

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY
(MACA)

September 09, 2020

Committee Members in Attendance

Stephen Brighton, Jane Cox, Marian Creveling, Don Housley, Bruce Terrell, Robert Wall

Staff in Attendance

Karen Golder, Dixie Henry, Elizabeth Hughes, Dakota Kalavoda, Susan Langley, Matthew McKnight, Anne Raines, Patricia Samford, Zachary Singer

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

Review of the minutes March 4, 2020 MACA meeting minutes

The June 10, 2020 minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Bruce Terrell and seconded by Robert Wall; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes

Elizabeth Hughes reported that MHT staff had done a tremendous job transitioning to the new telework work model and that there had been no lapse in service to the public. This is a reflection of the incredible talent and dedication of the professionals that MHT is fortunate enough to have on staff.

Elizabeth also reported that the FY22 budget has been submitted and, at this point, no reductions are anticipated that would have an impact on archaeology programs at MHT. Similarly, there have been no FY21 budget reductions of note so far.

She is not aware of any Administration legislation to be introduced during the 2021 legislative session that would be of interest to MACA but will be tracking agency submissions as they are shared.

The terms of two MACA members - Bruce Terrell and Don Housley - will expire in 2021. Requests for reappointment or replacement of MACA members must be submitted to the Governor's Appointments Office by early January. Bruce Terrell indicated that he would be retiring from NOAA soon and MHT would need to seek a replacement for his position on the Council.

Chief Archaeologist Report—Matt McKnight

The deadline for NonCapital grant applications was Friday, August 28th. Thirty-seven grant applications (including 11 for archaeology projects) were submitted for a grand total of \$1,481,445 in requests. There is \$300,000 available in the fund. Recommendations will be made to the MHT Board at their October Meeting, and submitted shortly thereafter for approval by the Secretary of Planning.

Matt is currently in the process of reviewing final technical reports for two NonCaps: the Jug Bay

Survey and the Sotterley Expanded Survey.

On June 23rd and again on July 27th, MHT carried out remote sensing at the site of Barwick's Ordinary in Caroline County. A Youtube video on the project was produced which we hope to see released and promoted via Facebook this week.

From July 13th to 17th, MHT carried out a shovel testing survey east of Fort Frederick to search for remains associated with a colonial village of 18 houses mentioned in archival records. Results were largely negative and we plan to look farther north at a future date.

On July 21st, we conducted a GPR survey at Calverton (18CV22), in areas within 10 m of the shoreline of Battle Creek. The work was carried out as part of our oversight duties for a Heritage Areas grant that Calvert Co. received. We used GPR to help the contractor target features at greatest threat from erosion. Zac will describe the findings during his report.

On July 30th, in consultation with the ASM Field Session Cmte., MHT made the decision to officially cancel the 2020 Field Session. In addition, we made the decision to take the Workshop in Archaeology digital. Both events had to be postponed in the spring due to COVID-19. MHT worked with as many of the originally scheduled speakers as were able or willing to record a virtual lecture to put the talks out via YouTube on August 19th. The videos are still available on the MHT webpage and have received a collective 311 views.

On August 6th and 21st we assisted the Smithsonian with GPR documentation of some gravesites on their SERC property, identifying probable burial anomalies in two of three areas tested.

On August 8th we received word that there was a roof collapse at the firehouse where some of the Maritime equipment is still stored. Susan will cover that in her report as she and Troy have been the main staff members dealing with the aftermath.

From August 11th through 13th, Zac and Matt took the advanced RADAN 7 software training with GSSI. The class was held virtually due to COVID.

On August 27th Matt had a very productive meeting with representatives from NPS about a remote sensing project to be held in mid-November on a C&O Canal property in western Maryland. This work is currently scheduled for Nov 16-19. Matt has also had preliminary discussions about remote sensing fieldwork at a couple of additional sites, but nothing definitive has been put in the calendar yet.

On August 28th we assisted M-NCPPC staff with some GPR work at Billingsley. Billingsley is state-owned but managed by M-NCPPC under a 99-year lease. In 2000 the installation of a septic tank exposed an apparent late 17th century wood-lined cellar. A hastily drawn sketch map and artifacts from a quickly-excavated test window are the only documentation. We used GPR to place the feature on the landscape for future management purposes.

Matt also introduced the MHT Summer Intern, Dakota Kalavoda, and thanked him for his hard work

this summer. Dakota briefly described some of the research projects he has been undertaking with the MHT archaeology program.

