society of Maryland). The Maryland Department of Transportation/State Highway Administration, committed after the meeting to their generous contribution of again printing the booklets.

Eleven proposals for the theme of the event had been received prior to the meeting. Discussion among the Committee resolved these into four possible themes:

- African American Archeology
- Archeology with a Capital S (for Science)
- Avocational – Professional Collaborations
- Prehistoric Ceramics in Maryland.

Ranked voting resulted in the selection of the collaboration theme with a focus on the Field Sessions. Potential theme statements include:

- Saving the Past Together.
- Partners: the Profession and the Public in Pursuit of the Past
- Partners in Pursuit of the Past: the Archeological Society of Maryland and the Maryland Office of Archaeology
- Partners in Maryland Archaeology: 50 Field Sessions
 - Or 50 Years in the Field

A poster that highlights the image used for the ASM websites homepage (multiple people working at the Biggs Ford site) is being considered.

Booklet essays will likely include

- a summary/statistical overview of the 49 Field Sessions conducted so far (historic/prehistoric, regions/counties, etc).
- Tyler Bastian on the origins of the Field Session/historical perspective
- The perspective of the volunteer
- The perspective of the property owner
- The perspective of the Principal Investigator
- etc

Workshop in Maryland Archeology

The Workshop will be held on March 28, 2020. Dr. Travis Parno of Historic St. Mary's City will present the keynote presentation on a non-capital grant funded project to locate the 1643 fort. Other presentations will include an update on investigations of the Elkridge site, the recently concluded work at the Eastern Shore Cloverfields site, and the prehistoric overview CAT workshop.

Cemetery Issues

Since the last MACA meeting we've received a Public Information Act request for one of the cemetery consultations conducted (North Point, Friends Meeting House, Dundalk).

A Friends group with the Cromwell Valley Park in Baltimore County inquired regarding reputable and qualified ground penetrating radar operators. In addition to providing guidance, they were advised of their consultation obligation under Real Property article of Maryland Code § 14-121

1.

Grants

One FY2018 non-capital grant, reporting the Biggs Ford (18FR14) investigations, is still open. Several authors have submitted their drafts. One FY2019 grant is still open: remote sensing at the John Wesley Church in Oxford. The final report of the 2018 field session has recently been submitted, and the closing of that FY2019 grant is imminent.

Other Activities

With Matt McKnight and Becky Morehouse worked to revise Maryland human remains regulations (COMAR 05.08.07, Transfer of Human Remains and Associated Funerary Objects) in order to comply with a consensus statement of the Working Group on Native American Human Remains:

MHT, in consultation with the Working Group, shall seek changes to state regulations found at COMAR 05.08.07.10 that establishes The Burial Sites and Objects Review Committee in order to (1) change the membership to ensure equal representation from the Maryland Indian community and the Maryland archeological community, (2) to redefine the duties to include review of study proposals for the seven significant and unique groups among the remains in MHT's collection, and for the treatment of future discoveries. (January 24, 2011 meeting of the Working Group on Native American Human Remains.)

With Matt McKnight reviewed 41 properties currently subject to MHT preservation easement that are under consideration for elimination of the easement.

With Matt McKnight and Troy Novak, I attended GSSI training for the UtilityScan ground penetrating radar in Nashua, NH, on November 7th and 8th.

Participated in remote sensing data collection at the Biggs Ford site on November 21st and 22nd.

Cataloging of the 1969-1970 Tyler Bastian collection continues.

MAC Lab Activities Report — Patricia Samford

Patricia Samford and Becky Morehouse attended the November 1st reburial ceremony for two sets of human remains from the Smith Price family cemetery. These 19th-century remains are from the family cemetery of the founder of the Asbury United Methodist Church in Annapolis and the remains were transferred from the lab to the church for study and reburial. Facial reconstruction took place for one of the individuals, although initial results of DNA analysis suggest it was too degraded to establish a connection with living Smith Price descendants.

The annual MAC Lab workshop was held on October 3-4 and was filled at 20 participants. Sessions were held on colonial tobacco pipes, conservation, artifact illustration and 19th-century ceramics.

Sara and Tricia are continuing to work on a project that will completely reformat the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland website to make it mobile-accessible and easier to search.

The final two shipments of collections from the former BCUA still have not arrived at the lab.

Becky Morehouse and Patricia Samford have been consulting with Mark Leone and Adam Fracchia of the UMD College Park about steps needed to get the Archaeology in Annapolis and Eastern Shore collections to the MAC Lab.

Collections from Zekiah Fort in Charles County and the Lower Brambly Site in St. Mary's County (believed to be the location of the village Secowocomo shown on the John Smith Map) were turned over to the lab by Dr. Julie King this fall.

