



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY
(MACA)
March 9, 2022

Committee Members in Attendance:

Joy Beasley, Don Housley, Jane Cox, Marian Creveling, Stephen Brighton

Staff in Attendance:

Matt McKnight, Patricia Samford, Elizabeth Hughes, Zac Singer, Troy Nowak, Dixie Henry

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

Review of the December 8, 2021 MACA meeting minutes:

The December 8, 2021, 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

Ms. Hughes reported that the Governor's FY2023 budget includes full funding for all of MHT's grant programs. In addition, HB1088 has been submitted by the Speaker of the House which proposes increasing the African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program from \$1 million to \$5 million.

While recruitment for vacant positions at MHT, including the vacant Terrestrial Archaeology position, is moving very slowly, there is no longer a hiring freeze in place and there are no threats of cutting vacant positions.

MHT continues to work in partnership with the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, Preservation Maryland, and the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites on a study of obstacles to the preservation of historic African American cemeteries. A draft of the report must be prepared and posted on the MCAAHC website by May 15th for public review and comment.

Chief Archaeologist Report — Matt McKnight

Dr. McKnight reported that on December 14 and again on February 15, we held a Standards and Guidelines Revision meeting (Matt, Zac, Dixie, and Troy). MHT has been holding these every other month and has been making slow, but steady progress on re-writing and updating.

Charlie Hall's last day in the office was December 21, 2021 and his first official day of retirement was January 1st. Staff held a small retirement gathering for Charlie, as well as Peter Kurtz on February 8th. Since Charlie's retirement Matt has been handling his duties RE cemeteries inquiries and easements, while Zac has been dealing primarily with Archeology Month preparations.

Paperwork was submitted to MDP for approval to conduct an internal hire for Charlie's replacement on 1/21. A hiring freeze exemption was signed on 2/2.

On January 10th we posted a call for applications for our Summer Internship in Archaeology. We received 17 complete application packages by the deadline of February 11th. Of those, we've narrowed it down to 5 individuals that we have asked to set up interviews with, which are currently being scheduled.

The final report for MHT's Remote Sensing Survey of 18AG9, the Cresap's Fort site in C&O Canal Park was sent to the National Park Service in February 9th. Matt will be preparing a poster presentation for SAAs in April on the topic.

Much of January and February was also dedicated to writing sections for the Billingsley 2021 report. Zac and Matt received a draft from AAHA to add our sections to and made two trips in February to their offices to view and photograph artifacts for the report. That report was sent back to them on March 1 and we expect a rough draft at the end of the Month for grant review.

On the NonCap front, all of the grant agreements for the FY22 round have been drafted and sent to OAG for review.

On December 9 and 10, Charlie, Zac and Matt (with the assistance of Dr. Lauren Lippiello of Frederick Community College) collected GPR Data from the Biggs Ford site. We targeted some areas at the northern edge of the village, an interior area where prior gradiometer work suggested anomalies were present, and also the projected arc of Montgomery Focus pits. While we did identify some large pit features and possibly a very "rough" palisade line to the north, not much was identified in the latter two areas. The real success of that trip though was meeting with Mrs. Crum, who signed a Deed of Gift for the 2013-2015 collection. We made a trip to AU on Feb. 22nd and the 24 boxes are currently in our basement lab and will be transferred to the MAC Lab tomorrow. Joe Dent also made a surprise appearance in the field on the 10th. The MAC Lab will be working with Dr. Lippiello on a long-term loan of some of the Biggs Ford materials for teaching and possibly a small display at FCC per Mrs. Crum's wishes.

On December 13, Zac and Matt met Chris Sperling (Calvert County Planner and Archaeologist) at a possible 17th C. site near Chesapeake Beach that is eroding into the bay to see if it was a good candidate for remote sensing. Unfortunately, it is pretty heavily wooded and was largely unsuitable for most methods. We suggested a controlled metal detection survey.

