

**MOWPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
13 Feb 2023**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Andy Lazur, UMD  
Eddie Harrison, BAT Onsite LLC  
Ryan Nagi, SPEK Home Inspections  
Amy Hart, Howard County  
Rob Sell, McCrone, Inc.  
Brad Rice, Atlantic Pumping  
Gene Von Gunten

**Board Members Absent:**

Doug Dufour, Earl E. Preston Jr., Inc.  
Bob Johnson, Atlantic Solutions

*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, MOWPA  
Kevin Koepenick, Baltimore County

**Call to order:** 1:06 p.m. by Ryan Nagi

**Review of Agenda:** The agenda was submitted and a motion was made to accept the agenda. Vote took place and approved.

**Review of January 2023 Minutes:** Board Members voted and approved the minutes.

**Election:** N/A

**Discussion Topics and Action Items:**

**Treasurer's Report: (See Treasurer Report Attachment)**

**Treasurer Report:** Went over the Income/Expense Reports for the Soil Course and Open House. The MOWPA profit for Soils Course is around \$700.

**Education Committee Report**

- Soils Class – Next Soil class tentatively arranged for Oct 23. Cliff and Don Hammerlund are interested in teaching it. There was a possible course on the Eastern Shore for the Environmental Health Directors. That course will be significantly more expensive than previously. The course would be around \$10K. At this time the cost was too high for the Directors to go forward with. The next meeting for them will be this upcoming Thursday. Kevin will have more information for us later on. The course would be cheaper to have at a location in Central MD.
- Inspection Course: Very productive Inspection Course meeting. Kevin Koepenick has taken on a large chunk of work in revising the manual and course materials. Andy has reviewed the NOWRA material and has pulled out some that can be incorporated into the course. Next step, is to add some slides to the

presentation. Existing challenge is the long list of items needed from MDE. Andy sent a letter to MDE with concerns regarding current regulations in regards to the testing requirements. Once the course is updated than the Board will approve it and sent to MDE. It is unclear what MDE will do after the 30 day comment period. Kevin stated the current MDE report is useful and that most Inspectors are still using their own in addition to the MDE report.

- O&M- Registration is going well. Eddie and Nancy are able to teach the course on March 29.
- Education Meeting Recap: N/A
- Advanced Design Course: N/A
- Homeowner Course 101: We received the \$7K grant from Campbell Foundation. Obligated to teach two classes at WorWic for Fall 23 and Spring 24. Kevin is working on PowerPoint presentation regarding regulations and designing septic in May 2023. It is targeted towards professionals. There will be a pt2 on how to submit a permit application in Baltimore county and how to prepare a site plan. Kevin asked if MOWPA was open to offering classes that would be available online. Andy will follow up with Kevin about this. Discussion about having more MDE input and approval for courses. The 101 course will also be online and the plan is to use the NOWRA Blue Sky platform which will help save money.

### Legislative Report

- HB 30/SB 007- Is a correction bill for the Board bill. There are a few technical errors that will be fixed. There are revenue issues that were also addressed. The fee's will go to the MD Clean water Fund. The PE's unexpectedly got involved in the bills as they felt they were not supposed to be included in it. The PE's don't want to be included in it. Sen Hestor also has additional questions. (Same bill/same verbiage)
- Database Bill- Eddie isn't happy with the bill. Someone else is in Delegate Stein's ear who does not want items that MOWPA would like in the bill (as built, design plans, etc). The bill doesn't have any funding method – it has been suggested to have a permit surcharge. They are trying to get sponsor amendments added to it. Eddie will not support it as written. It also would like to establish a work group.
- Senator Hestor's Bill- She would like standardized permitting forms, local health department designs application and information on how to appeal decisions. Whoever she is advocating for does not like MDE's rules and would like to have them changed. Promote consistent standards in regulations and have monthly meetings on how to interpret regulations by MDE. Would like to create a tracking system for permits. The bill would also add additional employees to MDE. It also is advocating a student loan forgiveness program. Would like MDE to contact with the UMD Extension Program to study well and septic system permitting. Andy stated that the University is reviewing it and will create an economic impact statement.
- The Governor and new Secretary of MDE would like to staff MDE back up by end of next year.
- Hearing with Howard County Delegation about Bond Bill

### MDE Update

- No Representative Present

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

- Hoco Delegation/Bond Bill: Tim Sholtzberger, Eddie Harrison, and Kevin Koepenick all testified in favor of the grant for the training center.
- Equipment Donation Status/Plan: Twain Glaser (Watermark) has received commitments for material donations from SPI and Polylok. He will be in contact with Franklin Electric, Little Giant, and Infiltrator.
  - o France- Merrick Foundation proposal: options- expedited (April) if under \$50k; or delayed (June) if over 50K. Letter of intent due: Feb 23 and invited proposal March 10. Andy set up an account online and can put together a draft fairly shortly based on other items submitted. They have founded an

environmental center in Baltimore County which included construction. Andy is going to send Ryan a draft so he can sign it (as it needs to come from president of org).

- Andy reached out to MDE inquiring about funds they received from the Infrastructure Act to see if they would be open to donating to the center. Has not heard anything back from them.
- Education Center Estimate: \$ 149K
- Vendor Donation Tiers: Gold/Silver/Platinum- Andy thinks we are ready to start writing letters and asking for donations. Eddie suggested sending letters to each distributor. Information is on MDE website.
- Next Steps: Went over the action items from the Inspection Course Modification meeting 01/25/23.

#### **High Waste Sub Committee**

- No Update

#### **Old Business**

- MOWPA Website – Pictures are good to go for the website. Jenn from Power 3 was emailed so she can finalize the website.

#### **New Business**

- Open Topic: None

Next Meeting will March 13th, 2023- it will be hybrid.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM**