

**MOWPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
18 December 2023**

Board Members in Attendance:

Andy Lazur, UMD
Eddie Harrison, BAT Onsite LLC
Ryan Nagi, SPEK Home Inspections
Gene Von Gunten
Brad Rice, Atlantic Pumping
Rob Sell, McCrone, Inc.
Doug Dufour, Earl E. Preston Jr., Inc.
Amy Hart, Howard County
Bob Johnson, Atlantic Solutions

Board Members Absent:

Absences are notated as "Excused" if Board Member notified AA or other Board Members of intent to miss prior to start of meeting

Others in Attendance:

Rachel Flatley, MOWPA Administrative Coordinator
Rob Powell, Member
Dru Schmidt Perkins, Team Septic
Emily, Team Septic
Adam Browning
Travis Sterner, MDE

Call to order: 1:05 p.m. by Ryan Nagi

Review of Agenda: The agenda was approved.

Review of November 2023 Minutes: Not discussed

Election: N/A

Discussion Topics and Action Items:

Treasurer's Report: (See Treasurer Report Attachment)

Amy proposes MOWPA charge a ser charge for people cancelling the class. PayPal charges a service fee for all transactions. We would need to put the cancellation policy on all course documents and website. Amy is spending about 20mins per return to process it. Ryan suggested a "processing fee" for class cancellations. Vote passed. Will be effective after Jan 1, 2024.

New Policy-

- (1) If a cancellation happens prior to two weeks before the course event than there will be a \$30 processing fee taken out of the refund. If a price point includes a membership than the membership portion of the price paid will not be refunded.
- (2) 13-2 days: A ½ refund will be given and there will be processing fee.

- (3) If a cancellation occurs 2 days (48 hours) or less before the course, no money is back.
- (4) They are eligible to transfer the spot to another person within their company (as long as that person meets class eligibility criteria).

Education Committee Report

- Soils Class: The class is scheduled for November 13-14, 2024. Need to work on increasing registrations. Class will be at Howard County Bureau of Utilities. Carol will order the Coffee/Donuts in morning and lunch on 2nd day. Field day will be at University of MD Clarksville. The pits will need to be dug out. A board member is needed on the 14th for the field.
 - o Andy suggested sending it to Matt Cumers (Calvert County- MACO) so he can pass info.
 - o Eddie would like to wait until we are a week out before class is cancelled if we don't have 12 attendees.
 - o Andy will reach out to instructors to get feedback.
- Inspection Course: 45 total people took the course in September and October and all passed. There was a course revision after the second course. (1- 27), (2- 18). There were some technical issues with the Google drive. Positive feedback given with the addition of the review portion of the course.
 - o 2024 Offerings: Discussion regarding when to hold the Inspection Course in 2024. Eddie suggested having a wait list until we reach about 25 people and plan to have it later in the Spring. Also with the field component it makes sense to move it to April or May. Andy brought up potential issue of classroom space if we wait too long.
 - O&M Course will be moved to Feb 2024 and the Inspection Course in April.
- O&M- Some revision is needed on this course. Date pending poll results.
- Advanced Design Course: Would use the MOWPA design manual as the primary material for this course.
- Basic Design Course. Discussion of creating a Basic design course that would be geared towards contractors who have to design systems for approval to counties. The course would be generic because each county has different specific regulations.
 - o Baltimore County created their own basic design course that is available online.
 - o Rob indicated that counties have different requirements. He stated that there are 100's of land development engineers that would like to take the course.
 - o Andy will start working on it after November. He will pull together slides for basic designs and then sent it out.
- Septic 102: Eddie/Andy will be teaching the 102 Course at Worwic on November 14, 2023. Andy/Eddie/Ryan reviewed the course today.
 - o Andy will contact the WorWic rep to get clarification on CEU's and certificates. It is possible to issue a "certificate of attendance" since the class will not have a test. If a test is given, then it would be a "certificate of completion".
 - o This class will in the future be used as a pre-requisite for the Inspection Course.
- Homeowners Course: No new updates
- Septic 101: Septic 101 is drafted and will be an online course through NOWRA's Blue Sky program. It needs final group review. Eddie suggested Rob Powell as the voiceover narrator for the course. Rob will call Andy later on to work out details.
 - o The course will need to have a registration fee. Andy will check to see what other state's are offering for a similar class.
- Other: Andy is recommending scheduling the courses out 6 months in advance for scheduling purposes. Faculty and Home & Garden Information Center will also be using the building.