Activities Report — Susan Langley

Susan reported that the State's two fiberglass boats have been moved to an indoor storage facility near BWI. The larger boat had been stored in the Stevensville SHA facility but they now require the space. The Carolina Skiff, the most frequently used survey boat, was also moved to BWI because the roof at the Crownsville Hospital Firehouse, where it was stored, partially collapsed during heavy rain at the facility. Fortunately, the skiff was not damaged in the collapse, not was the metal hulled jon boat that was also stored there with two spare outboards. The jon boat has not been moved due to safety concerns and damage to the bay door. DHMH have agreed to bring in a crane to remove the rest of the roof and debris so MHT can retrieve the boat and motors. The boat, motors, and trailer, will all likely require pressure-washing and maintenance/repairs. The jon boat will be covered and parked in the lot at Crownsville since it is metal Troy organized the storage arrangements and has been moving the boats and managing repairs to the trailer for the large boats. He is arranging also to have aluminum dive benches installed on the large boat.

There is a new threat to metal artifacts called magnet fishing. This involves unlicensed salvage using a powerful magnet to pull metal from the bottom of a body of water for sale as scrap or if it is an interesting artifact sold as that. The language of the present regulations is sufficient to address this, but better publicization of the permitting requirements is needed. Susan received word of some recent incidents at Mallows Bay. Susan was also contacted by her counterpart in South Carolina who stated that they had concerns because YouTube videos are popularizing magnet fishing and he asked if there were State/federal responses he could use/cite. The National Park Service responded that they had been having problems at Lake Mead and that while their legislation prohibited all forms of metal-detecting they were looking at adding specific language. Susan will re-visit this issue with Paul Cucuzzella to see if specific language can be added to the Regulations

With respect to the Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary (MPNMS), the establishment of the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) is almost complete, the successful applicants are undergoing background checks and the first meeting should be held virtually in November. At present the Management Team (MHT, DNR, Charles County and NOAA) are initiating visioning and infrastructure plans and meetings with community representatives through a NOAA-contracted firm. Because of the magnet fishing and also complaints from Quantico about drones (which are prohibited), the Management Team is looking at changing the signage at the launch area. We are seeking cooperation with Virginia to ensure comparable signage is posted at Widewater State Park.

Susan was involved in a CBS feature and with *Mental Floss* article.

At present, the Council for Maryland Archeology has a paddling trip planned at Mallows Bay on Sept. 27 with a rain date of Oct. 3.

Troy has been continuing to coordinate with multiple agencies and the contractors involved in the Elk River Dredging project. The project has been hampered by inclement weather and the contractor's repeated equipment failures. The passage of hurricane Isaias filled in much of what had been dredged, causing further delay while it was reopened.

Compliance applications and reports continue to arrive unabated and Troy has been kept very busy addressing these. He has also been making a site visit per month, some involving side scan sonar.

Susan mentioned at a previous meeting that she had approached the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) and the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Acidification Network (MACAN) to request inclusion of cultural resources in their planning. This has resulted in being invited to join the Science Working Group of MACAN and to make a presentation to its Steering Committee that was then altered to a request to also join the Steering Committee. A St. Mary's College of Maryland student is working with Susan to produce flyers for MACAN's website.

Susan was asked by the Ocean City Dept. of Public Works to examine a very large rudder that washed ashore. It's 19+ feet long and weighed 2300 lbs and is likely from a vessel in the 1200 ton/180' range dating from the mid- to late 19th century. The Public Works staff are trying to seal it in an oxygen-free case to display.

Suzanne Mbollo and Susan have closed out 7 or 8 Maritime Heritage grants. There was one extension; the drydocking of the CGC-37 (ex. *Roger B. Taney*) was delayed by the pandemic but will take place soon.

Susan consulted for National Geographic for an episode of *Drain the Ocean*.

Terrestrial Activities Report — Charlie Hall

There are two unresolved issues related to Maryland Archeology Month (MAM): 1) What to do with the 750 full-sized posters, 600 mini-posters, 300 magnets, and 1200 booklets from 2020 that could not be distributed due to COVID-19 And 2) It is fast approaching time to begin planning for Archeology Month 2021. While there will be no shortage of potential themes for the MAM Committee to consider, some creative thinking will be required concerning outreach to the public. The only part of traditional outreach that will not be touched by the uncertainty introduced by COVID-19 is direct mailing. Charlie would like to encourage all MACA members to join the MAM Committee.

Charlie recently completed a draft of an article reporting on two projects at the Biggs Ford site. These included Tyler Bastian's 1969-70 rescue excavations and a 2009 selective surface collection. These two investigations framed the field approach for the 2013-2015 Field Sessions. This will represent the first publication of Tyler's work.

MHT has received no new permit requests since the June meeting. Two existing permits have had activity, however. Historic St Mary's City invoked the Emergency Mitigation Efforts provisions of their annual permit for the installation of a new buried electric cable to their

Visitor's Center, and Julie King amended an active 2016 permit for mitigation investigations at St Mary's College's new athletic fields to cover monitoring of a newly added exhibit

MHT's new comment authority regarding alterations to historic-aged Maryland cemeteries has continued to occupy an increasing amount of Charlie's time and energy. Since June Charlie has provided comments on the River Road Moses Cemetery in Montgomery County and the McClain Cemetery in Frederick County. Both of these involved ongoing land clearing/construction projects that MHT was alerted to by concerned citizens. The McClain Cemetery issue resulted in a new cordial relationship with the Chief Assistant State's Attorney for Frederick County. Additionally, Charlie has assisted several citizens with research and advice regarding treatment of cemeteries, and provided assistance regarding Maryland cemetery law to preservation planners in Frederick and Carroll counties and Frederick City. All of this activity calls attention to the need to revise and amend MHT's website.

Charlie has received requests for information and guidance regarding six historic-aged cemeteries since March. Each of these has been treated as a request in compliance with Real Property article of Maryland Code § 14-121.1 that requires consultation with the Trust regarding either the proper treatment of markers, human remains, or the environment surrounding the burial site.

Since the June meeting MHT has conducted fieldwork at several terrestrial archaeological sites, including Barwick's Ordinary, Ft Frederick State Park, Calverton, and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (discussed elsewhere).

We received the final report of the 2019 Field Session at the Billingsley site from Applied Archaeology and History Associates. The report, funded by an MHT non-capital grant, is thorough and well done. We received assurances from Kristin Montaperto of Prince George's County M-NCPPC that the Field Session planned for the Spring of 2020 can now be planned for May of 2021. This naturally assumes that the COVID-19 emergency is under control by then. We plan to return to the Billingsley site with the aim of identifying the contact period occupation of the property that was documented in the Proceedings of the Maryland General Assembly on May 23, 1674.

MAC Lab Activities Report — Patricia Samford

MAC Lab staff continue to telework, but have also begun to return to the lab in small numbers. Conservation and curation staff members of necessity were the first staff back into the lab, since working with objects is their primary job function and teleworking had become increasingly difficult. Currently, no researchers or volunteers are allowed in the lab, although we have come up with a safe process for accepting new collections and conservation projects from outside clients.

Good progress has been made by Becky and Alice on a detailed digital media inventory – the first step in the long process of getting the lab's digital records of archaeological sites in its collections permanently archived. This process includes checking files for corruption and converting to newest versions of software and archival file formats where possible.

The MAC Lab continues to make substantial progress on the reformatting of the *Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland* website, working to make it mobile friendly and searchable. Two new categories -- jaw harps and thimbles—are ready to be posted.

The first couple of Archaeology in Annapolis collections have been turned over to the lab – the Maynard-Burgess House and Gott's Court. Becky Morehouse and Patricia Samford had a meeting with Joni Jones Floyd at the University of Maryland, College Park Library Special Collections about transferring the AIA archaeological records currently archived at the library.

The lab turned in a funding proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities in July – if funded, the project would pay for the creation of seven new categories for the Diagnostic Artifacts website, as well as be used to create a partnership with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the New York State Museum to get artifacts from their collection into the website.

Conservator Heather Rovardi has been measuring and recording oversize objects in preparation for making boxes that will be used to house the artifacts for moving and storing them during the lab expansion.

Public Archaeology – The decision was made to cancel the program in May due to the pandemic and it was hoped that we could reschedule the program for the fall. Unfortunately, it looks like we will not be able to hold the program this year.

Between April and the end of September of 2020, the MAC Lab produced two weekly video series – Site Tour Saturdays and STEAM Sundays. Eight 5 to 7 minute videos on four archaeological sites on the park – Stearns, King's Reach, Smith St. Leonard and Sukeek's Cabin were created and ran weekly through the first week of July. The STEAM Sunday videos are designed to provide hands-on activities for students and their parents that are in line with science, technology, engineering, arts and math skills. A total of 19 STEAM Sunday videos have been made and will run through the end of September. These videos are available on a new section of the JPPM website called "JefPat at Home".

We also have three less labor-intensive regular video series that regularly appear on Instagram and Facebook—Mending Mondays, Mystery Mondays and How Was It Made?

We have not yet been allowed to advertise and rehire in the Deputy Director position, but we will be moving forward shortly with an 18 month contractual hire for an archaeologist to monitor ground disturbing activities during the Patterson House renovation.

