

Minutes of the
Eighty-Third Meeting of the
Maryland Heritage Areas Authority
April 11, 2019

The eighty-third meeting of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) was held on April 11, 2019 at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in St. Leonard, Maryland.

Authority Members/Designees Present:

Sandra Schrader, Deputy Secretary, MD Department of Planning, designee for Robert S. McCord, Secretary, MD Department of Planning and Chair of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority; Elizabeth Hughes (State Historic Preservation Officer); Pete Leshner (MD Municipal League representative); Amy Seitz (representing MD Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Kenneth C. Holt); Burton Kummerow (President of the Senate representative); Lisa Challenger (Governor's Appointee for Heritage Tourism); Natalie Chabot (Representative for MD Greenways); Marty Baker (representing MD Department of Transportation Secretary Pete K. Rahn); Lee Towers (representing MD Higher Education Commission Secretary James D. Fielder, Jr.); Elizabeth Fitzsimmons (representing MD Department of Commerce Secretary Kelly Schulz); Peter Morrill (representing MD Department of Natural Resources Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio); Janice Hayes-Williams (representing Speaker of the House)

Authority Members/Designees Absent:

Wayne E. Clark (President of the Senate representative); Robert D. Campbell (Governor's Appointee for Historic Preservation and serving as Vice Chair for the Maryland Heritage Area Authority); Rowland Agbede (representing MD Department of Agriculture Secretary Joseph Bartenfelder); Daniel Spedden (MD Tourism Development Board representative); Vacant (representing MD State Department of Education Secretary Karen Salmon); Vacant (MD Association of Counties representative); Vacant (representing Speaker of the House)

Staff Present: Jennifer Ruffner, Ennis Barbary Smith, Bernadette Pruitt (Maryland Historical Trust); Paul Cucuzzella (Office of the Attorney General); Maria Sofia (Maryland Department of Planning)

Heritage Area Directors/Staff Present: Lucille Walker (Southern Maryland Heritage Area & Co-Chair, Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas); Nicole Gray (Canal Place Heritage Area); Elizabeth Shatto and Emily Huebner (Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area); Julie Gilberto-Brady (Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area); Carol Benson (Four Rivers / Annapolis, London Town and South County Heritage Area); Gail Owings (Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area); Kirstin Falk (Maryland Milestones / Anacostia Trails Heritage Area); Brigitte Carty (Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway); Lindsey Baker (Patapsco Valley Heritage Area); Lisa Ludwig (Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area);

Others Present: Mary Blair

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Deputy Secretary of the MD Department of Planning, Sandra Schrader, designee for Robert S. McCord, Chair of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority and Secretary of the MD Department of Planning.

INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Schrader noted that this was her ninety-second day serving as Deputy Secretary and provided some information about her background. She explained that she has previously served as Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for Howard County, as a lobbyist, and as a Maryland State Senator.

Ms. Schrader thanked Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum for hosting the meeting and invited Rachelle Green, Acting Director, to speak.

Ms. Green welcomed everyone. She explained that Jefferson Patterson is a 560-acre park and museum along the Patuxent River, highlighting some of the types of programming provided. She noted that the meeting attendees would have the opportunity to tour the Maryland Archeological Conservation (MAC) Lab after the meeting. She also invited everyone back to see the H2O Today exhibit, partially funded by an MHAA project grant. The exhibit opens on May 18.

Everyone in attendance took turns introducing themselves. Janice Hayes-Williams, representing the late Speaker of the House, Michael Busch, noted Speaker Busch's recent passing.

Lucille Walker welcomed everyone to the Southern Maryland Heritage Area.

MHAA CHAIRPERSON ANNOUNCEMENTS /UPDATES (Sandra Schrader, Deputy Secretary of MDP)

Ms. Schrader asked Ms. Jennifer Ruffner to make some heritage area personnel-related announcements.

Ms. Ruffner announced that Jennifer Durben of the Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area had left her position as Executive Director to pursue other opportunities. A search is currently underway to hire a new Executive Director for this heritage area.

She shared that Shauntee Daniels had been promoted to Executive Director of the Baltimore National Heritage Area.

She noted that a number of MHAA members had inquired about Mary Ann Lisanti of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Area and shared that the board members for the that heritage area are currently addressing this personnel issue.

