



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY
(MACA)
December 6, 2023

Committee Members in Attendance:

Stephen Brighton, Jane Cox, Dave Gadsby, Don Housley, Bob Wall

Staff in Attendance:

Matt McKnight, Patricia Samford, Stephanie Soder

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

Review of the September 6, 2023, MACA meeting minutes:

The September 6, 2023, minutes were reviewed. Matt McKnight pointed out a typographical error on page 3 regarding the date of the Workshop in Archaeology. The error was corrected and the minutes were accepted in a motion made by Jane Cox and seconded by Dave Gadsby; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes

Absent/No Report

Chief Archaeologist Report — Matt McKnight

Dr. McKnight reported on the activities of the MCAAHC/MHT Ancestral Remains Working Group. There was a virtual meeting on Sept 8, as well as ceremonial adoption held by the larger MCAAHC on Oct 2 at their regular business meeting, and a meeting with Doug Owsley to discuss DNA testing on Oct 24. The next meeting of the working group is Friday, December 8, which will follow-up on results from social media outreach.

Matt provided an update on NAGPRA/MCIA conversations and correspondence regarding human remains issues.

Dennis Curry's new book *Canavest* is now available for purchase from MHT Press.

Matt reported that the American Battlefield Protection Program grant agreement for work in Harford and Cecil counties related to the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route is now complete and MHT can begin spending funds. Two community meetings (one in each county) are being planned for early next year to reach out to local stakeholders.

Three archaeology projects were recommended for funding with Historic Preservation Non-Cap funds. These were approved by the MHT Board at their October meeting. \$33K went to St. Mary's College of MD for their project entitled "The Early 17th-Century Mission at Potapaco Town". \$40K was awarded to Washington College for a project called "Tracking Native American Cultural Heritage on Maryland's Upper Eastern Shore", and \$40K was awarded to the Lost Towns Project for "Curating the Mayr Collection".

MHT held the 32nd Annual Workshop in Archaeology on Saturday, September 23rd. Despite the workshop hitting at the height of Tropical Storm Ophelia (or perhaps because of it), there was a really good turnout, with over 70 people in attendance.

Zac Singer, Stephanie Soder, and Matt all participated in the Eastern States Archaeological Federation Annual Meetings Oct 26-29. Zac presented in an organized session on Paleoindian research. Steph and Matt each presented MHT research projects in a GPR session on Saturday morning.

On November 4, Matt participated in the Montgomery County History Conference at Montgomery College in Rockville giving a presentation entitled "Living on the "Edge": Using Remote Sensing to Explore Landscapes of Indigenous and Colonial Interaction at the English Periphery".

Matt reports that the draft results of the meetings RE the Statewide Preservation Plan, which is being called Heritage2031 are up on the MHT webpage for comment.

Zac, Stephanie, and Matt all renewed their First Aid, CPR and AED training certifications on Nov. 21.

Matt provided an update on several fieldwork projects including Cresap's Fort, Fort Frederick CCC investigation, Broad Run Park (newly acquired by MoCo), ORV Fieldwork Day at Medicine Hill in Dorchester County, and GPR data collection at Fort Tonoloway State Park. He also provided an overview of upcoming field projects.

Underwater Activities Report — Matt McKnight

Matt reported that Dr. Susan Langley and Troy Nowak extended their apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. They are making a presentation at the Regional Response Team 3 meetings in Pennsylvania.

Troy and Susan are working with Dept. of the Interior to put together an Unanticipated Discoveries Plan (UDP), as well as a job aid for oil and hazmat spill responders as to what constitutes Historic Properties. The job aid is being modelled on materials developed in Alaska for Coastal and Inland spills.

Troy and Susan spent two weeks documenting, in detail, an unusual 5-log canoe in Calvert County. They still have some smaller elements in Crownsville and hope to be able to draw some sections as well when they return the small pieces to the landowner, who is the descendant of a boatbuilder who likely constructed this craft.

The Dive Safety Board met virtually on Nov. 1 and is still seeking another member. Recommendations are welcome.

Susan was interviewed on *The Mainstreet Podcast* (Harford County) and made a presentation to the Diving History Museum (FL).

Susan was the keystone speaker for the Mid-Atlantic Marine Educators Association Conference and, also, gave another paper. She continues to sit on the Steering Committee for the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Acidification Network (MACAN).

Troy has been addressing equipment issues. He had the new motor for the jon boat installed and arranged for secure storage rental and he has been working on the purchase of a sub-bottom profiler for virtually all of 2023, but has faced issues outside of MHT's control. Troy also arranged for the recalls to be addressed for the Dodge RAM truck which is used to tow MHT's vessels.

Troy assisted with the MHT/ASM Workshop in September, assisted Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group (BAREG) with its Fall training course, and assisted the terrestrial team at Cresap's Fort in October.