The conservation department has had 9 external contracts come into the lab during the last three months. Clients include Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Alexandria Archaeology, Maryland SHA, and NPS Assateague National Seashore.

Review and Compliance Activities Report — Beth Cole and Dixie Henry

The Project Review and Compliance Unit continues to successfully fulfill its Section 106 responsibilities, complete reviews, and provide needed technical assistance to program customers to the best of its ability via telework, limited office time, conference calls, and virtual meetings/site visits. The incoming project review workload remains constant at 400-500 projects monthly and staff reviewed 14 archaeology reports during the last three months.

The Review and Compliance Unit continues to be down one staff person due to a vacancy since mid-October 2019. Beth and Dixie are completing additional workload on behalf of the unit and advancing their cross-training expertise in handling architectural review of projects. There has been no action from the Department of Management and Budget on approving the selection process and making an offer. The hiring outcome is uncertain given current circumstances.

Beth participated in a conference call with FEMA, MEMA, City of Annapolis, AECOM, the Corps and MDE to discuss the resolution of adverse effects to archaeological resources from the Annapolis Flood Mitigation project. AECOM is developing an archaeological data recovery plan for further research at site 18AP39, for review by FEMA and the Trust. Site 18AP39 contains the remains of the property's broad span of residential, commercial and industrial activities and occupants reflecting the parcel's history and development from the early 18th – 20th c. Historic uses included 18th c. dwellings, tannery operations in the late 18th – early 19th c., lumberyard activities in the late 19th c., and residences occupied by Filipino immigrants in the late 19th and early 20th c. In addition, the site also has a high potential for containing deeply buried archaeological deposits associated with the property's maritime related activities including an 18th c. wharf, 18th and 19th c. shoreline improvements, and possibly scuttled ships used in land development activities in the 1830s. Although portions of the site have been disturbed by various 20th c. filling and land alterations, the Phase II testing confirmed that the site still retains good subsurface integrity with intact features and information bearing cultural deposits. Data recovery will occur prior to and in conjunction with construction of the proposed project, anticipated during 2021.

Beth and Dixie participated in a conference call with Charlie Hall and DNR to discuss recent changes to MD cemetery law and coordination regarding cemetery issues and treatments on DNR owned lands.

Beth is working with Greg Brown and MDP IT staff to begin official development of an E106 online submittal and comment process for the Trust's Review and Compliance program. The E106 Team is holding bi-weekly conference calls and breakout work sessions with involved staff. Beth has developed multiple dashboard views for submitter, MHT Review, and MHT Staff read only users and is coordinating with Greg regarding database fields needed for the submitter and MHT reviewer form views.

Beth and Dixie have participated in multiple meetings with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Aberdeen Proving Ground to discuss appropriate survey and evaluation efforts needed as part of the planning phase for the possible removal of the Atkisson Dam and Van Bibber Weir that are located on APG property.

Dixie has participated in the monthly Joint Evaluation and Interagency Review Team meetings to discuss the potential impacts of multiple Corps and MDE projects such as proposed shoreline work along Greenbury Point in Anne Arundel County and the Patuxent Nontidal Wetland and Waterway Mitigation Bank.

Dixie has coordinated extensively with PEPCO on a proposed utility line rebuild project in Prince George's County. The coordination efforts have led to PEPCO agreeing to relocate a number of proposed steel monopoles to avoid impacts to prehistoric sites that were identified in 2016.

Dixie participated in a meeting with DNR to discuss the proposed reconstruction of a fog bell station at the Turkey Point Lighthouse (Elk Neck SP) and identify a preferred location that would avoid impacts to the early 19th c. deposits associated with the site of the lighthouse keeper's residence.

Tonight, Beth and Dixie will be attending (virtually) the Corps' public hearing for the Ellicott City Safe and Sound flood mitigation plan. The plan involves seven projects along the Frederick Road/Main Street corridor in Ellicott City to provide improved conveyance of large storm events and reduce the potential of flooding.

Research and Synthesis Project — Zac Singer

Zac has been steadily working on the Maryland Archaeological Synthesis Project. Zac has completed Synthesis updates for eight sites in Baltimore County, one site in Washington County, and eighteen sites in Frederick County. Zac has 2 more reports to review to complete updates for Frederick County. After Frederick County, Zac will work on synthesizing reports from Montgomery County.

Dr. Bob Kelly from U. of Wyoming contacted Zac seeking assistance with obtaining information on Maryland C-14 dates for an NSF funded grant to compile radiocarbon dates from the continental US. Zac is currently following-up.

Since April, through the MD Fluted Point Survey, Zac has received information from the public about fluted point finds in Maryland. Zac will document these fluted points when social distancing restrictions are lifted.