On December 15, Zac and Matt met with a number of folks from the Harford County Planning office (including former MHT intern Steph Soder) to check on a report of colonial artifacts and flakes in a field on County Property (Swan Harbor Farm) that was reported through MDFind. At least one and possibly a second historic domestic site was identified through a combination of surface survey and Magnetic Susceptibility survey. The “flakes” appear to be naturally occurring bits of plowed out quartz.

On February 10, MHT worked with some rangers from Tuckahoe Creek State Park (Caroline County) to conduct a GPR Survey within the Hughes Family Cemetery (not in the State Park, but on an associated WMA). We were able to confirm the boundaries of burials to help them better manage the site.

Also in early February, Matt received a call from a homeowner in Oxford, Maryland about an ossuary on her property. She had been told by the previous owner that the Hurt Ossuary was located on her property and she would like to know more. After looking at MEDUSA, Matt realized the ossuary was actually mapped in the wrong location. After several email exchanges with the homeowners and Dennis Curry, MHT visited the site on March 2 and re-located the ossuary, as well as a second likely ossuary with the GPR.

On February 17 and 18 we collected gradiometer and GPR data from the Melon Field site at JPPM. Zac Singer will provide more details of the findings later in his report. This work was done to assist the MAC Lab in their preparations for their summer Public Archaeology program.

Underwater Activities Report — Troy Nowak

Maryland Public Television’s *Outdoors Maryland* featured the Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary on its Feb. 1st show.

The maritime program is currently working with NOAA and East Carolina University, to assist in their planning and permitting for a maritime archaeology field school to be held at Mallows Bay in May-June.

In April, MMAP is planning on conducting fieldwork to assist a non-cap grant holder to complete their project by undertaking remote sensing survey of the U-1105 WWII-era submarine.

MMAP hosted a virtual presentation by the Florida Public Archaeology Network which houses the Shipwreck Tagging Archaeological Management Program (STAMP), with which Maryland is a partner. Staff are putting together materials to make tags and kits for use by participants.

Dr. Susan Langley made a virtual presentation about the ship graveyards in Curtis Bay for Baltimore Heritage and will be making a comparable live presentation to the Southern Maryland Dive Club in mid-March.

Susan and Troy will also be hosting a tabletop oil spill exercise for the USCG Area Contingency Planning Committee in April, and participated in day-long planning meetings in Jan, Feb., and March at the Baltimore Coast Guard Yard.

Susan participated in a meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Coast Acidification Network (MACAN), as a member of its Scientific Steering Committee.

MMAP is working with NOAA and our GIS dept. to find a way to import nautical charts into Medusa. The issues have been compatibility and in some cases data encryption.

The MMAP program is still trying to procure a vehicle suitable to tow the Maycraft research vessel. Most recently, the selected vendor decided to cancel its bid and we have had no luck finding another vendor to date. Supply chain problems and a general unwillingness to work with the state seem to be our issues. We hope to have some positive news the next time we meet.

