

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY
(MACA)

December 2, 2020

Committee Members in Attendance

Bruce Terrel, Don Housley, Jane Cox, Robert Wall, Mariam Creveling, Joy Beasley

Staff in Attendance

Matt McKnight, Susan Langley, Beth Cole, Patricia Samford, Elizabeth Hughes, Karen Golder, Zac Singer, Charles Hall, McKenna Litynski

The meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Review of the September 09, 2020 MACA meeting minutes

The September 09, 2020 minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Don Housley and seconded by Bruce Terrell; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes

Ms. Hughes recognized MHT staff for their exemplary work throughout the pandemic and expressed her appreciation for their patience and resiliency.

Ms. Hughes reported that the MDP Operating Budget hearing was held on October 28th before the Office of Budget and Management. While significant budget reductions are not anticipated, the status of the agency budget will not be known until the Governor submits the state budget for FY2022 on January 20, 2021.

Chief Archaeologist Report—Matt McKnight

A large portion of Matt's time since the September meeting was dedicated to Non-Cap review and ranking. The committee met on September 16th and ultimately recommended 8 projects for partial funding to the MHT Board which met on October 22nd. Three of those projects were for archaeology, which received \$102K of the \$300K available. The three archaeology projects approved were 20K to BAREG for a detailed survey of U-1105, 62K to the Catholic University to study the archaeology of Jesuit Landscapes, and 18K to HSMC to survey the 12 acres surrounding Ft. Saint Mary's.

A number of NonCaps from previous years are wrapping up, including the Jug Bay Survey (FY19), the Sotterley Survey (FY19), and the Biggs Ford Final Report (FY18). So, Matt has spent a lot of time lately reviewing final technical reports and coordinating to get final paperwork taken care of.

We have officially cleaned out and abandoned the Crownsville Hospital Firehouse where some equipment was still stowed.

We had an Archaeology staff meeting on November 5th, the main outcome of which was making the decision to take the Workshop back to more of a hands-on event and move it to a late summer timeframe. We will likely retain a keynote address and speaker.

On October 8 and 9, Charlie, Zac and Matt conducted GPR fieldwork at Montpelier near Clear Spring (Washington County). This is a site associated with Evan Shelby, an important planter, trader, and militia officer during the French and Indian War. He is listed, in a letter from Gov. Horatio Sharpe as having a fortified house during the war. A possible structure was identified and a future trip is being planned.

On and off between October 14 and 21st, Zac, Charlie and Matt worked with Adam Fracchia (UMD) to collect gradiometer and GPR data from Joppatowne.

On October 20th, Zac and Matt worked at Whitehall, collecting data in the search for an octagonal stable purported to have been on the property. The barn was not identified in the survey area, but there is potential for more work on the property looking for slave quarters and other outbuildings.

On October 23rd, Matt, Zac, and Charlie carried out a metal detecting and GPR survey at the proposed location for a parking lot for the Battle of Falling Waters property. Ultimately, no significant resources were found in the APE, just disturbance related to a barn that had been removed in the 1990s.

November 16th-19th, Matt, Zac, and Charlie, working with volunteers from the Western Chapter of ASM, carried out a remote sensing survey at 18AG9, a site on NPS (C&O Canal) property and associated with Thomas Cresap's settlement at Oldtown.

On December 1st, Matt and Zac made a site visit to IndianTown Farm near Centreville in Queen Anne's County. We walked the field with the property owners and discussed where resources had been identified in the past.

Underwater Activities Report — Susan Langley

Susan first recognized Bruce Terrell as the Maryland Maritime Archaeology Program's Volunteer-of-the-Year for 2021 and commended his five years on the MACA and 24 years of service to the Diving Safety Board. She then introduced McKenna Litynski, a Senior student at St. Mary's College of Maryland who made a presentation later (Other Business).

Susan reported that the Dive Safety Board had held its annual meeting.

Susan also reported that she, Troy Nowak, Betty Hobgood, Matt McKnight and Zac Singer had

filled 3 dumpsters of materials in clearing the collapsed maritime storage building. The remaining approximately 17 gals of hazmat materials will be left until it is possible to take them to a county hazmat day.

Susan reported that she and Suzanne Mbollo were wrapping up the last of the eight NPS Maritime Heritage Grants that MHT was managing. She reviewed three grants for NOAAs Office of Ocean Exploration Research, and that MMAP staff would work with non-capital grant recipients, the Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group (BAREG,) to complete remote sensing survey of the U-1105 while BAREG undertakes diving research.

Susan commented that she had been one of the speakers at the Archaeological Society of Maryland's Annual Meeting.

