

**MOWPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
12 June 2023**

Board Members in Attendance:

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

Board Members Absent:

Doug Dufour, Earl E. Preston Jr., Inc. (Excused)
Brad Rice, Atlantic Pumping

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
Travis Sterner, MDE
Kevin Koepenick, Baltimore County

Call to order: 1:08 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 May 2023 Minutes: Board Members voted and approved the minutes.

Election: N/A

Discussion Topics and Action Items:

Treasurer's Report: (See Treasurer Report Attachment); Amy discussed getting MOWPA credit card to help cover payments for grass cutting, mailing, etc. Ryan asked if we had the ability to have ACH.

Education Committee Report

- Soils Class: Class conducted on 5/4-5, 2023 for the Health Inspectors. A few suggestions from the attendees of the Eastern Shore course. Next Soil class in October 2023.
- Inspection Course: The manual, questions, and slides submitted to MDE on 5/8. MDE completed review by end of May and approved manual/slides. They have 11-12 suggestions to improve the exam. Andy will email it out to the Board members to make those changes. We are at the point where the course can be offered.
 - o There are no requirements for current inspectors to re-take course currently. The demand is for new inspectors.
 - o Eddie suggested having a conference session on going over the form to help the inspectors.

- The course is two days and discussing having it at the Ag Center in Baltimore County. Across the street is Oregon Ridge park. There are multiple septic systems on the property.
- Kevin suggested having a visit to one of the sites to make sure the field part will work. Will need to identify instructors, locations, etc. Kevin K will coordinate with the Rec and Parks Department to confirm availability and a site visit. Ryan, Eddie, and Nancy are interested in teaching the class. Kevin will send Eddie the drawing/as builds. Potential walk through is June 26 at 10:30 AM. Kevin will confirm in a separate email.
- Tentative date of September 12-14, 23. Bob suggested having it in September to help avoid scheduling conflicts. Kevin will check with them.
- PA and DE have submitted but have not been approved.
- Discussion regarding prices of courses. Kevin suggested putting in cost of instructors, supplies, rentals, food, etc. Kevin will check with county regarding rental fee.
 - New Price- \$450 for Members (two day Course), \$545 for Non Member (2 day course). \$225 for Member (1 day Course), Non Member would be that base fee plus membership).
- O&M- Class will be on Jun 22, 2023. There are currently 14 signed up (class max is 21 due to book availability). Nancy and Dwayne will teach. It will be at the Howard County Bureau of Utilities. Some revisions were made to the course based on suggestions from Nancy. BAT info was updated via work with Dwayne.
- Education Meeting Recap: None
- Advanced Design Course: No updates
- Septic 101: Draft in Google drive. Andy took existing material from realtor course, a-z material, inspection slides, etc.
- Septic 102: 6 Hour course to go into more depth. We have the slides just need to pull together and review it. Course can be an online course.
- Homeowners Course: No updates

Legislative Report

- After Session Movement: All the bills talking about boards/databases were shelved. MDE is going to have meetings with the advocates about the database. Les called one meeting but Senator Hestor was not in the meeting nor was the well database group. Team Septic was included in the meeting.
 - Discussion on issues with the BAT Databases. There are lots of perspectives on what should be included in the database. There is another meeting planned but no date set. Eddie wants to start on records day forward instead of back logging with the legacy records.
 - Kevin K stated that Baltimore County will give online access to all of their records regarding septic/wells/groundwater/water quality issues. It will be designated by doc type. Gene stated that Howard and Montgomery have already done that. He thinks it will always be a county by county effort due to money constraints.
- MDE: Eddie was told his chance to meet with the Secretary at MACO. He has a strategy of how he wants to approach items that they would like to cover with her.
- Onsite Wastewater Board: Eddie was voted as MOWPA's official representative to be on the board. Adam Corry has confirmed from MDE's pov that Eddie will be on it. All the names are together and have been sent

to the appointment's office. The office is busy appointing secretaries so there is no timeline known for other appointees.

MDE Update

- No Representative present.

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

- Property Updates: A shed was delivered on 6/12/23 to the training center. Shed needs to be moved to an alternative location on the property.
 - o Andy bought a 10 x 16 storage shed through his Grant savings program. Andy also purchased fence parts to help maintain the fence. Andy also created a septic information folder and used the grants to get them processed.
- Potential Grants/Donations: Andy contacted MDE regarding a 319 fund grant (through EPA) that could help us cover some expenses in the Training Center. Andy has been in contact with the representative and is awaiting to hear back. Andy has asked for \$240,000. Will need to submit a proposal later on in the process.
 - o Erin is finishing up the pledge letter to get sent out to the manufacturers who have already committed verbally to donate.
 - o There are no new manufactures that have agreed to donate.
- Future Site Plans: Discussion on how to move forward with work on the site. Eddie would like to do a concept drawing to show to an engineer. He suggests to put the roof up first than work on getting the electric (piece by piece). Bob stated that the engineer stamp should come from the manufacturer of the pole sheds. He suggested to check with the lumber yard. There is water right beside where the building is. Bob sent Eddie a link to a 2in hydrant that can be put at the end of the line. Ryan suggested that we need to get more members and get the name out to get a bigger presence in the community. Eddie stated that with the new board coming and CEU requirements that it could help.
 - o Gene suggested having a campaign to have donors purchase pieces of building. He suggested approaching the state to get BRF money because we are a major trainer of people in the O&M industry. Could be something that is looked into next legislative session. Andy suggested that a similar approach that was used to fund native plant position in University System.
- Susan Dorsey approached Andy asking how they could collaborate on Education. Andy had a follow up conversation but nothing really progressed.
- Bob stated from a manufacturer standpoint, that there needs to be something more than an empty field. At least a drawing/site plan. Gene suggested having an artist conceptual drawing to help sale the plan. To highlight the association with University of Maryland.
- There is some fence issues at the site. Eddie will contact the company who installed it to see if they will come fix it.

High Waste Sub Committee

- No Update

Old Business

- Website: Rachel asked Bob to send his picture for inclusion on the website. Ryan stated that the Term expiration dates are incorrect on the website. Rachel will look into it.
- Tax Issue: Amy issued check to account to file the 501c3.

New Business

- Mail chimp: Service will be purchased as soon as the credit card is delivered via USPS.
- MACO: Looking for volunteers for summer session. The dates are August 16-18 (Wed-Friday).
- 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: We have until the last month to decide whether we will do the happy hour. It is not currently in the price.
- Sound: King Sound is \$499.20 on stand by.
- Prices: Eddie suggested raising prices. Prices have remained the same since pre-covid. Vote taken to raise member admission \$125; \$400 for vendors. Membership is required to attend. Discussion regarding raising the money for Conference 2024 to possibly \$150.
- Vendors: Dwayne Jones will contact 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.
- Conference: Rob P and Andy are going to work together on creating a list of possible conference topics. Discussion regarding possible speakers- Tom Ashton (VA), Reed Johnson, etc. Ryan spoke with Mike Sample who would be interested in being a speaker. MDE agreed to speak- we may suggest them to go over the form. Tom Groves will be speaking in person.

Next Meeting will TBD- it will be hybrid.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM