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Secretary

Elizabeth Hughes
MHT Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY
(MACA)
September 10, 2025

Committee Members in Attendance:

Ethan Bean, Stephen Brighton, Jane Cox, Dave Gadsby, Don Housley, Alexandra Jones, Cheryl LaRoche

Staff in Attendance:

Dixie Henry, Elizabeth Hughes, Matthew McKnight, Troy Nowak, Tricia Samford, Zachary Singer, Stephanie Soder, Brian Snyder

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

Review of the June 11, 2025, MACA meeting minutes:

The June 11, 2025, minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Don Housley and seconded by Ethan Bean; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Introduction of new MACA members, Alexandra Jones & Cheryl La Roche — Stephen Brighton

Dr. Brighton introduced Dr. Alexandra Jones and Dr. Cheryl LaRoche to the committee. Dr. Jones is the founder of Archaeology in the Community (AITC) a nonprofit archaeological educational organization in Washington, DC. Alex earned a PhD in Historical Archaeology from the University of California, Berkeley in 2010. Dr. LaRoche is an associate research professor in Historic Preservation in the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at the University of Maryland, College Park. Cheryl holds a PhD in American Studies from UMD as well.

Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes

Director Hughes briefly introduced herself to the new committee members.

Elizabeth then relayed that MDP has submitted its FY27 operating budget proposal to the Department of Budget and Management for consideration. At this point in time, we are not expecting any budget reductions that will impact MHT's archaeology program. Federal fiscal year 2025 funds have been drawn down. The federal fiscal year 2026 budget is delayed but we are cautiously optimistic that funding will be level with the previous fiscal year.

In terms of personnel, while Dr. Susan Langley retired at the end of July and her vacant position was frozen, we have submitted a hiring freeze exemption request to the Department of Budget and

Management. We are hopeful that the freeze exemption will be approved and hiring of her replacement can proceed.

Chief Archaeologist Report — Matt McKnight

Dr. McKnight relayed that Caitlin Hall's final day as an intern with MHT was on August 13.

Volunteers in the Artifact Processing Lab at 100 Community Place recently completed cataloging of the Cresap's Fort collection. Now work will be transitioning to writing up the site report.

The Annual Workshop in Archaeology is scheduled for Saturday, September 20 from 9 AM until 3:30 PM in Crownsville. The Keynote Speaker will be Cassandra Michaud. MHT has a very full lineup including a first ever County Archaeologist Round Table, a workshop on 3D Printed tabletop excavations, hands-on flotation and more. The full agenda is up on the MHT webpage.

In Historic Preservation Non-Cap Grant news: At the last MACA meeting, Matt reported that Governor Moore had vetoed SB980. This was a Senate Bill that took away our ability to transfer \$300K from the Heritage Areas fund for use in the Non-Cap program. We weren't sure what the impact of that veto was, we are now moving forward with a belated FY2026 Non-Cap round. ITAs will be due Oct 15, with full application due Nov. 17. Staff's goal is to have recommendations before the MHT Board at their January meeting. Matt currently only has two prior year Non-Caps that he is managing: Julia King's FY24 Project at Chapel Point SP, and the GPR Survey of Fort Cumberland. The former is being extended by 6 months to allow Julie's students to complete report writing and the latter has completed the fieldwork stage and is awaiting Tim Horsley's report.

Matt reported that staff have a largely complete and cleaned up/edited draft of the new *Standards and Guidelines* for archaeology in Maryland. Staff are completing one final typo and font uniformity check and then expect to be sending out notices before the end of the month to Medusa users and other potential external reviewers.

Following NAGPRA consultation work with the Delaware Nation about a path forward for final disposition of the Native remains under MHT's care, subsequent meetings were held over the summer with both the Governor's Office and DNR resulting in a letter that we sent to the MCIA on August 29 regarding consultation efforts. Matt provided a brief overview of the letter and its intent and suggested that additional conversations were likely.