Ms. Ruffner also noted that Senate Bill 51 passed and is expected to be signed into law by Governor Hogan. She thanked everyone for their assistance in this process. The bill removes the requirement that MHAA capital grants be limited to grantees located in Target Investment Zones.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 10, 2019 MEETING

Ms. Schrader called for a motion to approve the January 10, 2019 MHAA meeting minutes.

Mr. Pete Leshner motioned to approve the minutes. He offered the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the Authority approves the January 10, 2019 meeting minutes as presented (R-100).

The motion was seconded by Mr. Burt Kummerow and approved by 11 Authority members in total. Dr. Marty Baker abstained from the vote. The motion carried.

Ratification of Executive Committee Vote, January 25, 2019

Resolution R-200 to Ratify the September 7, 2018 Executive Committee Vote

Ms. Ruffner explained that at the January 10, 2019 meeting, MHAA Chair McCord directed MHAA staff and heritage area directors to compile feedback from Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs) in each heritage area regarding a proposed policy change that would allow heritage areas to apply for MHAA marketing grants on an annual basis, rather than every two years. One-year marketing grants would be capped at \$25,000, while two-year marketing grants would be capped at \$50,000 as a maximum grant award. No overlapping marketing grants would be allowed for any one heritage area.

Ms. Ruffner said that the DMOs' responses were overwhelmingly in favor of allowing for the change. She said that the Executive Committee voted to allow for the change on January 25, 2019, and the change must now be ratified by the Authority.

Mr. Leshner motioned to approve the following resolution (R-200):

RESOLVED that, the Authority ratifies the action taken by the Executive Committee via email on January 25, 2019 to waive the terms of the Marketing Grant Policy approved by MHAA on January 14, 2005 to allow Certified Heritage Areas and their Destination Marketing Organization(s) to request up to \$25,000 annually, or \$50,000 every other year until a Marketing Working Group convenes to develop a revised Marketing Grant Policy for adoption by the Authority.

Ms. Natalie Chabot seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

MANAGEMENT REPORT (Jennifer Ruffner, MHAA Administrator)

MHAA Financing Fund Report

Ms. Ruffner reported that as of February 19, 2019, the current available balance of the MHAA Financing Fund was \$724,857.81. Ms. Ruffner noted that this balance continues to increase as MHAA grants are completed underbudget and returned. She noted that Carroll Museums returned a \$90,000 FY 2016 grant in February. The balance also includes \$100,000, for which MHAA has spending authorization, for FY 2019 Emergency Grants. At this point in the year, with the FY2020 grant cycle underway, it is unlikely that the Authority will spend down this money set aside for emergency grants in FY 2019. At the last meeting in January, a Reserve List Policy was approved, which should allow the Authority to seek spending authorization for this money and spend down at least a portion of the balance in FY 2020.

Update on FY 2019 Grant Round (Ennis Barbery Smith, MHAA Assistant Administrator)

Ms. Ennis Barbery Smith reported that the FY 2019 grant processing is almost complete. 113 grants were awarded. One is still out for signature with the grantee. 111 are active grants. One is already completed and closed out. She thanked the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) grants administration staff and Office of the Attorney General staff for their help in this process.

Update on FY 2020 Grant Round (Ennis Barbery Smith, MHAA Assistant Administrator)

Ms. Smith reported that MHAA received 143 full applications, totaling \$6.1 million in requests. MHAA has \$5.1 million to award. She reported that two of these applications have been withdrawn and two have not been passed on by the local heritage area. This means that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members and MHAA staff are currently reviewing 139 applications. The 139 applications include applications for 13 management grants, 9 block grants, 2 marketing grants, and 115 project grants.

Ms. Smith reported that the total request numbers are down from last year in FY 2019 when MHAA received 170 full applications requesting \$7.1 million. She said that MHAA staff think that in FY 2019, when the increased funding from MHAA was initially available, there may have been a backlog of heritage tourism projects, which resulted in more requests last year. With \$5.1 million available and \$6.1 million in requests, FY 2020 will still be a competitive grant round.

Mr. Leshner asked if the \$6.1 million in requests was the total for the 143 grant applications initially received or the 139 that are still being reviewed.

Ms. Smith answered that the 143 grant applications initially received represent a more precise total request of \$6,114,139.62. Subtracting the two applications that were withdrawn by applicants, MHAA is left with a total request of \$6,102,139.65 for 141 applications. Ms. Smith did not have the dollar amount on-hand for the 139 requests, subtracting both the two withdrawn and two not put forward for state review by the local heritage areas.

Program and Economic Impact RFP

Ms. Ruffner reported that the Request for Proposals for creating a Program and Economic Impact Study for MHAA was posted since the last meeting and that two proposals were received. Members of the Program Impact Working Group met with both offerors, and both offerors have now been asked to provide best and final offers. Both proposals were strong, and the reviewers were pleased. MHAA staff are expecting the best and final offers early next week and will move forward with selecting one of the proposals at that time. As part of the RFP, the offerors have been asked to give two briefings to the Authority over the course of the project. The heritage area directors should also expect to be in contact with whomever is awarded the contract as they move forward with collecting information.

Regulation Changes – Next Steps

Ms. Ruffner shared that MHAA staff have circulated the final draft of the new MHAA Regulations. She thanked Mr. Paul Cucuzzella for shepherding this process. As a result of Senate Bill 51's passage by the Maryland legislature, this latest draft removes references to the Target Investment Zones. Ms. Ruffner said that—after several drafts and opportunities for review by the Authority members, MHAA staff, OAG staff, TAC members, and heritage area directors—the Regulations are now ready to be proposed for adoption by MHAA. If the Governor signs SB 51, the proposed regulations would then go to the Department of Legislative Services, who would initiate a public comment process.

Mr. Paul Cucuzzella clarified that if the Governor does not sign SB 51 into law, the Authority would need to vote again on an updated draft.

Ms. Ruffner reminded everyone that all changes in the proposed Regulations—for example, getting rid of the requirement that 75% of the grantee's match be “cash match”—will not mean that MHAA policies change. Changing this and other requirements in the Regulations simply allows the Authority the opportunity to change policies if they so desire.

Resolution R-300 to Propose Repeal and Replacement of Subtitle 29, Title 14 of the Code of Maryland Regulations

Ms. Elizabeth Hughes motioned to approve the following resolution (R-300):

RESOLVED that, if the Governor signs into law Senate Bill 51 adopted by the Maryland General Assembly during its 2019 Session, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority proposes for adoption to repeal Subtitle 29, Title 14 of the Code of Maryland Regulations and replace it with the draft regulations included in the Authority's materials for this meeting.

Dr. Baker seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

**MARYLAND COALITION OF HERITAGE AREAS (MCoHA) REPORT
(Lucille Walker, Co-Chair, MCoHA)**

Ms. Lucille Walker welcomed everyone to the Southern Maryland Heritage Area. She said that Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum is one of the cornerstones of the heritage area and that she was pleased that the meeting attendees would have the opportunity to tour the MAC Lab in the afternoon. She added that the group would also have the opportunity to see and learn about the enslaved persons' burial site at Serenity Farms this afternoon.

She said that, "given certain occurrences" related to the MHAA program recently, she and the Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas felt it was important to state their commitment to serving all people.

She noted that the Coalition has a newly updated website: www.marylandheritageareas.org, which was created with the help of the Four Rivers Heritage Area.

Ms. Walker reported that the Coalition remains concerned about the redistribution of \$300,000 of MHAA's allocation from Program Open Space to the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) for the MHT Non-Capital Grants Program. She said that while the Coalition appreciates the importance of these MHT grants and understands the sentiment that a rising tide raises all boats, the Coalition continues to be concerned about the extent to which this redistribution is precedent setting.

Ms. Walker described the remainder of the tour of the Southern Maryland Heritage Area scheduled for this afternoon. She explained that a film about Serenity Farm would be shown on the bus on the way to this location. This film officially premieres in Greenbelt, MD at the Greenbelt Theatre in May. She also shared that, as the group's final stop, they will be visiting Annmarie Sculpture Garden and Art Center, which has been the recipient of an FY 2019 MHAA grant.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution R-400 to Approve a Request by the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area and the Town of Church Hill to amend the boundaries of the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area.

Ms. Ruffner explained that the Authority has received a request from the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area and the Town of Church Hill to include Church Hill within the boundaries of the heritage area. Ms. Ruffner said that, since Church Hill is included in the management plan already, this change is considered an administrative revision, rather than a programmatic revision. As a result, no public hearing was required for this amendment process. Ms. Ruffner shared that the TAC reviewed this request and recommends that it be approved.