Terrestrial Activities and Synthesis Report — Zac Singer

With Charlie's retirement, Dr. Zac Singer is now the coordinator for the Maryland Archeology Month (MAM) 2022 Committee. The MAM 2022 kick-off meeting was held on December 16, 2021. The Committee agreed to pursue the theme of advanced technologies in archaeology, which was refined to the tagline "The Future of Studying the Past: Innovative Technologies in Maryland Archeology". A Governor's Proclamation declaring April 2022 as Maryland Archeology Month was obtained. The committee also organized the MAM booklet with contributions from 11 authors discussing technologies such as remote sensing, 3D photogrammetry, radiocarbon dating, x-ray technologies, LIDAR, and residue analyses. SHA generously agreed to print 2,100 copies of the booklet, which Zac received on March 9th. Kathy Addario, exhibit designer at M-NCPPC Prince George's County, designed the poster and magnet, which features silhouettes of archaeologists conducting remote sensing surveys and the real data from Tim Horsley's remote sensing survey to discover the St. Mary's Fort site. Ruth Mitchell is updating the MAM website to include the 2022 materials. Donations for MAM 2022 totaled \$3550, which includes contributions from many CRM firms and a sizable donation from the Council for Maryland Archeology. Estimated costs for printing and mailing the MAM materials is ~\$3250, leaving approximately \$300 to cover incidental costs or to be added to the MAM surplus donations fund managed by the Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM). The total MAM mailing will include 750 individual packages delivered to members of the archaeological community and Historic Preservation Commissions. An additional 188 packages will be mailed to Maryland Legislators. Additional MAM materials will be distributed to Institutional sponsors and ASM chapters for use as public outreach promotional materials. A new giveaway for select MAM 2022 events will be 3D printed replicas of the Rosenstock Maskette, which were generously printed by Dr. Troy Townsend's Research Group at St. Mary's College.

The FY21 Non-Capital Grant to Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) is progressing. After some delays, the remote sensing survey was completed. Analysis of the results continue, but preliminary findings

indicate that along with the clear outline of St. Mary's Fort and other buildings along the Mill Road identified during the 2018 survey, the new survey yielded many intriguing features and trends. Establishing the locations of these features will help HSMC plan for future development projects in the vicinity of St. Mary's Fort.

Zac and Matt joined Stacy Poulos and Anne Arundel County archaeologists on a site visit to the Wishing Rock quartzite quarry in Pasadena on February 16th. The quarry site retains much evidence of aboriginal quarrying.

On February 17th and 18th, Zac and Matt conducted a remote sensing survey at the 17th-century Melon Field site at Jefferson Patterson Park (first investigated in the early 1980s by Dennis Pogue) to assist Scott Strickland with finding potential anomalies to be investigated during JPPM's Public Archaeology Program. The gradiometer and GPR surveys both revealed anomalies immediately adjacent to Pogue's original excavation area, suggesting that he was likely recovering material culture that had been plowed out of adjacent pit features.

On March 5th, Zac attended the ASM's board meeting. Zac reported on Maryland Archeology Month and Field Session planning activities.

Zac is still preparing to have an update go live for the Maryland Archeological Synthesis. The update will include 10 sites from Montgomery County and 10 sites from Prince George's County.

With Charlie's retirement, Zac is now supervising the MHT volunteer archaeology lab. The basement lab will be open for volunteers on most Tuesdays.

MAC Lab Activities Report — Patricia Samford

The lab finished its final season of Public Archaeology at the Smith St. Leonard site (1711-1754), completing mapping at the site. In preparation for the 2022 Public Archaeology season at the 17th-century Melon Field site, Matt McKnight and Zac Singer conducted two days of remote sensing. Evidence of several magnetic anomalies and two rectangular pit features were found in the testing and will help guide the 2022 fieldwork. Registration for the program opened on March 7th and we are already getting people signing up for the program.

The MAC Lab renovation is almost completed. Just a few punch list items and landscaping remain to take place. We anticipate that it will be completed before the beginning of the summer. The lab is about halfway through the design phase of the expansion project. Marshall Craft Associates has provided an option to create a new curation structure joined to the lab by a short hyphen. The new structure will mirror the look of the original building and has been met with enthusiasm by lab staff. Staff continue to get ready for the move of oversize objects from the lab for the duration of the construction project, as well as the boxed collections, which we hope will be able to stay on their shelves instead of being moved and stored. We are hoping to get two new positions added to the lab

staff through this project – a digital archivist and a park archaeologist.

The lab has awarded Gloria King Research Fellowships to two students: Matt Borden, an MA student at the College of William and Mary for a study of ceramic accumulation as a means of studying demographic patterns in the Upper Potomac; and Dela Kuma, a doctoral student at Northwestern University to study consumer patterns of western material goods in 19th century Ghana.

