



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY
(MACA)
March 29, 2023

Committee Members in Attendance:

Stephen Brighton, Marian Creveling, Jane Cox, Joseph Hoyt, Bob Wall

Staff in Attendance:

Susan Langley, Matt McKnight, Troy Nowak, Patricia Samford, Zac Singer, Stephanie Soder

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

Review of the December 7, 2022 MACA meeting minutes:

The December 7, 2022, minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Bob Wall and seconded by Stephen Brighton; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes

Absent – No Report

Chief Archaeologist Report — Matt McKnight

Matt provided an update on the work that he and Zac are undertaking with regard to several human remains-related issues. Staff met with the MCIA or with their Director about these issues on December 9, January 25, and February 23. Our representation with the Office of the Attorney General, Adam Snyder, has been very helpful in sorting through several issues. MHT is now in the process of updating its NAGPRA Inventory and preparing consultation letters for the various tribal organizations with which we have consulted in the past. Matt also reported on an erosion issue at the Wye Ossuary and discussions with the MCIA on how to deal with it.

On January 26, Matt and Zac made a trip to Chapel Point. A member of the public had encountered a human jawbone, which police subsequently seized. The medical examiner believes they are modern, but

we believe it to be far more likely derived from the 17th-19th century cemetery that is right there. No additional human remains were found to be eroding out of the site.

MHT is continuing to make progress on *Standards and Guidelines* revisions. Matt has completed layouts for his introductory chapter and most of Zac's Phase I Survey guidelines, as well as portions of Dixie's chapter on report writing. Stephanie is currently working on the "other cultural resource reports" chapter and everyone is still making progress.

Matt continues to work with Dennis Curry on his *Canavest* manuscript. MHT Press has selected a company called Fishergate to do the design work and is currently working on getting the contract completed with them.

The Non-cap grant agreements for FY23 have either been completed or are currently with legal for final changes before being sent out for signature.

Zac, Stephanie, and Matt all participated in the MAAC meetings earlier this month. Zac organized and presented in a session on Native American archaeology which was very well-attended. Matt presented a poster on our research at Cresap's Fort and was a discussant for the panel session on Relic Hunting (which was a full house). Both Zac and Matt were also judges for the student paper competition.

Matt spent a considerable amount of time working on the re-submission of an American Battlefield Protection Program grant that MHT submitted 2 years ago, which was not selected for funding. We've scaled the proposal to examine Rochambeau encampments back to focus on Cecil and Harford counties. Applications were due on March 15.

Matt is currently working with two individuals who have resurfaced from the Milford Mill High School Archaeology Club (a former ASM chapter) to document sites the club examined in the 1970s (18BA114 and 18BA116).

Zac and Matt made site visits to the Appropriate Places of Repose in Patapsco Valley SP and at JPPM. They are using the Emlid GPS to relocate and record datums.

MHT received 10 applications for our summer internship in archaeology, and selected 5 students for interviews. We have conducted two of those and will complete interviews by April 12.

Matt, Zac and Steph participated in meetings and site visits related to the upcoming Field Session. We had a Field Session planning meeting with Julie Markin (Washington College) on February 16 and then met her in the field on March 17 to set up the grid at the Chapel Branch West site (18CA270) where the 2023 Field Session will be held.

Also in March, Matt met virtually with NPS, Preservation Maryland (PM), and the ASM about funding a Field Session at 18AG9 in 2024. ASM will be pursuing funding through PM and a letter of support has been provided by the Superintendent of C&O Canal Park.

Fieldwork since the last MACA included GPR Data collection at the Old Otterbein Church in downtown Baltimore (Dec. 14), Shovel Testing at Fort Frederick State Park (Dec. 19-21), GPR data collection at Indian Creek NRMA (Jan 12), GPR data collection at Brice House (Jan 27), MagSusc at the Ruf Site (Feb 8-9) with follow-up Gradiometer and GPR work (March 20 and 22), a site visit Wye Ossuary with MCIA (Feb 23) and reps from the Nause-Waiwash, a site visit to 18BA116 with Lauren Schizek (Feb 27), and GPR work at the Old Treasury Building (March 28).

Underwater Activities Report — Susan Langley

Susan Langley attended the SHA Conference in Lisbon, sitting on the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA), participating in the UNESCO, Government Affairs and Government Maritime Managers Committees and Meetings.

In February, the Maritime Archaeology Program (MMAP) hosted the USCGs Oil Spill Response Team and Emergency Management Group for a meet-and-greet and will host the quarterly meeting of the Area Contingency Plan Committee in April. Troy Nowak and Susan have been attending the planning meetings for a full-scale PREP exercise in August.

MMAP made its annual submission to the Board of Public Works, which was approved, and includes plans for three weeks of survey in May (8-26) off Anne Arundel County.

The Maritime Program celebrates its 35th anniversary this year.

Maryland is part of the citizen science outreach Shipwreck Tagging Archaeological Management Program (STAMP), which is based in Florida. Partners include Florida, Virginia, Maryland, the National Park Service, and SEARCHinc (North Carolina is in the process of joining). The web page for this program went live on March 27 and MMAP hopes to kick it off during Archaeology Month, although scheduling may dictate another time.

A doctoral student from East Carolina University holds a permit for sampling in Mallows Bay for the year.

Unfortunately, the grant application to the NPS Maritime Heritage grant program was unsuccessful.

Susan is working on the final edits for a book chapter on managing intertidal resources in an unmanageable environment.

Susan made four presentations since the last MACA meeting and will be teaching the annual Law & Ethics class for the Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society next week.

Troy is working consistently through increasing numbers of compliance applications and reports.

Susan provided a save-the-date for Saturday, April 29 at St. Mary's College of Maryland. The college is partnering with Historic Sotterley to show the Netflix film *Descendant* about the last slave ship *Clotilde*. After, there will be a panel discussion with Kamau Sadiki from the National Association of Black Scuba Divers Diving with a Purpose Program, Jocelyn Davis, a descendant of one of the survivors of the *Clotilde* passage, and faculty from the college. The Program is called *Whispers from the Water*. Admission is free but Registration is required due to space constraints. Registration available at <https://inside.smcm.edu/events/whispers-water-apr-29>.

Terrestrial Activities — Zac Singer

Between December and March, Dr. Singer reviewed five applications for Terrestrial Archaeology permits.

Zac reported that the MHT Volunteer Archaeology Lab has been regularly meeting on Tuesdays from 9AM-3PM. Lab days have regularly attracted 5 to 8 volunteers. The lab volunteers have completed the rehousing and cataloging of materials generated from the 1969 excavation of the Middle to Late

Woodland Reeves Sites and have begun re-cataloging the Primose Site collection generated by Charlie Hall in 2011.

Maryland Archaeology Month (MAM), April 2023 is primed to be a great success. The theme for Archaeology Month is *Where Did You Find that Artifact? Context is Crucial in Maryland Archeology*. Donations for MAM 2023 totaled \$3970, which included contributions from many CRM firms and a sizable donation from the Council for Maryland Archeology. Costs for printing and mailing the MAM materials are estimated at \$3655, leaving ~\$315 to be added to the MAM surplus donations fund managed by the Archeological Society of Maryland. The MAM print run included: 150 full sized posters, 2000 mini-posters, 1000 magnets, and 2100 booklets. 750 packages (1 mini-poster, 1 magnet, and 1 booklet) will be mailed to stakeholders in the archeology community, 188 packages (1 mini-poster, 1 magnet, and 1 booklet) will be mailed to the MD legislators, the remaining materials will be distributed to MAM Institutional Sponsors, ASM Chapters, & local universities for distribution at public events held in April. 21 MAM events were listed on the MAM Calendar of Events. Additionally, CfMA and MHT are collaborating to record interviews with the MAM Booklet contributors, which will be posted on Youtube. MHT also plans three blog posts, the topics of which will be finalized soon.

Zac provided additional details about the findings of several of the field projects described in the Chief Archaeologist's report.

From March 9-12, Zac attended the Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference in Ocean City. Zac presented on his resurvey of the Paleoindian component at the Pierpoint site in Seneca Creek State Park.

On March 21, Zac present a talk to the Central Chapter of the ASM titled *MHT Potpourri: Updates on Recent Archaeology Projects*, which highlighted MHT's investigations of the Chapel Branch West site, Marshy Point Nature Center, Fort Frederick Northeast Field, White Hall, Maidens Choice, Pierpoint, and the MHT Volunteer lab's work on the Reeves site.

Matt and Zac continue to work on NAGPRA related coordination. We are updating the Inventory and consulting regarding the summary of unassociated funerary objects.

MAC Lab Activities Report — Patricia Samford

Tricia reported that JPPM park is expecting 100% plans for the Mac Lab Expansion within the next week. JPPM is currently on track to receive \$19.4 million in funding, which will be a net gain of 40+ additional years of storage, reconfigured interior spaces (expanded field processing room, a records room, external isolation room), plus loading dock, new large freeze drier and external chiller for freeze drier, and new walk-in fridge and freezer. Construction is set to start in the late summer or early fall and will take about 18 months.

With the construction planning, Becky Morehouse has created a large and complex spreadsheet of spaces, tasks, places for things to move while areas are under construction and a timetable for these activities. Staff have started cleaning spaces and purging. With the hiring of Megan Kerns in January to replace the vacancy left by Alice Merkel, staff are 60% done with making containers for oversize artifacts for use during the move and storage. The RFP for the move of some of the lab collections is being reviewed at the state procurement level.

Four proposals were received for the Gloria King Fellowship, and the committee has offered partial funding to all four. The scholars were notified earlier this week and we are waiting to hear if they will

accept partial funding. So far, only one John Henshaw (student at William and Mary) has gotten back to us and he has accepted.

Discovering Archaeology Day will be held on April 15 and it is still not too late to be an exhibitor.

The Witnesses of Wallville (NPS) grant is studying the rural community at the end of the peninsula where the park is located from the post bellum period to the mid-20th century. Our focus is on the Black community and changes in the demographics of Wallville during this period. The Lab has formed a steering committee of descendants, is holding monthly committee meetings and held a public meeting in late January, with good participation from locals. Staff have created a Storymap website and numerous social media posts, which have resulted in an outpouring of information from the local community. Oral histories, visits to family cemeteries, and sharing of old photographs, family trees and memorabilia are among the types of community engagement we are experiencing. Phase I archaeological excavation began this week on the first of about 7 sites associated with the Wallville community.

Staff continue to monitor construction and ground disturbance associated with the Patterson Center renovation project.

Conservation is currently treating ship timbers from the *Queen Anne's Revenge*, and is continuing with treatment of artifacts from the Philadelphia I-95 project, and another large Philadelphia site.

The lab has acquired an RTI dome and a total station. Volunteer Michael Block is doing a project to document the lab's projectile point collection using a special photography technique called focus stacking. This technique shows greater detail of things like flaking, surface, etc.

This year's Public Archaeology season will be held on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in May at the 17th-century Melon Field Site on the park. The Lab has offered their Public Archaeology internship to Luke Arcement, a Longwood University undergraduate and a former public archaeology participant.

Lab staff put together a session at the Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Conference. Five papers were presented on the 18th-century Smith St. Leonard site.

The lab will be completing its 3rd and final year for the NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates program with St. Mary's College of Maryland. Lab staff will be teaching lab and conservation related issues and Scott will teach GIS sessions.

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 technical assistance to program customers via hybrid office/telework, 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 January and February, the PR&C unit reviewed a total of 869 state and federal projects.

Dixie Henry completed review and comments on 182 grant applications for DNR's FY24 Trust Fund and Resiliency Through Restoration projects. While most of the proposed projects will not affect historic properties, further consultation with MHT is needed for 7 undertakings (such as tree plantings at the Wye House) once more detailed plans are available.

Beth Cole continues to work on our E-106 initiative with Greg Brown and the IT folks at MDP. Substantive progress has been made on the E106 Submitter and E106 MHT Reviewer aspects of the system. PR&C are currently testing the Submitter and Reviewer aspects of E106, and we hope to have pilot state agency testing by mid-April. Beth has developed the draft E106 User's Guide, with sections geared to Submitters and MHT Reviewers, currently being used in staff testing. We remain hopeful for E106 rollout by summer 2023.

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*.

Beth and Dixie have participated in multiple interagency coordination meetings including the monthly JE meetings with MDE/COE et al., MDOT SHA, and NPS parks. Key targeted MHT/agency meeting in the last quarter include:

- MHT hosted the first MHT/COE Section 106 coordination meeting since the pandemic, attended by Beth, Dixie and Troy. Agenda topics included review of consultation procedures, introduction of new staff, Q&A, training needs and opportunities.
- MHT hosted the first 2023 MDOT SHA/MHT quarterly coordination meeting and introduction of new MDOT SHA archeology staff member, Kasey Miller, attended by Beth and Dixie.
- Beth attended the 2023 annual coordination meeting and site visit with FEMA HQ and facility staff at FEMA's National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg to discuss project updates and coordination under the FEMA NETC PA and view current projects.
- Beth and Troy have participated in multiple virtual agencies and MHT-specific meetings regarding BOEM's Section 106 coordination for Offshore Wind projects. Consultation continues for development of a Programmatic Agreement for Offshore Wind in the Mid-Atlantic Region and project-specific consultation for US Wind and Skipjack Wind offshore Maryland.
- MHT hosted an MHT/DNR Maryland Park Service coordination meeting attended by Beth and Dixie. Agenda topics included initiatives under the MD Great Outdoors Act, planning initiatives and partnerships, coordination and review procedures, project-specific issues, and training needs and opportunities. Given the volume of projects and importance of DNR stewardship of cultural resources, MHT and DNR agreed to begin implementing quarterly review and coordination meetings.

Synthesis Report — Stephanie Soder

On February 16, Stephanie pushed out an update to the synthesis database online. A total of 254 sites were added or expanded as part of this update. The last logged update was in January of 2020. Steph plans to schedule out updates every 6 months, with the next one slated on or around August 16.

The current library backlog means that some reports aren't catalogued or digitized, so Steph is making note of those reports and bypassing them until the end. Then she will either pull the hardcopy report if available or check to see if it is digitized.

Prince George's County is complete (except for reports that aren't digital), Queen Anne's County is also almost complete.

In early February MHT opened up registration for our Scouts BSA Merit Badge. We reached our 40-limit cap in about two weeks. Currently there are 36 participants – 4 dropped out, and one might join. We may open up registration if more individuals drop out. Scheduling and preparation for the merit badge class has taken up much of Stephanie's time. April 29 is the workshop day. The morning will be a presentation, and the afternoon will be rotating stations (presentations by scouts, lab tour/how to be an archaeological protector, and experimental archaeology). May 6 and 7 is the fieldwork day (splitting the scouts into two manageable groups). It will be held at Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary. DNR has agreed to provide the port-pots and handwashing stations at Merkle, which left room in our budget that we used to buy two additional atlats, six darts, and a weight for our use (experimental archaeology project). We could use some additional volunteers who have excavation experience to monitor the scouts so if anyone comes to mind, please let us know. Staff have already reached out to CAT graduates and candidates and have a few who can help.

Stephanie is also handling an outreach day alongside ASM Eastern Shore chapter volunteers to a 3rd-5th Grade summer camp class at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center.

NEW BUSINESS

Patricia Samford provided an overview of the formal request by George Mason University for Non-destructive Analysis of Human Remains in MHT care and custody (provided in the Committee packets). After discussion and clarification of issues related to the racial and ethnic affiliation of the human remains a motion was put forward. Bob Wall moved that MACA approve the study of human remains pending approval by the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC). Stephen Brighton seconded and the motion passed unanimously. However, it was later noted that the motion had not captured the intent of the Committee's discussion. The motion was revised to allow George Mason University to proceed with the study of human remains of European ancestry, and that MACA approve the study of remain of African or unknown ancestry only with concurrent approval by the MCAAHC. The revised motion was then approved unanimously by all Committee members in attendance.

C. Jane Cox relayed to the Committee her desire to step down as Committee Chair, a position she has held since 2012. She also relayed that Stephen Brighton has offered to take on the role. After brief discussion, the Committee thanked Jane for her service and a motion was made by Bob Wall to approve Stephen taking over as Committee Chair beginning at the quarterly meeting in September. The motion was seconded by Joe Hoyt and approved unanimously.

Selection of Next Meeting Date — Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 1:30 PM in the MHT Executive Conference Room (or virtually).

After discussion of other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM, in a motion made by Stephen Brighton and seconded by Joe Hoyt; the motion was unanimously approved.