Ms. Gail Owings added that the town is located on the Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway.

Mr. Leshner asked if the entire municipality was to be included, commenting that it is a lovely town and much of it is indeed historic.

Ms. Ruffner answered that, yes, the entire town is proposed for inclusion.

Ms. Ruffner advised that the motion to amend the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area's boundaries is contingent upon Church Hill amending their comprehensive plan.

Mr. Leshner made a motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Sections 13-1008(10) and 13-1111(m) of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and COMAR 14.29.03.06C, the Authority conditionally approves—the joint request by the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area Authority and the Town of Church Hill (the “Town”) dated February 25, 2019 (included with the meeting materials) to amend the boundaries of the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area to include those portions of the Town depicted in the joint request. The approval is conditioned upon the Town’s amendment of its comprehensive plan to incorporate the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area Management plan.

Mr. Kummerow seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Resolution R-500 to Approve the MHAA Indirect Costs Policy

Ms. Ruffner provided background information about why MHAA staff put this policy forward: Senate Bill 1045 was signed into law last year after the 2018 legislative session in Maryland. MHAA staff sought the advice of OAG legal counsel about how this new law would apply to MHAA grants. After meeting with legal counsel, Ms. Ruffner and Ms. Smith remained uncertain about how to clearly communicate this complex policy regarding indirect costs associated with services to grantees and applicants. They also concluded that the narrow interpretation of this law which OAG was providing was not in keeping with the spirit of the law and the expectation of the Maryland non-profit organizations who advocated for the law's passage. Using this interpretation, only a small subset of MHAA grantees would benefit.

Instead, MHAA staff proposed that the following policy—included with the meeting materials—to be approved by MHAA for inclusion in FY2020 grant agreements and grant agreements moving forward:

- “d. Nonprofit Grantees; Indirect Cost Allowances. A Grantee that is a nonprofit organization may use a portion of the Grant for reimbursement of indirect costs as set forth below.
- i. To the extent that the Grant is used by the Grantee for non-capital expenses in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, Grantee may elect to apply ten percent (10%) of the Grant towards the Grantee's indirect costs.

- Application by the Grantee of Grant funds towards the Grantee's indirect costs in accordance with this Section 4.d.i shall not increase, and will not operate to increase, the Grant. If indirect costs are not included within the Project Budget, the Grantee may, notwithstanding paragraphs 4.e., make adjustments to line items in the Project Budget within the limits of the Grant as necessary to include and account for Grantee's indirect costs. The Grantee shall maintain records in auditable format that document Grantee's indirect costs, and shall make such records available for inspection by MHAA upon request.
- ii. To the extent that the Grant is used by the Grantee for non-capital expenses that include costs for the provision of services in accordance with the term and conditions of the Agreement, in lieu of the ten percent allowance provision set forth in Section 4.d. i. above, Grantee may elect to apply Grant funds towards the Grantee's "indirect costs" consistent with Section 2-208(b), State Finance and Procurement Article, Code of Maryland. If the Grantee uses modified total direct costs ("MTDC") to calculate the Grantee's indirect costs, as allowed under Section 2-208(b)(2) of the State Finance and Procurement Article, the Grantee shall: (aa) provide with the Grantee's Request for Disbursement financial documentation satisfactory to MHAA establishing the Grantee's MTDC; (bb) maintain records in auditable format that establish and justify that the Grantee has properly calculated MTDC in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards adopted in 2 C.F.R. 200 by the Office of Management and Budget; and (cc) make such records available for inspection by MHAA upon request. Application by the Grantee of Grant funds towards the Grantee's indirect costs in accordance with this Section 4.d.ii shall not increase, and will not operate to increase, the Grant. If indirect costs are not included within the Project Budget, the Grantee may, notwithstanding Sections 4.e., make adjustments to line items in the Project Budget within the limits of the Grant as necessary to include and account for Grantee's indirect costs calculated pursuant to this Section 4.d.ii.

Ms. Ruffner summarized that the policy will allow non-profit organizations—excluding heritage area management entities—receiving a non-capital MHAA grant after October 2018 to use up to 10% of the grant amount for indirect costs. Ms. Ruffner said that this solution is intended to be easier for both MHAA staff and grant recipients to utilize. Grantees would not be permitted to increase the total amount awarded and would still need to complete the project.