On Tuesday June 23rd, Matt, Charlie, Dakota, and Zac conducted a GPR survey in two 20m X 20m collection grids at Barwick's Ordinary near Denton. Preliminary interpretations indicated that a likely cellar and several shaft features are present at the site. The GPR surveys clipped the cellar, but did not encompass the entire cellar, so a return trip to Barwick's was planned to better delineate the buried cellar feature and associated anthropogenic features.

During the week of July 2nd, Zac reviewed RFPs for Calvert County Gov.'s Phase I archaeological survey of the Ward Farm Property and passed on recommendations to the County Archaeologist.

On Friday July 10th and during the following week of July 13-17, Matt, Charlie, Dakota, and Zac conducted a walkover survey and STP survey at Fort Frederick with the goal of identifying the 18th century town associated with the fort. The STPs were almost entirely devoid of artifacts, besides a few small brick flecks. Additional areas to be explored as the potential location of the village were identified in the walkover survey and will be investigated in future field visits.

On Tuesday July 21st, Matt, Charlie, Dakota, and Zac conducted a GPR survey at Calverton to assist Kirsti Uunila as part of a MD Heritage Area grant. Preliminary interpretations of the GPR

data suggested the presence of a deep shaft feature (a well), a trench-like feature, and additional ovoid anomalies.

On Monday July 27th, Matt, Charlie, Dakota, and Zac returned to Barwick's Ordinary to collection Gradiometer and GPR data on a 30x30m geophysical grid. Preliminary interpretations indicate that a likely cellar, another rectilinear feature, and several shaft features are present at the site.

On August 6th, Matt, Dakota, and Zac conducted the GPR surveys at SERC. Zac and Dakota returned to SERC on Friday 8/21 to collect additional data.

On August 11-13, Matt and Zac participated in GSSI's RADAN 7 Advanced GPR data processing course.

On August 20th, Zac and Dakota returned to Calverton to examine AAHA's excavations of the GPR soil anomalies identified in July. Zac provided a demonstration for the Council of the project's findings and some photos of the ground-truthed anomalies. The shaft feature (possible well) yielded brick fragments, oyster shell, kaolin pipe fragments, 17th century ceramic sherds, and a coin dating to the 17th century. An ovoid GPR soil anomaly that aligned with Matt's prior gradiometer survey similarly yielded 17th century artifacts, but was still in the exploratory phase of excavation, so the function of the feature was not yet determined. The trench-like feature is likely the remains of a paling fence. Other rectanguloid and ovoid features seemed to be related to a prehistoric shell midden that is located in the southeastern portion of the site and extends slightly below the plowzone.

On August 26th, Zac visited an avocational archaeologist in Cecil County. Zac documented the artifact collection, which consisted primarily of Late Archaic projectile points made of local jasper (Iron Hill) and quartz. Zac visited one of the eroding archaeological sites, where the artifacts had been recovered and photographed the site. Zac is coordinating with the avocational archaeologist to create maps of his collection localities, so that Zac can create site forms for the sites.

On August 28th, Matt, Dakota, and Zac, along with Stephanie Sperling (M-NCPPC), conducted a GPR survey at Billingsley to attempt to locate the location of a 17th century cellar, which had been impacted by septic tank installation in 2000. The GPR data yielded a soil anomaly consistent with the 17th century cellar and also three shaft features beneath the present asphalt driveway, which may also be historic features.

On September 7th, Zac and Dakota visited MHT's Archaeology Lab and completed new archaeological site forms for Meadowsweet Pond (18HO307) a Late Archaic Site, Billingsley East Bluff (18PR1185) a Middle Archaic-Late Woodland Site, and Poplar Springs East (18PR1186) a late 17th century-early 18th century site at the Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary.

Zac recently received upgraded permissions to access Survey123 in ArcGIS and hopes to develop an app that will be useful for collecting locational data and field identifications during walkover surveys. Zac also is interested in developing an app that could be sent to avocational archaeologists/collectors as a way to document their finds while they are collecting. Zac sees daily examples of people collecting artifacts on the Eastern Shore, which are shared in Facebook groups.

Postponed Events:

The May 17th Archaeological Site Stewardship Survey Pilot Program with Bennett Middle School students was postponed due to Covid-19.

ESAF and MAAC meeting for 2020 have been postponed until 2021.

Other Business

There was no other business to be discussed.

Selection of next meeting date — Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 1:00 PM in the MHT Executive conference room (or virtually).

After discussion of other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m., in a motion made by Don Housley and seconded by Bruce Terrel; the motion was unanimously approved.