Legislative Report

- Session is Over: No updates.
- Onsite Wastewater Board: governor's board approved candidates. The board will not be seated until after session. The Senate President will schedule when people get appointed.
- Property Transfer Regs: No one wants to touch the regs and are waiting for the Board to edit it.
- MACO: Eddie signed up for Winter MACo. It is in the first week of December. Board voted to cover the registration cost.
- Team Septic: Would like to make the Bay Restoration Fund more assessable to people for repairs. They want to expand the eligibility of projects within the Bay Restoration Fund but understands that there isn't enough money to pay for items already prioritized. Would like to add drain fields to what is currently allowed. Would like to have a new band of prioritization for properties that have septic fields within 1000 ft to a blue lined stream.
 - o Would like to switch over funding from cover crops (40% equivent funding). They get funds from Chesapeake and Costal Trust Fund and BRF. BRF funds must be cost effective nitrogen reduction.
 - o There is more money available from the sewer side of the bay restoration funds.
 - o Would like to have an additional \$5 million a year for septic funds.
 - o Would like to change income limits requirements increasing it to make it more useful for more people.
 - o Class 1 are BRF funded, Class 2-4 are not. Very difficult to combine the classes. In Western Counties there is funding issues for Homeowners to be able to afford testing and design. Eddie highlighted issues with homeowners being able to afford service in those areas too.
 - o Dru suggested going back to the funding committee to go over areas identified and to follow up with MDE to see what items they would be more likely than not to support. Also, to work with MDE on some administrative fixes.
 - o There is concern from legislative people that like the BRF program as it stands and does not want special interests to come in and start taking money away from the program.
 - o Bay Restoration Advisory Committee met last week and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation is on the committee. They asked Dru to share the ideas that they were walking on. She emphasized the importance of the money and to keep it for septic's and not for additional programs. The Committee had no concept of pollution loads and the cost to people and why they can't afford to fix it.
 - o Travis suggested looking at the big Pipe money and it will save MDE a lot of money. When houses get switched over to sewer than MDE loses it's onsite allocation for that house.
 - o Some farmers do not participate in the Cover Crop program. MDE stopped funding a popular cover crop that farmers were able to monetize.
 - o Inflation and the Cost of the install of the units are going to really hurt MDE's ability to fund these systems within the BRF program.
 - o Rob suggested removing the Counties as a middle man to allow the citizens to connect directly with the state. Eddie suggested not allowing flippers to use the BRF money unlimited without having a

date contingent upon how long they need to hold the house until they have to pay it back. Travis pointed out that the funding is locked into the property and not the specific owner.

- 5-7 Counties run out of the money (Peadmont Counties- Harford through Frederick and Montgomery). Those counties receive less money because they aren't in critical areas. The counties that have a lot of shoreline areas get the most money.

MDE Update

- Travis was present at meeting.