Susan provided a half-day training for staff in first aid, CPR, and AED use in November.

Troy continues working with BOEM on wind energy projects, and the Army Corps about mid-bay island creation, as well as with the Corps and DNR about oyster reef creation.

Troy continues to participate in the updating of MHT *Standards and Guidelines*.

Since the last MACA meeting, Troy has reviewed 240 compliance applications.

Susan is honored to have been chosen to receive the William B. Mayre Award by the ASM at its Annual Meeting in October.

Susan will attend the Society for Historical Archaeology conference in Oakland in January and will be participating in a number of ways.

Terrestrial Activities — Zac Singer

Between September and December, Dr. Zachary Singer reviewed two 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 10 volunteers. The lab is currently cataloging and preparing collections for curation from the Old Treasury Building (18AP22), Old Otterbein Church (18BC218), Mill Keeper West (18MO127), and the Cresap's Fort Site (18AG9).

Zac also reported that he is serving on the MHT Easement committee. On October 25, Zac attended an on-site meeting at Hammond Harwood to discuss their preservation Easement and protections for archaeological resources. Hammond Harwood has proposed a large drainage project in the front yard, so Zac is coordinating to ensure that archaeological resources are properly documented as part of this project.

Matt and Zac continue to work on NAGPRA related coordination and are organizing for a potential joint repatriation request from the Piscataway Indian Nation and the Piscataway Conoy Tribe.

On September 7, Zac presented on MHT's archaeological research program for the meeting of the Frederick County Chapter of the National Society of Professional Surveyors.

On September 23, Zac participated in the Annual Workshop in Archaeology. Zac presented "Tips and Tricks for Completing an Archaeology Site Form".

From October 26 through 29, Zac participated in the Annual Meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation in Ocean City, MD. Zac organized a session on Paleoindian and Early Archaic occupations in Eastern North America. Zac presented on Revisiting the Seneca Bluffs Paleoindian sites in Montgomery County, Md.

On November 17, Zac visited with Kevin Brady to document his Pre-Contact artifact collection from Charles County. Zac is working with Kevin to fill out MIHP archaeology site forms for these sites.

On December 4, Zac met with Bob Wall, Kelly Berliner, and Brian Fritz to discuss the potential for Brian's PaleoDigger machine to excavate deep test pits at the Barton site in Alleghany County to explore the deeply buried Paleoindian occupation at the site. There is great momentum for this project to move forward in the summer of 2024.

On December 4, Zac led the Kick-Off Meeting for Maryland Archaeology Month 2024. The meeting resulted in the selection of a general theme of "Engaging Communities: How Descendants and Archaeologists Uncover African American History". A finalized title is still in the works.

MAC Lab Activities Report — Patricia Samford

The MAC Lab expansion project continues to move forward on our end, but has been frustratingly slow for finalizing the construction contract. Construction bids (5 were received) were received in early October and are still under review by DGS. At this point, the construction project, projected to take 15 to 18 months, will not begin until sometime in the spring.

Pre-construction tasks continue with the MAC Lab staff—since the last MACA meeting, the re-boxing and moving of the study collections is almost complete. Large shelving units that held oversize collections have been moved to another part of the park and repurposed. The Lab received three bids for the moving and storage of the oversized collections and protection in place for the SS Columbus paddlewheel. MAC Lab staff have provided feedback on these proposals and it is anticipated that we will have a decision soon about who the moving and storage company will be.

Due to the expansion project and the uncertainty about how accessible collections will be during the construction, we have worked with donor Julie King and made the decision not to offer the Gloria King Fellowship program in 2024. Staff hope that we will be able to get back on track in 2025.

The NPS *Witnesses of Wallville* grant is studying the rural community at the end of the peninsula where JPPM is located from the post bellum period to the mid-20th century. The Lab's focus is on the Black community and changes in the demographics of Wallville during this period. During the early fall, staff

conducted Phase I archaeological excavations at four late 19th and early 20th century sites associated with the Wallville community. The artifacts are currently being washed and cataloged. Staff are also currently working on new sections on the people of Wallville and working in Wallville for the StoryMap.

Calvert County Ogle collections were received by the MAC Lab in late November.

Conservation is ramping down for the expansion project, since the treatment lab will be directly affected by the construction, which has meant having to turn down some projects. Arianna Johnston, a MAC Lab conservator, is currently working almost full-time for a year at the Navy history and heritage Command at the Navy Yard. They are paying the state for this work, but she is working at their facility on an 18th-century shipwreck. The Lab is also preparing to store some waterlogged materials for Goodwin and Associates for a VDOT project and will do the conservation once the lab space is accessible again.

