

**MOWPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
12 February 2024**

Board Members in Attendance:

Andy Lazur, UMD
Eddie Harrison, BAT Onsite LLC
Ryan Nagi, SPEK Home Inspections
Gene Von Gunten
Bob Johnson, Atlantic Solutions
Amy Hart, Howard County

Board Members Absent:

Rob Sell, McCrone, Inc.
Brad Rice, Atlantic Pumping
Doug Dufour, Earl E. Preston Jr., Inc.

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
Kevin Koepenick, Baltimore County

Call to order: 1:01 p.m. by Ryan Nagi

Review of Agenda: The agenda was approved.

Review of January 2024 Minutes: Not discussed

Election: N/A

Discussion Topics and Action Items:

Treasurer's Report: (See Treasurer Report Attachment)

Refund 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: No updates
- Inspection Course: Will be offered in April on 16-17,2024. Andy will secure room space and will confirm availability dates. It will be in the Baltimore County Ag Building as a backup. The field day will remain the same.
 - o Changes to Inspection slides and minor edits in the manual. Changes was made to language in slides in regards to hydrolic load test. There will be another review session for it.
 - o Steve Kreig sent emails and we received input from Adam Browning regarding Hydrolic Load testing procedures.
- O&M- Will be offered in March 21, 24. Nancy and Dwayne will be teaching. It will be in the Howard County Bureau of Utilities.
- Advanced Design Course: Would use the MOWPA design manual as the primary material for this course.
- Basic Design Course: Would be 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. No specific date set on working on this.
- Septic 102: Eddie/Andy will be teaching it again there on 04/24/24.
- Septic 101/Homeowners Course: Will finish that up next month. Rob Powell will be the presenter. It will be posted on the NOWRA site. We need to determine what will be charged for that course. It needs to be completed before June 30. Our course will not have CEU's nor a test at the end. This course is specific to Maryland.
 - o Discussion regarding price point of between \$25-50. There is no set actual cost of what it cost to development due to the funding coming from grants. Rachel will upload video on website, and will contact Power3 to ask them about SCO's to help publicize the video.
 - o NOWRA has a homeowner course that they were given grant funding to develop the course. They do not charge.
- 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.
- Pumper Course: N/A

Legislative Report

- Session: Legislative Session is alive and well. 3 bills of notes are being discussed in legislature.
 - o HB 245- Eddie sent a letter of support in favor of MDE charging permit fee's if they have to take over the local delegation from the County. There is one county that MDE is managing and another one that is done with it and wants to give it back to MDE. Fee's are being raised on dams and several other things. The Secretary of MDE has testified that all the enforcement at MDE is short-handed. MDE was criticized by a non-profit bay group for amount of inspections for compliance that has fallen off.
 - o HB 1320- Team Septic bill that Eddie was consulted on. Adjustments to the BRF funding. Freeze the absolute amount that goes to cover crops at 2024 levels. Adding design, testing, and dispersal systems to eligible costs that the BRF will pay for.
 - There's a concern that a lot of money will be soaked up by these additional elements.
 - Les was receptive to moving sewer hooks up to the public side.
 - No hearing as of yet.
 - Cover crops also receive money from other funding sources.
 - There is not an expectation that this will pass. The hope is to get legislatures thinking about this issue.
 - o In the governor's budget there is a proposed study to figure out what it will take to get all the counties on the same page. If passed then it will start in July 2024. MDE doesn't want Team Septic

coming up with another bill in the legislature for this. So there will be a big push to keep this on track.

- Eddie would like to send a letter stating that MOWPA is neutral, data is always good, but a study will bring more work on an overworked group. They need support and help. Kevin Koepenick will work with Eddie on drafting the letter. A vote was taken and approved. Eddie will send out statement before it's finalized for final approval.
- SB 835/HB992- Requires county health departments to submit quarterly reporting on septic's (filling for permit, stages and completion). Senator wants to protect a constituent who was struggling getting shared systems approved.
 - MDE has been trying to get counties to report something so they can be aware of what's going on at the county level. MDE doesn't train nor give support to the counties.
 - The Environmental Health Directors are concerned that the data will not show the full process and details behind the permitting process. There is no current system to do all the things MDE is asking for (there is no database set up for all the counties and state overall). Eddie noted that they are moving forward with the Statewide database. Gene state that Baltimore, Howard, and Montgomery have their own databases currently.
- Onsite Wastewater Board: Eddie was seated for the Board. A dinner was had last week to celebrate it in Westminster, MD. He was the last one of the original 8 that was sworn in.
 - They have to find another candidate for the Eastern Shore. The original guy dropped out. There is another one but his name is still waiting in the governor's office for approval. MDE does not want to seat the Board before the last person is sworn in.
 - Bob Mitchell (Health Directors), Adam Corry (MDE), Amber Duran (Governor Appointee- Real Estate, Cecil County/Consumer Member), Bonnie Brown (St. Mary's County/Soil Conservation Board for St. Mary's/Sanitarian), Julie Mackerd (former Health Director of Harford County/Real Estate/Consumer Member), Kurt Cassell (Former Board Member of MOWPA/Project Manager of Fogle's), and Langford Johnson (Calvert County). There will be a total of 9.
- Survey Monkey Poll: A majority of the respondents agreed with the questions on the poll. Eddie read aloud all the comments received.
- 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: Got their bill submitted to the House of Delegates that would change funding for BRF.
 - Andy and Eddie will be presenting to the "Choose Clean Water Conference" with Team Septic.
- Other:

MDE Update

- Not Present at Meeting

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

- Chesapeake Bay Trust: We received \$40,000 out of \$50K requested. Ryan and Andy will be at the Kick Off meeting with them (Danielle Hamilton) and Sustainability person from Howard County. They sent in a revised budget, revised scope of work, and signed agreement. Were informed that we will receive 90% of payment and final 10% will be awarded at receipt of final report. All expenses have to be documented. Andy

and Amy will work on that. Progress reports will need to be submitted online through their portal. It's more intensive because the County is involved. It is adding an additional 4 reports. Grant go through June 2025.

- Action Items- work on layouts of the 9 drain fields, look into supplies needed, and figure out who is going to do the work. A quarterly report is due on 3/14/24.
- UEI Number: We have a new address on our bank account. That should help move it to the next step.
- 319 Funding: with MDE \$150K for the Education Pavilion.
 - Andy and Ryan will meet soon to work on the application.
- MOU: The Experiment Station met about the Education Pavilion. He hasn't heard back yet. Andy has assured the president that MOWPA is looking to stay for a long time and isn't planning on dismantling the building if MOWPA leaves.
- Equipment Donation: Ryan sent out commitment letters but haven't received anything back yet.
- Site Plan: Eddie will work on the drawing. Andy discussed getting three bids for potential contractors. He will put some dates to set up a work day.

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: Mr. Crum will continue to do our taxes. He will file the taxes after this July. Eddie will call him and make sure.
 - 501C6- We are on a waiting list for IRS and it will be not until April until we hear anything else.
- Grass Cutting: No updates.
- Board Insurance: Amy completed the Board Insurance Application. Ryan will go over and will add information as needed. There was some question regarding the amounts that will need to be covered.

New Business

- MACO- N/A
- Conference: 2024 Dates to Be Announced
- Hardware: N/A
- Nominations: N/A

Next Meeting will TBD- it will be hybrid.

Meeting adjourned at 2:42 PM