Matt reports that he is one of the MHT representatives on the Ancestral Remains Committee with the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, as well as the Statewide Cemeteries Database committee that was set up by the passage of SB354, both of which have held a few meetings over the summer. The latter has held several as there is a tight deadline to produce a report for the Governor by December.

Matt reported that since the last MACA meeting, things have been a little quiet on the fieldwork front between staff vacations and avoiding the hot weather. The week of June 16, MHT archaeologists assisted Beau Lockhart (Frederick County Planning) with a shovel test pit survey and some GPR work at Rose

Hill Manor in the fields where a Precontact site had been previously reported. The GPR work produced no earth-shattering results, but the STP survey did locate one small area right next to the streambed that was productive. Staff also conducted remote sensing surveys at Cummings Tavern in Harford County in mid-July (part of the Rochambeau Project), and Matt and Zac went on a site visit to Upperco in Baltimore County which led to a newly-identified pre-Contact site. Zac and Steph were involved in several other projects that Matt could not participate in.

In other public outreach news, on Jul 25th, Matt was the keynote speaker for the grand re-opening of the Michael Cresap Museum and the 250th Anniversary of the mustering of the Cresap's Rifles out in Oldtown. Matt gave an hour lecture on MHT's work in C&O Canal Park at the Cresap's Fort site in 2024 that was attended by about 100 people.

In upcoming fieldwork, Steph and Matt will be doing some total station work in Dorchester County on Sept. 12 at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park (HATU) to establish a grid and means by which to survey at the Jacob Jackson site. At the end of the month, Matt will also be joining Zac at Barton out in western Maryland for at least some of the PaleoDigger Project. On October, staff will be helping Anne Arundel County (and their new County Archaeologist, Jason Shellenhammer) to set up a grid at the Brickhouse Creek site (18AN1782), which is newly discovered colonial, Archaic, and Paleo site in a county park. Anne Arundel County will be taking the lead in conducting an STP survey from there.

Underwater Activities Report —Troy Nowak

From mid-July to mid-August the Maycraft research and survey vessel was out of service. During that time the generator was removed, the deck was rebuilt, and mounts were installed for the winch and sub-bottom profiler.

Troy Nowak coordinated with a researcher from the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics laboratory who was looking for sites to test underwater robots and new sonar under development. None of this work involved ground disturbance or required permits. There may be future opportunities for collaboration.

Much of July was spent preparing for Susan's retirement. Dr. Susan Langley retired effective August 1 and safely made it home to Canada. She is currently on a cruise in Europe.

The Program received notification that its NPS Maritime Heritage Grant Program application was successful. MHT was awarded over 400K to manage and we are in the process of developing a competitive grant program to distribute those funds.

Troy was on vacation August 15-30, in Newfoundland with members of the Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group (BAREG) visiting ships lost during WWII.

Troy completed a review of *Citizen Science in Maritime Archaeology – The Power of Public Engagement* for the International Journal of Nautical Archaeology which will be published in October.

On September 2, Troy and Fred Engle (who is a member of MHT's Diving Safety Board, Operations Coordinator for BAREG, and currently our only registered/qualified volunteer diver) visited a site in

Potomac River which appears to be a late 19th/early 20th-century wooden scow. MHT will use it as a training site in late September.

Troy is currently preparing a grant application for Preservation Maryland's Maritime Heritage Grant Program, due on October 3.

Troy will be giving a talk about underwater robotics in Montgomery County for a school group on September 21, leading field sessions on behalf of MHT and BAREG as part of the Nautical Archaeology Society's educational program on September 27 and 28. He will also be attending the MD-NCR geographic response validations session on October 1 pursuant to a 1997 Programmatic Agreement between NCSHPO, EPA and USCG related to protection of historic properties during hazardous substance response. He also will be hosting a delegation of preservation professionals from the middle east through the Word Trade Center organization on October 2, and providing a talk on the maritime program on October 15 for the Natural History Society of Maryland.