Training Center – University of Maryland, Central MD Research and Education Center (CMREC)- Update

- Chesapeake Bay Trust: A grant submitted to Chesapeake Bay Trust in the Outreach Program. Proposal submitted on 8/4 for under \$50,000. We are asking for drain field display, supplies, construction of 9 displays, etc. Will hopefully hear back in December.
- 319 Funding: with MDE \$150K for the Education Pavilion. There is a draft application ready and he is waiting to get further instruction. The money has already been funded to MDE.
 - We need a UEI Number. It will take 10 days for it to be processed and get it back. Amy sent the letter to the accountant. Ryan will call Amy and follow up on it.
 - Andy will get clarification if we need to hold any training programs associated with this.
- MOU: Andy met with Facilities Director (Darlene Joy Bucciero), University Procurement Rep, and Experimentation Station Director to discuss what work MOWPA can do on it's own and not use the University resources. The MOU needs to be revised and then the procurement person can make comments as to how MOWPA can proceed. The question comes up to whose building is it- it is on university property.
 - Item D in the MOU is being changed to reflect the pavilion (construction, maintenance of buildings, structures, and equipment) which need to conform to UMD Requirements.
 - Board voted that changes and edits are accepted on the MOU.
- Equipment Donation: Ryan sent out commitment letters but haven't received anything back yet.
- EPA Waterwork Force Development Grant: Due 11/17. Reviewed the RFP. There are 6 priority areas in which #5 fit MOWPA well. It is a 3 year grant and will start next year in Spring or Summer. There is a possibility of using existing course material and the demonstration center to help met the grant criteria. There are options to offer internships. It would help cover costs for training, publicity, etc.
 - Eddie suggested waiting until after the Training Center is up. He suggested if we did apply for it to work it through a partnership with the University. That way the students could get college credit and we could meet the requirements of the grant- Andy sees that as a component of a proposal but not the scope.
 - Eddie stated that apprentices are hard because people are hesitant to get into the business. Andy stated that was part of the reason why EPA wants to get this into the program. Eddie wondered what they would pay the apprentice.
 - The Board decided to not pursue it this time but keep it in mind for the future.

High Waste Sub Committee

- No Update

Old Business

- Website: Rachel has started making a wish list for things to improve upon the next time money is budgeted for website upgrades.
- Tax Issue: The Accountant is working on the tax issue. He just emailed asking for the balance sheet.
- Grass Cutting: Ryan told contractor to go ahead and cut the grass. He will follow up with contractor.

New Business

- MACO- The dates are August 16-18 (Wed-Friday). Eddie, Ryan, and Nancy will be there representing MOWPA.
- Conference: Date will be on November 2nd at Ten Oaks. It will stay 2 tracks.

- Caterer: Zefferon and Gold duplicated the order from last year with a new estimate. It will be just under \$4300.
- Happy Hour: Brad Rice (Atlantic Pumping) will sponsor the Happy Hour.
- Sound: King Sound is \$499.20 on stand by.
- Prices: Member admission \$125 (Non Member \$225); \$400 for vendors. Membership is required to attend. Discussion regarding raising the money for Conference 2024 to possibly \$150.
- Vendors: Dwayne Jones will take care of contacting vendors.
- Sponsorship: Rob Sell, Doug, and Bob will work on it. Created 3 levels. They range from \$100, \$250, and that will be \$400. Varying levels of promotion. Happy Hour sponsors could give out event tickets. Eddie suggested thinking outside the box and contacting businesses such as Home Depot, Lowe's, etc. Bob stated that the sponsorship should be an box on vendor application. Eddie would like to have a booklet (i.e. church bulletin 8x10, 10 pages, color). Sponsorship is on website.
- Agenda: The Agenda is finalized. Still waiting to hear back from Twain Glazier for presentation name. Presenters should send them to Andy in advanced. Ryan will contact presenters to get copies of their presentation.
- Pumper Course: Ryan will reach out to Dwayne for Pumper Class.
- Hardware: There needs to be 3 laptops (big room, two breakout rooms). Rachel will order another Projector (as close to matching the current one Eddie has). And will also order 1 extra light bulb and two pointers.
- Nominations: Rachel will determine which Board Members are up. All in room indicated they are willing to serve again. Terms are 3 years. Rachel will look at 2023 nominations.

Next Meeting will TBD- it will be hybrid.

Meeting adjourned at 2:48 PM