Scott Strickland has been working with three volunteers to catalog the Stearn's Site (18CV17), a Middle and Late Woodland shell midden and village site located on the park and dug by Laurie Steponaitis in the 1980s.

The two undergraduate interns hired with a combination of MHT Board funding and funding from the City of Annapolis to rehouse two large and important collections excavated by Mark Leone and the Archaeology in Annapolis project have completed these sites in short order and have begun rehousing a third collection – Reynolds Tavern.

Lab staff have been working with two staff members hired through an IMLS grant to create online education content. Sara Rivers Cofield wrote and starred in three tutorial videos; one on bagging and boxing artifacts, another on how to tell when bags need replacement and one on applying paper artifact labels. Alice and Nichole did a video on using silica gel and microenvironments. These videos and others produced by the park are hosted on the OER Commons website for use by any educator. The lab videos are geared towards college classes and professional archaeologists, but other content produced by the park has been aimed at K-12 classroom use.

The two IMLS staff are also working on augmented reality projects for the Sukeek's Cabin site – they have completed a 3-d model of the foundation remains using photogrammetry and are now working to create a virtual reconstruction of the site using gaming software. Kirsti Uunila and lab staff will be providing archaeological and architectural information to support their project.

Conservation and the park are working with the Department of General Services to find the funding to replace the large freeze drier, which has been limping along for several years.

Conservation is continuing to bring in interesting projects from across the region and beyond—two turbines from a 19th-century mill in Iowa, several more muskets from Bull Run, and consulting on the conservation of a waterlogged canoe found in Madison, WI

The 2022 Discovering Archaeology Day will be held April 9 in and around the MAC Lab. We have around 16 exhibitors/groups registered but would love to get to 20.

Free weekly lab tours will restart in April and we also hold monthly archaeology hikes in the park.

Lab staff have begun work on a cultural resource management plan for the park – compiling data on archaeological sites, standing structures, any past ground disturbance and integrating with historic

maps, photos, LIDAR, oral histories and historical documentation to create a management plan for cultural resources on the park.

Deputy Director, Scott Strickland, has been serving on the task force for the Guide to Indigenous Maryland, an initiative through public libraries to create Storymaps for indigenous places across the state.

JPPM Director Greg Pierce resigned towards the end of February and Patricia Samford has stepped in as Interim Director until a new director can be hired.

Review and Compliance Activities Report — 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 hybrid office/telework, conference calls, virtual meetings/site visits, and participation in virtual interagency working groups.

Project review submittals remain at a steady volume – in February of 2022, the PRC unit reviewed a total of 496 state and federal projects.

The Unit is still down one architectural historian position due to a vacancy from July 2021. The position recruitment process has been underway since fall 2021 and we are awaiting hiring approval.

Ms. Beth Cole continues to work on the E-106 initiative with Greg Brown and the IT folks at MDP. The E106 team continues to meet regularly and we are reviewing test versions of the Submitter and MHT Reviewer dashboards.

Dr. Dixie Henry completed the review of 156 grant applications for MD Department of Natural Resources FY23 DNR Trust Fund and Resiliency through Restoration Proposals for effects on historic and archeological resources and provided comments back to DNR within the requested 20-day review period for their grant round. Of the 156 projects, only 7 would require further information and coordination to complete their review, if funded.

Dixie has also continued working on drafting revisions/updates to the “Reports and Documentation” section of the *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Maryland*.

Dixie and Beth will be virtually participating in Day 1 of the NRCS Cultural Resources 2-day training required for all NRCS planning staff in May 2022. MHT’s presentations focus on the role of MHT in the review process under the NRCS statewide Programmatic Agreement for Maryland, archeology 101, and case studies for effective coordination.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

Selection of Next Meeting Date — Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 1:00 PM in the MHT Board conference room (or virtually).

After discussion of other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m., in a motion made by Joy Beasley and seconded by Marian Creveling; the motion was unanimously approved.