As the Society for Historical Archaeology will be virtual in January 2021, many of the committees are meeting prior to the main conference presentations. Susan has participated in the Governmental Affairs Committee and reported, as liaison, to the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology, on which she sits as an Independent Associate member. The UNESCO and Heritage at Risk (climate change) Committees are meeting in December.

Troy is working on acquiring necessary equipment and software updates to upgrade the remote sensing equipment for 2021 survey work, and replacing equipment and undertaking repairs for the survey boat, as well as addressing a heavy compliance load.

Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary (MPNMS; The Sanctuary) - Susan and the Sanctuary Superintendent participated in meetings with the Bayou Teche-Lak Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum, the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) to discuss potential projects and cooperative endeavors. They also met with other NOAA offices about potential activities to interpret the Sanctuary and environs as a Maritime Cultural Landscape. The Sanctuary (represented by NOAA and Charles Co) was awarded an MDP 2020 Preservation Award for Sustainable Development.

Susan led two groups from the Council of Maryland Archaeologists (CfMA) kayaking and a group of Sea Scouts canoeing at Mallows Bay, as well as two NASA engineers who are developing a YouTube channel called Chesapeake Explorers available at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7HGDrEiifqI8x3JWfPtpsw>.

The Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) will convene its first meeting on December 7. There are still Alternate positions vacant for four seats as well as the Youth Seat (non-voting) and the application period closes on Dec. 18. The Sac will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from among their number but in the interim, NOAA asked Susan to represent the Sanctuary at two federal Sanctuary Chairs meetings.

A climate change profile was created by NOAA with data provided by Susan and the Dept. of Natural Resources as well as by the NOAA author and is posted at:

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/management/climate/impact-profiles.html> with comparable documents for each Sanctuary in NOAAs system.

With respect to climate change, Susan noted that a proposed program in Marine Sciences at St. Mary's College of Maryland had cleared additional hurdles and looked as though it will be established and that it includes a maritime archaeology component. This will offer interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary opportunities for archaeology and other disciplines, as well as opportunities with other institutions.

Susan sits on the Steering Committee for the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Acidification Network and its Science Working Group and was asked to develop a resource page for its website. As part of her studies, McKenna Litynski (SMCM) undertook to produce a public education handout, sent a questionnaire to federal, state and county governments, educational institutions, and non-profits and compiled the results into a report on how climate change is affecting archaeological resources, and what archaeologists see as their main challenges, and she and Susan assembled a bibliography which has been incorporated into that of the HARC and will be linked to the website. McKenna will present more details on the project during Other Business. Susan provided an overview of her and McKenna's activities related to the project.

Susan mentioned that there is a webinar today (Dec. 2 16:00-18:00) called *For the Welfare Of All the People, Heritage Stewardship in Black and Indigenous Communities* and offered to share the link with anyone interested in participating.

Terrestrial Activities Report — Charlie Hall

The Maryland Archeology Month Committee's 2021 Kick-Off meeting was held on Friday the 13th of November. It was attended by 11 representatives of the 6 institutional Archeology Month partners, including ASM, MHT, CfMA, M-NCPPC PG County, MDOT/SHA, and HSMC. The Committee's most important task during this meeting was to decide on the theme for the 2021 event. The working theme selected by the Committee is *The Archeology of Healing and Medicine*. The Committee decided that the materials left undistributed from the 2020 event retained value and would still be relevant in 2021 as the 50th Field Session in Maryland Archaeology had been postponed until the Spring of 2021, and decided to use the 2020 materials in 2021 for the distribution to legislators through interagency mail, as well as distribution to ASM Chapters and County programs and venues such as Historic St. Mary's City and JPPM for redistribution to the public. A new poster, booklet, and magnet for 2021 will be produced, but for the direct mailing only (800 pieces). The current focus is on developing the content for the 2021 booklet through the identification of essay topics and authors. Consideration of events in 2021 was constrained by the uncertainty created by the pandemic, and as a result revolved around virtual events distributed on the internet. For example, each booklet essay author will be asked to record a five minute video focused on the essay topic.

We have received two new permit requests since the September meeting. Jennifer Stabler of Prince George's County Planning Department received a permit to investigate "The Mounds" at Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary. These low linear features have baffled archaeologists and historians for decades and Jennifer is determined to solve the mystery of their function. RK&K

archaeologist Karen Hutchins-Keim received a permit to conduct a Phase I survey of the Shared Use Path in Montgomery County. Much of this path will use MDOT/SHA right-of-way, and as a result a permit was required.