Ms. Ruffner added that grantees could also choose to apply SB 1045 to their grant project, if they think this will be more advantageous for them. This policy provides an alternative to SB 1045's indirect costs policy.

Mr. Cucuzzella shared that, in his opinion, this is a good solution for applicants and staff, while making clear that grantees will still have the opportunity to take full advantage of SB 1045.

There was discussion.

Ms. Amy Seitz made a motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED that, the Authority approves the MHAA Indirect Costs Policy (included with the meeting materials).

Mr. Leshar seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Feedback on TAC Working Group Initial Recommendations

Ms. Ruffner reminded Authority members that, in response to a request from the Coalition of Maryland Heritage Areas, MHAA's Executive Committee has directed staff to convene a working group to examine TAC's current role and make recommendations for going forward. Those represented as part of the group include Natalie Chabot (MHAA member), Marty Baker (MHAA member and TAC member), Elizabeth Hughes (MHAA member and TAC member), Marci Ross (TAC member), Sarah Rogers (Coalition member), Lindsey Baker (Coalition member), Jennifer Ruffner (MHAA staff), and Ennis Barbbery Smith (MHAA staff).

Ms. Ruffner summarized that, after several meetings and a conference call, the Working Group developed a set of draft recommendations. She stressed that these recommendations are still in the *draft* stage. After meeting with the TAC and getting some feedback from individual heritage area directors, she has annotated the draft to include the input received so far. The Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas will discuss the recommendations at their retreat in May and provide feedback thereafter.

Ms. Ruffner explained that the Working Group members wanted to stress their appreciation for the work that the TAC has done over the years since the program's formation. She said that the program has changed over time and the Working Group is recommending a shift going forward. The recommendations include forming a grants panel for grants review and asking the Authority to take on more direct discussion and review of other requests, whether at the MHAA meetings themselves or through the formation of committees or ad-hoc working groups as needed.

Ms. Ruffner explained that the grants panel is proposed as a group of 15-20 individuals with representatives from state agencies as well as community members. MHAA staff in recruiting and selecting panelists would strive for human diversity, geographic diversity, and diversity of expertise as set forth in the recommendations document.

There was discussion.

One item of feedback from Mr. Leshar was that honorariums for community panelists seemed unnecessary and had the potential to make panelists' income taxes more complex. Several other MHAA members seemed to agree with this point.

Ms. Janice Hayes-Williams asked about the ethics review process for the panelists. She made the point that potential panelists may not always tell the truth when listing organizations with which they are associated for recusal purposes.

Ms. Ruffner asked Authority members to provide feedback directly to her by May 17, 2019. She said that, after receiving this feedback from Authority members and input from the Coalition, if there is general consensus about moving forward, MHAA staff will incorporate changes as needed and present the final draft to the group before the Executive Committee makes the final decision.

MHAA MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Kummerow announced that Maryland 400 is moving forward. He thanked the heritage area directors for their support and shared that Senator Mike Miller has agreed to be the honorary chairperson for Maryland 400. Mr. Kummerow said that he and Mary Blair have talked with the organizers of Virginia's similar commemorative event. Kathy Spangler in Virginia was able to provide valuable advice, especially about the importance of involving Native American tribes.

Ms. Elizabeth Hughes shared some legislative updates. Senate Bill 656 "Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit - Alterations - Opportunity Zones, Targeted Projects, and Transferability" has passed. It will extend the tax historic structures tax credit program through 2024. This legislation will also necessitate some changes to the program. MHT is still working out how to best implement these changes with their partners.

Ms. Hughes also shared that Senate Bill 255, which would have addressed the issue of abandoned property in the possession of a museum, did not pass. She said that the Maryland Historical Society plans to advocate for similar legislation next year. She said this is an important issue to address with legislation.

Ms. Fitzsimmons said that the Maryland Office of Tourism will be highlighting Maryland women in 2019 and 2020 to honor the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in the United States. She shared that she has been in discussions with the Department of Natural Resources about outdoor programming and that events should kick off in August 2019.

Ms. Amy Seitz said that the Main Streets program may be positioned to play a role in these commemorative events by highlighting women who are entrepreneurs.