MHT staff and staff of the MCAAHC have formed a working group to determine how to repatriate ancestral remains of African ancestry to lineal descendants or local communities. The group has met several times since the early fall and have submitted a grant proposal to IMLS for DNA testing and historical research to try to find descendants.

Scott Strickland collaborated with the Piscataway on a tribal history course at UMD and the students visited and toured the MAC Lab on December 2. The course is planned again for next year.

The lab has received a new permanent Digital Archivist position and we have finished the interviews and are in the process of finalizing the hiring.

Sara Rivers-Cofield completed the Conservation Fund grant and her final report, but is still working on two publications associated with that grant on equestrian artifacts.

Review and Compliance Activities Report — Dixie Henry

Dixie Henry reports that project review submittals remain at a steady volume – in the past 3 months (June, July, August), the PRC unit reviewed a total of 1,121 state and federal projects.

MHT will launch its e106 system on December 6th! The user-friendly system will offer improved program efficiencies in the Section 106 review process - allowing state and federal agencies and consultants to send their projects into MHT for review by completing an online form and uploading their attachments. Users can register for a free account by using their email address to access MHT e106. The system will accept, track, and respond to individual review requests with MHT's official comments regarding project effects to historic and archaeological resources.

Beth Cole and Tim Tamborino have compiled a very detailed e106 User Guide that will be available to everyone and will be very helpful. Announcements regarding the launch of e106 have been posted on MHT's website and social media, and hundreds of "coming soon" email notifications have been sent to state and federal agencies, local governments, consultants, etc.

PRC staff have drafted updates to all of the unit's pages on MHT's website to reflect the launch of e106.

Beth and Dixie participated in multiple interagency coordination meetings including the regular scheduled

monthly JE meetings with MDE/COE et al., and MDOT SHA interagency meetings.

MHT hosted the quarterly DNR/MHT coordination meeting - which continues to be a very productive effort in building/maintaining the Trust's relationship with DNR.

Dixie participated in DNR's annual Project Review meeting and provided a brief overview of Section 106 to their review staff. A more detailed half-day Section 106 training will be offered to DNR staff in early 2024.

Dixie attended the Sparrows Point Container Terminal FAST-41 Kickoff Meeting at the Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District office.

Dixie also attended the U.S. EPA and Department of the Army: "Waters of the United States Updates for Tribes and States Webinar" – interagency discussion regarding revised definition of "waters of the United States" following the U.S. Supreme Court's May 25, 2023 decision in the case of Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency and how this may impact which projects are subject to Section 106.

Synthesis Report — Stephanie Soder

Stephanie Soder reports that the last update to the Maryland Archaeological Synthesis Project was completed on August 10. The next one is penciled in for February 8 unless staff decides to do one earlier to update URLs that are outdated due to recent server changes by MDP.

Greg Brown and Stephanie are meeting next week to redo all of the embedded URLs in all synthesis entries. Right now, the synthesis synopsis reports are able to be viewed online, but the reference data is not working.

Greg, Jen Chadwick-Moore, and Stephanie are also meeting at the same time to discuss getting the synthesis data layer added onto Medusa. The current idea is to use the same polygons used for archaeological sites for the private/professional side, and then for the public side, we can possibly use the randomized coordinates that are generated for the entries to place a marker near the site, like a bullseye or dot.

Steph reports that she is currently jumping between counties that have a lot of sites to be added and those that don't have too many so that we can get some counties completed while still chipping away at the larger amounts. Currently she is working on Anne Arundel, Charles, Howard, and Harford counties.

Steph met with Nell Ziehl to start a discussion on local archaeology review and ordinance guidance. We hope to start working on that in the spring. It will likely be in the form of a guidance document rather than a model ordinance.

MHT will be hosting a scout merit badge workshop in 2024 like we did this year. Tentative dates are May 11 (workshop) and May 18 & 19 (fieldwork).

At the ESAF conference, Steph presented on the ground penetrating radar work that MHT completed at the Old Otterbein United Methodist Church in Baltimore City and associated ground-truthing.

NEW BUSINESS

Human Remains Study Request by Banneker-Douglas Museum for DNA Analysis — Patricia Samford

Tricia provided an overview of the proposal put forward by the Banneker-Douglas Museum on behalf of the Working Group on Ancestral Human Remains (comprised of members from the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and the Maryland Historical Trust). The study request is for DNA analysis of the ancestral remains of five individuals as part of a grant proposal submitted by the Banneker-Douglas Museum to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This proposed DNA analysis is part of the larger working group mission to return remains of African ancestry to descendant groups.

The members of the Committee moved to send a letter of approval for the proposed study. The motion was made by Dave Gadsby and seconded by Don Housley.

Selection of Next Meeting Date — Wednesday, March 13, 2023, at 1:00 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 Don Housley and seconded by Jane Cox; the motion was unanimously approved.