There have been eleven requests for assistance regarding historic aged burial sites since September. Only two of them were specifically requests to consult under the Real Property article § 14-121.1 requirement. One of these was a follow-up request from a Frederick County property owner for best practices in the use of GPR to identify unmarked graves and delineate a burial site as recommended in Director Hughes' letter of August 25, 2020. The other, just received, is a proposal to remove and relocate an unmarked burial site on a planned development in Frederick County. Both of these were facilitated by the Chief Assistant State's Attorney for Frederick County. Also received was a request for our Director's general comment regarding the rezoning of a property in Carroll County that contains an outparceled burial site. Six requests for guidance concerning burial site preservation best practices were also among the requests received, as were two requests for research assistance. Except for the Frederick County projects it seems likely that these requests were driven to us by our website.

Since our September meeting we have conducted remote sensing data collection at several terrestrial archeological sites, Matt and Zac will be providing details and discussion of results.

One of the three active non-capital grants I administer, the FY 2018 grant to the ASM for "Preparation of Final Site Report for the Biggs Ford Site", is nearly complete and expected to close on schedule (December 9, 2020). The FY 2019 grant to the John Wesley Preservation Society, Inc. for an "Historical Interpretative Sign and Linked Website", where grant funds were to be used for a ground penetrating radar survey of a burial site associated with the church, has encountered insurmountable obstacles due to the pandemic. We are exploring options for moving forward with this grant. Finally, the FY 2020 grant to the ASM to support the 2020 Annual Tyler Bastian Field Session has been extended by a year in order to accommodate the postponement of the Field Session until May of 2021.

I expect that the draft Archaeological Collections Policy, prepared principally by State Curator Becky Morehouse, will be delivered to Tricia and Matt for their comment or revision soon.

MAC Lab Activities Report — Patricia Samford

MAC Lab staff continue to telework when possible, but many staff members have resumed a five day lab work schedule. Currently, no researchers or volunteers are allowed in the lab, although we continue to accept new collections and conservation projects from outside clients.

We still do not have approval to advertise and rehire in the Deputy Director position, but are almost ready to post a 15 month contractual hire for an archaeologist to monitor ground disturbing activities during the Patterson House renovation. A contractual conservator position that has been vacant for over a year and posted this morning and applications will be received through December 15th.

Ninety three boxes of archaeological records from the Archaeology in Annapolis project have been turned over to the MAC Lab, in anticipation of the lab receiving the actual collections in the future. These records had been held at the University of Maryland, College Park Library Special Collections. We continue to receive re-housed collections from the AIA project periodically.

New collections received by the lab in the last three months include collections from the 2019 Field Session at Billingsley and a variety of Sotterley collections from St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Public Archaeology – Although the park was unable to hold a public archaeology program in 2020 due to the pandemic, we are planning to hold a 2021 season, beginning in August or September.

For Federal Curation, NIH has become a new incoming client who decided after many years of storing their own collections to pay us to do it. There are 33 boxes from several past compliance projects, mostly prehistoric sites.

Spence Collection- This is a collection of 5-6 boxes that was surface collected from plowed fields at various Webster Field sites, most especially Old Chapel Field which is probably the earliest colonial site we have at the lab (c. 1637). There are some interesting things like a coin weight, early ceramics, lots of terra cotta and white clay pipes, beads, etc. The collection needs to be rehoused and cataloged.

Indian Head collections- In October and early November we had a surge of incoming collections from two different firms representing various projects at Indian Head.

Sara Rivers Cofield is making good progress on her Conservation Fund grant on colonial horse related artifacts.

The conservation department has gotten a lot of positive feedback on the x-radiography guide and several CRM firms have contacted us about doing x-radiography surveys.

Conservation is also a partner in an RFP with Alexandria Archaeology in a project that will get timbers from their shipwrecks ponded (curated underwater), as a way to long-term preserve the timbers without the immediate cost of conservation.

We have seen an uptick in the number of clients for conservation services over the last three months. Current clients include the Washington County Historical Society, the City of Deadwood South Dakota, the NPS - Independence National Historical Park, Jamestown Yorktown Foundation, Assateague Island National Seashore, Alexandria Archaeology, Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Maryland 1812 Society, MD SHA, Vicksburg National Military Park, Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Commonwealth Heritage Group, Rivanna Archaeological Services and EAC Archaeology.

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, virtual meetings/site visits, and participation in virtual interagency working groups. The incoming project review workload and report submittals remain at steady volumes.

Beth and Dixie continue to handle additional workload on behalf of the unit and advancing their cross-training expertise in handling architectural review of projects while the Unit remains down one staff person due to a vacancy since mid-October 2019.

The Department of Management and Budget finally approved filling the vacant position and made a formal offer to our preferred candidate. The candidate will begin work on January 4, 2021 via a combination of teleworking and staggered time in the office.

Beth Cole participated in the last session of a virtual Section 106 training hosted by NPS NCR for its regional parks to provide *Questions and Answers with SHPO staff*; participants had excellent questions and perspectives to share.