About 40 boxes of artifacts from the Evergreen Collection were returned to the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum this fall. The artifacts, which were primarily prehistoric, were from multiple collectors, some dating back to the late 19th century. Most were from Maryland, but the collection included artifacts from all over the United States and parts of Europe. This collection had been at the lab for many years and turned out to be a loan, rather than a gift.

Sara Rivers Cofield has started working on a study of equestrian artifacts from collections in Virginia and Maryland. This work has been funded by a \$25,000 grant from the Conservation Fund. The results of this research will be used to create new sections of the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland page, as well as a book publication.

Sara Rivers Cofield was elected to a three-year term on the board of the Society for Historical Archaeology.

The conservation lab staff completed the final report on the Skiffe's Creek conservation assessment from 50 17th- and 18th-century sites in the Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown area. The funding for this project came from Dominion Power as part of the mitigation for a gas line being constructed across this area.

Other projects of interest in the Conservation department: the lab did treatment on the central gun turret cannon carriage from the Monitor for the Mariner's Museum in Newport News, Virginia. We have also begun to undertake conservation on a number of artifacts from the collections of the New York State Museum, as well as artifacts from Monticello and Mount Vernon.

Patricia Samford presented a paper on the Baltimore Aged Home archaeological project with the Huntingtown High School Archaeology Club at Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology meetings in Lake George, New York.

Personnel related news:

Conservator Heather Rardin was made a permanent employee this fall, moving into a position vacated late last year by Gareth McNair-Lewis. We have submitted paperwork for rehiring in the contractual conservator position formerly held by Heather.

Our hiring of a contractual employee to provide archaeological monitoring of ground disturbance during the Patterson House renovation is on hold while we wait for funds for the larger renovation project to be released.

Lab is in the process of hiring two interns – one to help with curation related tasks and public archaeology, and the other to assist Sara Rivers Cofield with some of her regular job duties during the time she is working on the two year Equestrian artifacts grant.

Ed Chaney announced his retirement as of the end of January 2020.

Review and Compliance Activities Report — Beth Cole and Dixie Henry

- The Review and Compliance Unit continues to handle a large volume of reviews, including review of individual projects and Phase I and II archeological reports – particularly for proposed new solar energy and transportation projects. They participated in numerous project specific meetings/site visits as well as targeted outreach efforts to improve agency/program coordination. Beth and Dixie regularly participate in monthly interagency meetings with MDE, COE, MDOT SHA to address cultural resources issues for a wide range of projects.
- Review and Compliance is down one staff person due to a vacancy since mid-October so Beth and Dixie are handling additional workload on behalf of the unit. Beth has completed the paperwork for the hiring process which is awaiting approval and action from MDP/DBM.
- Beth continued research and development for the proposed E106 electronic submittal and response process for MHT's Compliance program, in coordination with Greg Brown. She prepared a Project Description and Flow Chart and submitted to Greg for coordination with MDP IT.
- Beth and Troy attended a day-long interagency presentation and tour sponsored by the Corps of Engineers of the University of Maryland's Horn Point Facility and its oyster aquaculture initiative – a collaborative venture among the COE, UMD, DNR, and non-profit environmental organizations.
- Dixie and Troy attended the MHT/Corps of Engineers coordination meeting at the Baltimore District Office on September 20, 2019. Agenda items included a discussion of the appropriate use of MHT's online project database, coordinating the complex state and federal review processes for large-scale solar projects, and an overview of the Corps' updated

template for their Memorandum of Agreement documents. The next coordination meeting with the Corps is scheduled for January 8, 2020.

- Dixie and Troy also assisted with a 2-day remote sensing survey project at the Biggs Ford Site in Frederick County.
- Dixie participated in the hiring process for the Research Archeologist position in MHT's Office of Research, Survey and Registration – reviewing over 20 applications, conducting phone interviews and participating in 7 in-person interviews of the most qualified candidates.
- Upcoming meeting: Dixie will be meeting with DNR and Charles County staff on December 9, 2020 to discuss proposed improvements to Chapel Point State Park, the State/County partnership in the management of that particular park, and any potential historic preservation issues with the proposed park improvement plans.
- Project Update: Elizabeth Hughes sent a letter (dated September 19, 2019) to DNR, asking for an update on the status of the Phase III data recovery investigations at site 18ST61 at Point Lookout State Park in St. Mary's County. The Phase III fieldwork was completed during June-July of 2018, but the curation and conservation of the recovered artifacts, the preparation of a Phase III report, and the development of appropriate public interpretation has not yet been completed. DNR replied on November 13, 2019 – stating that DNR has now solicited a proposal for the remaining work elements and the work can proceed as soon as DGS approves the proposal.

