

**MOWPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**09 Jan 2023**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

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

**Board Members Absent:**

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  
Kevin Koepenick, Baltimore County  
Nancy Mayer, Mayer Bros  
Rob Powell, MOWPA  
Travis Sterner, MDE

**Call to order:** 1:07 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 December 2022 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:** IRS does not have any recollection of MOWPA's tax exempt status. A letter was received from IRS about this matter. Kevin stated that MOWPA never got an official status from IRS because it would cost money to do so. MOWPA's website states that it meets the qualifications of 501C3 organizations. Amy is going to talk to the accountant to get clarification on how taxes have been filed in the past. The Board is going to move forward with getting that status officially from the IRS.

### Education Committee Report

- Soils Class – Planning for early October 23. Andy will line up a date with Cliff. Environmental Health Directors would like to sponsor a soils course so they can send their employees. It is looking at between 28-30 ppl. He asked where we hold it and how much MOWPA would charge. Eddie suggested to discuss this next week to review cost of course. He needs to know the max amount of ppl to accommodate, associated costs, etc. Bob Mitchell (Worcester County) would like to hold the class but the concern is it's location (in relation to people having to travel to get there). Kevin suggested the idea of doing a couple courses if there was enough interest. Kevin will reach out to Bob to get more information.
- Inspection Course: Good discussion during the Education Committee concerning course. MOWPA will get the NOWRA A-Z materials, use additional materials sourced by Board members, and will edit test to meet COMAR regulations. There will be further discussion on how to update the course. Several new locations for the course were discussed – most notably in Baltimore County. He is looking for volunteers to help. New tentative time frame for course will be late Spring. Eddie made motion that if NOWRA doesn't give us the material soon, for MOWPA to just go ahead and purchase the material. Vote was taken and it was approved. Ryan suggested just submitting an outline of the outdoor training plan to MDE to get the ball running.
- O&M- Eddie and Nancy are able to teach the course. Amy stated that the room at the Howard county Bureau is booked on that date. New Course date is March 29. Eddie suggested using the Great Elks lodge in Annapolis as an alternative.
- Education Meeting Recap: See Inspection Course Notes- Poll is getting emailed out this afternoon for next meeting.
- Advanced Design Course: Progress made and date is extended until 2023. Andy will re-send information to the reviewers (Doug, Eddie, Rob, and Ryan). Rob is going to do the SandMound and At Grade, Ryan doing LPD, and Eddie is doing Treatment Technologies. The assignment was to look at existing manual and develop slides to fit the format of the other slides that are currently available.
- Homeowner Course: 101 will be for Homeowners and in the online format. The 102 Course will be more advanced (possibly 6-7 hours) to be included in Inspection Course. Grant application was turned into the Campbell Foundation. Still waiting to hear from the Foundation.

### Legislative Report

- Property Transfer List has been published. There are a lot of errors, omissions, duplicates, etc. It will be fixed as soon as MDE gets to it. If anyone sent in registration and is not on the list they need to contact MDE.
- MDE guidance document and inspection form is on MDE website and MOWPA website. A property Inspector can not perform work until they are listed on the list.
  - o Kevin has a lot of issues with the form (typo's, wording on the guidelines, etc.). He has reached out to Nony with concerns. Questioned if MOWPA was going to do anything to raise concerns about the form. Eddie stated that he also had concern with quality on the form but was concerned that MDE wouldn't do anything until the Board in a few years takes it on. Kevin and Tim Shotzberger but have issues with the form.
  - o Ryan stated he had issues with form. That he was planning on using his regular report in addition to the form that MDE has deemed to be required to be used.
  - o Andy inquired if MOWPA should send something in stating that there are issues with the form. Kevin agreed as a member that MOWPA should speak up. Eddie suggested asking for clarification for sections on the form and critique it in a positive way. Kevin suggested polling MOWPA members to get their opinions on the form. Ryan stated that he would review the form to help draft a letter

and Andy will review it. Kevin is going to forward his list of concerns to Eddie, Rachel, etc. Rachel will forward it to interested Board members.

- HB 318 has been submitted as a pre-file. It is mostly technical corrections. He has heard that most people are happy with it. Officially, MDE is not opposed to it.
- Database bill has been sent to the bill draft. Discussions are on-going but there are many hard obstacles to consider. Many of the stakeholders don't have solutions for the obstacles. This bill is pushed by Environmentalists.
- 2.5 Billion in Surplus Budget (included agency vacancies and mentioned health departments)
- MACO- Very good conference for MOWPA. Eddie gave out quite a few business cards which was more than usual.
  - o Clean Chesapeake Coalition Meeting- It counters the attack for the BAT regulations. It focuses on issues that the Susquanana is causing.
  - o Back River Treatment Plant is still in compliance under MES. Unsure if it will go back to Baltimore City concern.
  - o Andy's presentation was great and Eddie enjoyed it.
  - o Governor Elect Moore made speech and it was received very well.
  - o Gene asked if the concept of Environmental Justice was brought up at MACO. That if programs tailored to that could help to fix septic systems in MD. The BRF program could be a potential outlet for those monies. Andy brought up there are similar federal programs out there that could possibly go into those programs.

#### **MDE Update**

- No Representative Present

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

- Andy sent financial support letter to Twain Glaser for him to send out to a few companies (Franklin Electric, Little Giant, Infiltrator, SPI, and Polylok) that he is involved with. We will wait to see if they respond. The letter asked what the company would like in exchange for the donations. Andy is optimistic.
- The Letter of Intent is due to the France-Merrick Foundation by Feb 23 and if invited the proposal due date is 3/10. We could hear back at earliest in April and latest in June. Andy is willing to build on what we submitted for the Campbell foundation. It will need to be mailed on MOWPA letterhead and signed by Ryan.
- No other grants appear to fit what we are doing for demonstration center.
- Looking for possible state support to help with the infrastructure updates.
  - o Eddie spoke with Delegate Elect Dr. Woo (9A) and Delegate Elect Ziegler about this. Eddie found out that he will need all of 9A support (Ziegler and Hester).
  - o Eddie spoke with Calvin Ball and they exchanged cards to discuss this in future. Gene stated that the politicians need to understand that this will be used for statewide training in HoCo.
- No additional update for pavilion estimate
- Approved Donor Recognition letter. Andy asked when we should start contact the BAT vendor? Eddie said to start reaching out and bugging them. A written request will need to be drafted. Nancy stated that we need to be clear in what we are asking for. Eddie would like to get a variety of technologies.

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

- No Update

#### **Old Business**

- MOWPA Website – The demo site has been updated. Jen is targeting a Feb 23 unveiling date.
- Conference Balance- We have an outstanding balance for linens. They were not included in the original invoice or proposal. In the 22 Conference they weren't on the proposal that Rob had signed. Total of \$375.00 that the company billed us. Rob spoke with the owner of the company who is willing to cut the

price in half. Ten Oaks Ballroom restricts caterers to two – Putting on the Ritz & Safron and Gold. Amy thinks it is fair that they are willing to meet us halfway. Rob would like to continue to do business with them in the future. Board voted and agreed to pay half of the bill.

**New Business**

- NOWRA MOU for Revenue Sharing for Online Learning- NOWRA created 70/30, if it's MOWPA created its 30/70. This will require a MOU being signed. Ryan checked on the website and there is currently not any approved MD courses. Eddie stated that any courses that are on NOWRA that as long as the attendee's address is MD that we will get compensated. Vote was taken and approved to sign MOU.

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

**Meeting adjourned at 3:02 PM**