Since the last MACA meeting, project review and compliance work and outreach to various federal and state agencies related to ongoing initiatives proceeded with no unusual issues of concern.

Terrestrial Activities — Zac Singer

Between June and September, Dr. Zac Singer reviewed two applications for Terrestrial Archaeology permits.

Zac reports that the MHT Volunteer Archaeology Lab has been regularly meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9AM-3PM. Lab days have regularly attracted 5 to 10 volunteers. The lab is processing the artifacts from the Teagues Point Field Session and preparing them for permanent curation at the MAC Lab.

On Monday June 23, Zac provided an overview of "Precontact Archaeology in Maryland" for the *From Trowels to Teaching Workshop* at North Point State Park. This workshop is being funded as part of an FY24 Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant.

On July 8 and 9, Zac and Steph participated in a Scouting America field and career exploration event at the Mexico Farm site near Cumberland, MD. Scouts were introduced to archaeology and given partial credit that could be used towards earning the Archaeology merit badge.

On July 28, Zac and Steph visited the Pipe Dream archaeological site in White Hall, Maryland to assist the property owner with completing an MIHP archaeology site form.

On July 30, Zac presented Precontact Lithics and Precontact Ceramics identification workshops for the Certified Archaeological Technician (CAT) Program developed by MHT, ASM, and CfMA at Chesapeake College.

On July 31, Zac presented an overview of "Precontact Archaeology in Maryland" for the Community College of Baltimore County's Owings Mills Campus Lunch and Learn lecture series.

Zac visited the Dorchester County Historical Society on August 1 to examine their Precontact archaeological collections.

On August 11, Zac, Steph, and MHT Summer intern Caitlin Hall conducted a GPR survey of the Baseman Family Cemetery in Baltimore County.

Zac visited the Ringgold Burial Grounds at Terrapin Park in Queen Anne's County on August 28 to provide Historic Kent Island with cemetery restoration guidance for this small family cemetery.

On September 3, Zac visited McKee-Beshers WMA in Montgomery County to examine the current condition of 18MO85 and 18MO76. Both sites were in agricultural fields when they were documented in the 1970s but now they are both in meadows with low visibility.

On September 4, Zac presented at Patapsco Heritage Greenway's Charles Wagandt II Memorial Lecture series at Elkridge Furnace Inn to provide an archaeological overview of the Elkridge Furnace Plank Buildings Site (18HO308).

Zac presented on Maryland's Publicly Accessible Archaeological Information during the Second Annual Summit of Maryland Indigenous people and Archaeologists on September 6.

Zac is organizing for a return of the PaleoDigger to the Barton site in Cumberland from September 26 through October 1.

MAC Lab Activities Report — Patricia Samford

Dr. Patricia Samford reports that the MAC Lab Expansion Project is over 90% complete, but behind schedule of original completion. Staff currently believe that substantial completion will take place in mid-January, when they can start using the new spaces created in the building, get oversized objects moved back in, and move furniture and other items back to their original locations. It is anticipated that the reopening of the lab to the public will take place in the fall of 2026.

The lab received word from the National Park Service that they were awarded full funding by Chesapeake Gateways for the creation of a long-term, 1,000 square foot exhibit on the *Witnesses of Wallville* project in the Exhibit Barn at JPPM. One of the first tasks will be to meet with the descendant steering committee to further discuss exhibit themes and display objects. Staff also plan to hold a larger community meeting to seek input. A previous iteration of the Wallville project is being recognized this week at the AASLH conference in Dayton Ohio.

This year's Public Archaeology program was conducted in May on a Black tenant farm on Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum property. The site was occupied by the Straiten family, who worked for the family who owned the property before it was sold to Jefferson Patterson. We concluded our Public Archaeology program for 2025 by hosting Archaeology Camp kids in July. Volunteers working this summer have washed, bagged, labeled, and artifacts are in the process of being cataloged.