Research and Synthesis Project — Matthew McKnight

Chief Archeologist's Report and ORSR Report

The Archaeology of Colonial Maryland book is done. It's out and available from MHT Press - \$35 hardbound, \$20 Paperback

A significant amount of time in October and November went towards the hiring process for our Research Archeologist position. After 25 phone interviews and 7 in-person interviews, we offered the job to Dr. Zachary Singer, who accepted the position and will begin working with us effective January 1st.

On the NonCap front, Matt still has one FY18 NonCap outstanding...The 1634 Fort Project with Historic St. Mary's City. The completion of that project is imminent. FY19 NonCaps managed by Matt include the expanded survey at Sotterley, Jug Bay survey, and Fishing Bay Survey, all of which are on schedule or ahead of schedule.

The Workshop in Archeology will be held on Saturday, March 28, and Travis Parno (HSMC) has agreed to be the keynote speaker...discussing the search for the 1634 Fort at St. Mary's (funded by MHT).

MHT awarded four FY20 Noncapital grants with an archeological component: \$16,000 to the Town of Perryville for remote sensing and a comprehensive GIS of archeological resources associated with Ridgers Tavern and the Lower Ferry Park; \$37,000 to Anne Arundel County for a project to curate, process, and fully catalog the Ogle collection (donated to the county in 2009), as

well as to produce new/updated MHT site forms and to produce a final report; \$15,000 for the Annual Field Session (at a location TBD); and \$30,000 for a survey and testing project by CWAR, University of Delaware, and others looking at Parson's Island. This represents \$98,000 or just under 1/3 of the \$300K available.

Matt also worked with the Maritime unit in September and October to identify options for an boat and equipment storage facility. MHT has identified just under 1 acre of land behind the extant Crownsville Hospital Ctr. firehouse location where we would like to build a pre-fab steel building and parking lot/turn-around. In October, Elizabeth inquired with the MD Department of Health for transfer of this property.

We are still in the process of drafting some changes to our regs relating to human remains and funerary objects in the Trust's care. We have legal looking at some drafted changes now, and based on their input, we plan to make modifications and hopefully bring something forward early in the year.

Release of the Archeology Flood paper is imminent, which several on the archeology staff have been working on periodically.

Charlie, Troy and Matt were away November 6-8 for GPR training in Nashua, NH. They also had a chance to test the equipment at Biggs Ford on the 21st and 22nd. Gradiometer data was collected across the whole site, and GPR data was logged in the western portion of the site, where we haven't done much archeology.

Matt I also dedicated a good bit of time to the easement audit, which will be discussed later.

Other Business

Discussion of Remote Sensing Guidance for Staff — (Matt McKnight)

Easement Audit/Termination – Matt McKnight

Matt provided an update to MHT's "desk audit" of the archeological potential of easement properties being evaluated for termination under a policy set by MHT's Board of Trustees at its meeting on May 16, 2019. In general terms, easements which will be terminated fall into three categories: 1) certain easements acquired through Federal Grant programs; 2) certain easements acquired through MHT's Capital Loan program; and 3) certain easements acquired through State bond bills. Easements acquired through Federal grants did not include any properties for which archeological protections were included in the easement provisions. Those 9 easements were not a part of the desk audit. Those acquired through Capital Loans are being converted to term easements, or terminated if the required term has passed, regardless of their National Register eligibility. Those 36 properties were also not a part of the desk audit. A final group of 42, all bond bill easements, were included in the desk audit. Bond bill easements are eligible for termination under certain conditions, including that the property under easement is not individually listed in or individually eligible for listing in the National Register. Additionally, the Director may determine that an easement is not eligible for termination if the protected property is of a type not adequately represented in MHT's easement portfolio. Therefore, the desk audit focused on whether the bond bill easement properties being evaluated for termination are individually listed or individually eligible for the National Register, and whether they are of a type not adequately represented in MHT's easement portfolio.

Matt and Charlie completed their review and desk audit in October, and on November 6th, they sent a letter to MACA providing a list of 9 easements (8 properties) which possess high archeological potential, and which are under-represented in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP). Also included were detailed descriptions of the various properties on the list and their archeological potential.

After discussion, a motion was made by Chairperson Cox: Whereas the Chief Archeologist has found that the properties protected by the 9 easements listed in his correspondence from November 6, 2019 have a high potential for possessing intact archeological deposits and are under-represented in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties , the Advisory Council makes a recommendation that the Director retain the existing easements on these properties.

The motion was Seconded by Marian Creveling and unanimously approved by the council.

Selection of next meeting date — Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 1:00 PM in the MHT Executive conference room.

After discussion of other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m., in a motion made by Don Housley and second by Marian Creveling; the motion was unanimously approved.