Dr. Marty Baker announced that the discretionary grant programs administered through Department of Transportation are gearing up to accept applications. The Bikeways program received an increased allocation of \$3.8 million this year. The deadline for applications for this program is June 14. The application portal opens on May 16.

Ms. Seitz said that the Community Legacy program administered by DHCD started accepting applications on April 10. This program supports strategic demolition among other things. The DHCD-administered operating assistance applications are due by April 22.

Mr. Kummerow announced that the Maryland State Archives has developed a program to assist with collections around the state that are neglected. There is grant money available.

Ms. Hughes shared that legislation to establish the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission has passed. MHT's Director or her designee will have a seat on the Commission, as will the Maryland State Archives. It will be staffed by the Bowie State University in cooperation with the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project. Part of the mission will be to document where these events occurred and memorialize them. The heritage areas may want to be involved.

Ms. Hayes-Williams shared—on a related note—that Anne Arundel County is working with the Connecting the Dots Project based at the Alabama State Museum. This project can provide slabs and road signs to memorialize lynching sites.

Mr. Kummerow asked that, if people have Maryland 400 rack cards they are not using, please return them to him.

HERITAGE AREA DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Walker (Southern Maryland Heritage Area) clarified that a resource she mentioned earlier, the Benedict Region Guide, was funded by a mini-grant, which her heritage area refers to as a “seed grant,” from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area (SMHA). She noted that SMHA is also continuing to work with the Piscataway Indians on a feasibility study for a Piscataway cultural center in Southern Maryland.

Ms. Carol Benson (Four Rivers Heritage Area) shared that a new visitor guide has been printed. Maryland Day celebrations were a success, including a visit from Baltimore Pride II. The heritage area's next workshop will be on the topic of inclusivity in museums.

Ms. Elizabeth Shatto (Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area) shared details about her heritage area's upcoming book talk, funded in part by the Maryland Museum Association, on *Intentional Practice for Museums*. The Newcomer House is open for the season, and she shared details about the hours. The Newcomer House is designing a new visitor experience. This project is funded by Preservation Maryland and the Rural Maryland Council. The heritage area is also kicking off its second round of museum education consultation services for organizations.

Ms. Lindsey Baker (Patapsco Valley Heritage Area) announced that a new trail map has been completed, including a Spanish version. She said her organization is kicking off their spring season of environmental volunteer events. A new PVHA brochure, complete with the new logo, is at the printer. The first-ever Patapsco Days was just completed and was a success. She noted that all the project grant applications from organizations within her heritage area are trail-related

in FY 2020. She and her staff recently attended the Naturally Latino conference and she encouraged others to attend, saying it was very relevant for her organization. She also plans to attend the Taking Nature Black conference if possible.

Julie Gilberto-Brady (Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area) announced a new initiative to bring grantees in her heritage area together for networking. Archeology work on the Bailey property led by Dr. Julie Schablitsky of the State Highway Administration will continue this May. Clay pipes recovered may be tested for DNA. A new mobile application is available from Visit Dorchester. It provides tours of Pine Street, downtown Cambridge, and murals in Dorchester County. The Pine Street tour focuses on African American history, working with local narrators who shared personal experiences.

Lisa Ludwig (Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area) shared that the heritage area's annual meeting is coming up on May 15. The speaker will be Kellee Green Blake, a retired director of the National Archives. Heritage awards will be given out at the meeting, as is the annual practice. Lisa Challenger is one of the recipients this year. The event will be filmed by the local public access television channel.

Gail Owings (Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area) announced that the cookbook project her heritage area took on, which has been in the works for quite some time, is now complete. The books are sold for \$20 as a fundraiser. An awards ceremony will be held by her heritage area on June 15. She recently attended that Washington DC Travel Show and distributed material about the heritage areas. She noted that there were many questions about food-related travel and Asian heritage sites in Maryland from attendees to the travel show.

Brigitte Carty (Lower Susquehanna Heritage Area) announced that her organization was recently offered a new website design, pro-bono. April 27 will be the 19th annual river sweep. The Conowingo Environmental Club will provide boats to one of the islands to facilitate clean up there. Next year is the 20th anniversary of the establishment of LSHA, and the organization is considering how to commemorate this occasion.

ADJOURN

Dr. Baker motioned to adjourn. Ms. Hayes-Williams seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Schrader adjourned the meeting at 12:05 pm.