The MAC Lab continues its work, undertaken in collaboration with the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) and the Banneker Douglas Tubman Museum, to collaborate with local descendant groups in 5 counties to return ancestral remains of African ancestry to local communities for reburial. The project received an IMLS grant to assist in these endeavors. A project coordinator, Maleke Glee, has been hired and he is working with groups in each county to conduct research that will potentially lead us to lineal descendants. Based on the wishes of each community, DNA analysis of the ancestral remains may be conducted and compared with DNA from possible lineal descendants. If no lineal descendants can be located, the project working group will work to return the ancestral remains to an affiliated community, like a historic church.

MHT staff attended the June 24 remembrance celebration for the Anne Arundel County Deep Creek cemetery ancestral remains. Based on wishes of the working group, digital scanning was conducted on complete crania from this cemetery, with an eye towards facial reconstruction in the future.

Scott Strickland participated in a teacher's workshop for archaeology put on by Digging Deeper consultants at North Point State Park and several MAC Lab Staff are running workshops next weekend at the Annual Workshop in Archaeology in Crownsville.

The lab will be hosting a Piscataway-led class from UMD in November.

Tricia reports that the initial triage work on the Middle Plantation Mareen Duvall Site has been completed. Mareen Duvall was a French Huguenot that settled in Anne Arundel County in the 18th century and William Doepkens, the owner of the property excavated the site in the 1960s and early 1970s, consulting with professional archaeologists to guide his work. After the death of the brother who still lived on the family farm, the Doepkens family decided to donate the collection to the Maryland Historical Trust. Dr. Julie King borrowed assemblages from five features at the site to use in her fall archaeological practicum class. The Doepkens family has been going through the family farmhouse and has begun finding the field records, photographs, and original maps associated with the excavation. Once they have assembled them, they will turn them over the lab for curation.

The lab has been joined two days a week this fall by Amya Roland, an undergraduate student at Towson. She is working with Collections Technician Megan Kearns to rehouse artifacts from additional archaeological sites that came in with the Middle Plantation collection.

Thanks to a Maryland 250 funding request prepared and submitted by Elizabeth Hughes, the archaeological collection from the printmaking shop of mid-18th -century *Annapolis Gazette* printer Jonas Green will be making its way to the lab. The grant, which celebrates freedom of the press, will include a travelling exhibit, a symposium, and funding for two interns to rehouse the collection.

Staff from the MAC Lab and MHT recently met with Greg Lattanzi, who is now at Temple University, about accepting Maryland archaeological collections generated by the work of Dr. Michael Stewart from the MHT funded Blue Ridge Survey. Agreement was made that it was appropriate that the collections come to the lab.

The lab received a 20-box collection from the Claggett Retreat site (18FR25), a late Woodland hamlet on the north bank of the Monocacy River.

Hannah, our digital archivist, continues to work her way through assessing the lab's digital archaeological records. She is also working on making publications and other lab-related website materials accessible through the inclusion of alt text for photographs and ways to make text accessible.

Tricia reports that the Conservation department at the lab has a number of projects ongoing, including artifacts from Mount Vernon, Alexandria, Philadelphia, Kippax Plantation in central Virginia, as well as projects from a number of state collections. Our fire remediation work on Montpelier's archaeological

artifacts is almost complete and we recently received a number of artifacts from the ship excavation at the World Trade Center. A social media post on those artifacts will go out on 9-11 in honor of Patriot's Day.

The new large freeze drier has been delivered to the lab's construction contractor and is being stored offsite until the process chiller that will power the freeze drier is installed. We have been given a timeline of sometime this fall for the installation of the chiller and the freeze drier.

Our x-ray unit has been down since this spring, due to a non-functional power source. The X-ray unit power source has been delivered and is awaiting installation, which is scheduled for the end of September.