After nearly 2 years of active negotiation, the Trust has signed a statewide Programmatic Agreement with FTA and MDOT MTA to streamline the review of transit related projects in Maryland, with MDOT MTA utilizing qualified cultural resources staff through MDOT SHA's program. The PA will provide improved efficiencies for MDOT MTA and the Trust and enable the agencies to focus their efforts on those projects with a greater potential to affect historic properties.

Beth continues to work with Greg Brown and MDP IT staff on the development of an E106 online submittal and comment process for the Trust's Review and Compliance program. The E106 Team is holding regular conference calls and breakout work sessions with involved staff. Beth has finalized the desired Project Review Form fields and views for the database and data entry portal.

Beth and Dixie attended the virtual Consulting Parties meeting hosted by the Corps of Engineers and Howard County 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 which are being handled under a single permit by the Corps of Engineers. The Corps will be developing a Programmatic Agreement (PA) to resolve adverse effects and establish a process for ongoing consultation to consider impacts to cultural resources as the project elements move into design and construction.

Dixie has continued to participate in the monthly interagency JE meetings to discuss a variety of projects requiring Corps/MDE permits, including the Nice Bridge replacement project and stream restoration projects in Baltimore County.

Dixie has reviewed the Corps' Public Notice regarding proposed modifications to their Nationwide Permits and provided comments to the Corps, Dixie also participated in a consultation meeting with the Corps and the Pamunkey Indian Tribe (federally recognized tribe in Virginia) to discuss a number of questions and concerns that the tribe had regarding the proposed modifications. A second consultation meeting is likely to be scheduled in the near future.

Dixie is currently reviewing the draft Phase II/III report that has been submitted by EAC/A for the Point Lookout Lighthouse restoration project.

Dixie met with the Critical Area Commission to discuss a potential MOU with the MD Port Administration that will be aimed at streamlining the review of "routine maintenance activities" at a number of marine terminals, including the NR-eligible Dundalk Marine Terminal.

Dixie attended the 2-day MHT Architectural Symposium in October, which included presentations on recent developments in dendrochronology and excavations at the Cloverfields site in Queen Anne's County.

Research and Synthesis Project — Zac Singer

Zac has been steadily working on the Maryland Archeological Synthesis Project. Zac has completed Synthesis updates Frederick County. Zac is working on synthesizing reports from Montgomery County (7 sites).

In September, Dr. Bob Kelly from UWyoming contacted Zac seeking further information about specific radiocarbon dates from MD site reports. Dr. Kelly is working on an NSF funded grant to compile radiocarbon dates from the continental US. Zac reviewed site reports in the MHT Library for the Walsh Gravel Pit, Piney Orchard #2, Cumberland, Patuxent Point, and Patterson I and provided additional information about the context of the dates and the material that was dated.

In September, Zac and archaeology intern 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, Poplar Springs East (18PR1186) a late 17th century -early 18th century site at the Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, and Barwick's Ordinary (18CA261) the 18th Century Ordinary and County Seat of Caroline County and prehistoric short-term resource procurement.

In September, Zac participated on the Non-Capital Grant review committee.

Zac provided additional details about several of the remote sensing projects that Matt previously reported on.

On Thursday, October 22nd, Zac visited M-NCPPC archaeologists at Mt. Calvert to troubleshoot their EMLID GPS system. Zac then assisted in mapping features at Mt. Calvert before the excavation blocks were backfilled.

In late October, Zac provided comments on AAHA's 2020 Addendum for Calverton Fieldwork, which included the ground truthing of GPR anomalies located within 10m from the eroding shoreline.

In early November, Zac drafted a report for the March 2020 archaeological survey conducted at Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary.

On December 1st, Matt and Zac met with Dr. Julie Markin at Washington College to survey the Indiantown Farm site in Queen Anne's County to investigate a contact period trade bead previously found in an agricultural field at the site by Darrin Lowery. The field is still in agriculture, but visibility was low due to recently harvested soybeans. Oyster shell concentrations were noted, but no definitive evidence for the contact period component was found. The agricultural field is currently designated as no-till, but if the site is plowed in the future, a return to the site would be interesting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Presentation on Ocean Acidification by McKenne Litynski — Susan formally introduced McKenna Litynski, who presented the experiment she developed to teach about the effects of ocean acidification on heritage resources. The intent is to address students in Grades 9-12 and for homeschoolers, as well as other organizations (Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs etc.) so it would mesh with different learning standards for different grades and would apply differently for badges or STEM goals. McKenna had provided a detailed lesson plan in advance as well as a script to follow her PowerPoint presentation. She welcomes additional questions, suggestions or other feedback at mlitynski@smcm.edu.

Selection of Next Meeting Date — Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 1:00 PM in the MHT Executive conference room (or virtually).

After discussion of other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m., in a motion made by Don Housley and seconded by Bruce Terrel; the motion was unanimously approved.