

**MOWPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
8 January 2024**

Board Members in Attendance:

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

Board Members Absent:

Rob Sell, McCrone, Inc. (EXCUSED)
Brad Rice, Atlantic Pumping (EXCUSED)
Doug Dufour, Earl E. Preston Jr., Inc. (EXCUSED)
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, Member
Reed Johnson, Orenco (Bob's Proxy)
Adam Browning, Penn Trails
Travis Sterner, MDE

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

Review of Agenda: The agenda was approved.

Review of December 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: No Updated
- 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 new building. .
- O&M- Will be offered in March 24. Nancy will be teaching. Andy will reach to Dwayne for possible interest in teaching. He will secure room space and confirm availability in the new building.
- 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 than sent it out.
- Septic 102: Eddie/Andy taught the 102 Course at Worwic on November 14, 2023. Will be teaching it again there on 04/24/24.
- Septic 101/Homeowners Course: Slides were revised at the Education Meeting today.
- 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 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.
 - o Andy and Eddie will be presenting to the "Choose Clean Water Conference" with Team Septic.
- Other: Eddie asked for permission to testify for MOWPA without having to get specific permission each time the opportunity arises.
 - o Andy suggested sending a survey to MOWPA membership before the Legislative Session starts.
 - o Vote was taken for Eddie and Rachel to create survey
 - Intro: There is tentative legislation proposed to modify the Bay Restoration Program.
 - Do you support an increase in BRF funding for system repairs (field systems)?
 - Do you support raising the income limits for eligibility for BRF for low income residents of Maryland?

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 and Howard County. It needs to happen before the end of January.
- UEI Number: Ryan emailed Amy to change the address on the bank account. Once that happens we will be able to get it.
- 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.
 - o 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.
 - o Andy will get clarification if we need to hold any training programs associated with this.
- MOU: No Updates
- Equipment Donation: Ryan sent out commitment letters but haven't received anything back yet.

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: No Updates
- Grass Cutting: Ryan told contractor to go ahead and cut the grass. He will follow up with contractor.
- Board Insurance: Amy discussed it with the Bank and they gave her a form to fill out to start the process with Cincinnati Insurance Company. It will help start the process for them to give us a quote.
 - o The address that will be used 4240 Folley Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042.
 - o Amy will work on it and prepare it for feedback for the February Board meeting.

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 2:48 PM