Review and Compliance Activities Report — Dixie Henry

Dr. Henry reports that the Project Review and Compliance Unit (PRC) continues to successfully fulfill its Section 106 responsibilities, complete reviews, and provide technical assistance to program customers via conference calls, virtual meetings/site visits, in-person site visits and meetings, and participation in interagency working groups. Project review submittals remain at a steady volume – in the past 3 months (June, July, August), the PRC unit reviewed a total of 1,333 state and federal projects. Eight Determinations of Eligibility (DOE's) were also completed in those 3 months.

Dixie also introduced a new staff member to the committee. The Office of Preservation Services is happy to welcome Brian Snyder as the new Preservation Officer/Archaeologist in the Project Review & Compliance Unit! Brian is coming to us from the National Park Service - specifically from Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. He holds a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico and a Master's in Anthropology from Northern Arizona University and has over 15 years of experience as an archaeologist working in CRM and NHPA consultation. He has conducted archaeological investigations across 15 states - including throughout the Mid-Atlantic region - and has authored over 30 archaeological survey reports. We are very excited that Brian will be bringing his experience and skills to the PRC team and to MHT!

Dixie has attended multiple interagency meetings to facilitate agency coordination, including meetings with DNR, SHA, DGS, FEMA, and the Army. Meetings included:

6th Consulting Parties meeting with City of Annapolis, Historic Annapolis, Preservation MD, FEMA, ACHP, NPS and other consulting parties to discuss mitigation measures and draft PA for Annapolis City Dock Flood Mitigation project. The final draft of the PA for the flood mitigation projects was signed in August. Archaeological investigations will be taking place in several areas – including areas containing features associated with the 18th C. waterfront.
Meeting with DGS and MD School for the Deaf to discuss scope of work for archaeological investigations that will be taking place prior to drainage improvements at Hessian Barracks.

Some of our bigger projects (large-scale, complex, or those receiving a lot of public attention) – Chesapeake Bay Crossing Study, Key Bridge Rebuild project – have also required several coordination meetings.

Synthesis Report — Stephanie Soder

Ms. Soder reports that she completed the most recent update to the Archaeological Synthesis Database on August 13, 2025 to keep up with the 6-month update schedule. Since the last update, we had 28 sites added/updated. The next update is penciled in for February 11, 2026. The reports up to February 2024 have been completed, and now Phase II/III work conducted from March 2024 and June 2025 is underway.

Steph Soder is currently working with Cultural Resource Information Management (CRIM) team to create a Medusa layer for both the professional and the public synthesis database sides. CRIM is currently

working on building the model. A “draft” model has been completed and CRIM is working out some issues with it.

In June, Steph presented during the From Trowels to Teaching workshop for K-12 educators on careers in archaeology and provided a brief overview of archaeological ethics and law. This workshop is being funded through an FY24 Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant.

On July 30, Steph hosted a Senior Ranger Program for adults 55+ at the Sassafras NRMA for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Approximately 15 “rangers” were present and they have requested another program for next year.

Steph has been on the registration and volunteer planning committees for the Conference on Public Archaeology which was held in Washington DC on August 8 and 9. The conference was well-attended and it seemed that there was a sizeable contingent of Maryland archaeologists.

Staff completed fieldwork at Cummings Tavern in Harford County the week of July 14. Ground penetrating radar, magnetic susceptibility meter, and gradiometer survey were conducted in three areas around the tavern and surrounding fields. The work was conducted as part of the ABPP-funded Rochambeau Project. MHT will be starting to plan out where to conduct ground-truthing within the next month or so.

The MACA Meeting filing cabinet at MHT has had organization completed. Unnecessary documents were destroyed in accordance with MHT’s file retention policy and all minutes, reports, agendas, and attendance sheets that could be located have been organized. The hardcopy files span from 2019 back to 1971. More recent materials are available on the MHT webpage.

NEW BUSINESS

Selection of Next Meeting Date — Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 1:00 PM in the MHT Executive Conference Room (or virtually).

With no other business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:07 PM, in a motion made by Jane Cox and seconded by David Gadsby; the motion was unanimously approved.