

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

Board Members in Attendance:

Andy Lazur, UMD
Eddie Harrison, BAT Onsite LLC
Ryan Nagi, SPEK Home Inspections
Amy Hart, Howard County
Brad Rice, Atlantic Pumping
Gene Von Gunten
Doug Dufour, Earl E. Preston Jr., Inc.

Board Members Absent:

Bob Johnson, Atlantic Solutions
Rob Sell, McCrone, 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, MOWPA
Nancy Minahan, Mayer Bros
Travis Sterner, MDE

Call to order: 1:05 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 February 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 February Expense report. Eddie brought up concerns regarding the balance of the account. He brought up the idea of changing course prices. He thinks that Private companies are not as concerned about course prices versus work loses. Gene stated that the opposite is true for government workers. Gene is concerned that the membership is trending down. Eddie would like to have a Simple Conventional Design Course at the conference to help attack Septic contractors due to new county regulations. Gene stated some counties are offering free courses for design to county contractors. Brad suggested creating another Design manual to sell. Ryan suggested expanding engagement efforts (i.e. more emails, updated website, etc.). Nancy suggested sending the monthly minutes to members. Amy spoke with the Tax expert regarding Tax Exempt status and she had to give him additional information. She is waiting to hear back regarding his answer. Andy brought up Errors and Admissions Insurance that NOWRA has for its board members. It is something to think about for MOWPA.

Education Committee Report

- Soils Class – Next Soil class tentatively arranged for Oct 23. Cliff and Don Hammerlund are interested in teaching it. Cliff suggested having a two day course on the Eastern Shore which would reduce cost from \$10K to 7K. The directors have not gotten back to us if there was any entrance.
- Inspection Course: Slides are mostly done. Andy is open to input and comments. The questions still need to be developed for the test. Andy is looking for volunteers to help break up the remaining sections on the test. Ryan and Doug volunteered to help.
 - o Tentative timeline: latest to teach in July but MDE approval could be an issue as they are not currently approving anything due to regulations. The board would like to send it in to MDE ASAP. Companies looking to hire people are being really impacted. Del Tech and the PA group have their papers in to MDE since January. Have to send outline, manual, slides, and questions to MDE. Eddie suggested having a second meeting next month. Andy/Nancy would like to continue conversation via email to keep the momentum going. Nancy would like to be done by May 1st. Questions and comments should be sent to Andy by 3/31/23.
 - o April 10 Board meeting the draft will be compiled and ready to be reviewed. An Education Committee meeting will be held at 11am that morning. May 1st MDE submittal. It will be submitted to Nony. Nancy suggested reaching out to Nony beforehand to let her know we are making progress and on a fast timeline. We will give two weeks for response time and then encourage members to speak out regarding the issue.
- O&M- Registration is closed, class is at capacity. Eddie and Nancy are able to teach the course on March 29.
- Education Meeting Recap: Meet on 3/6 to work on the Inspection Course. Nancy did a lot of work on field training and Kevin worked on the regulations.
- Advanced Design Course: N/A
- Homeowner Course 101: We received the \$7K grant from Campbell Foundation. Obligated to teach two 102 classes at WorWic for Fall 23 and Spring 24 (entry level). 101 course will be online. The date needs to be set by April 1, 2023. Eddie stated that we need to set the Conference date before we can commit to a date to WorWic. Conference is normally the 1st week of November. Andy and several Board members are interested in teaching the course. A MOU will need to be signed between MOWPA and WorWic. The class will hold up to 36 students.
- Other: Gene would like to work on getting more people from the local health departments to join MOWPA. Membership increases based on the amount of classes offered. Brad said he likes to have logo's from organizations that he is a member on incorporated into their promotional material. Rachel will send Andy current prices of classes for further consideration.

Legislative Report

- HB 30/SB 007- Is a correction bill for the Board bill. There are a few technical errors that will be fixed. The Engineering issue has been resolved. It has passed both in their respective houses. Now the wait is for them to be passed in the crossover bill. Senate passed it unanimously on the floor and the house went partisan.
- Database Bill- Hearing went positive. There was a lot of questions. MDE told them it will \$1.6 million for MDE and 330K per county. The delegates were not interested after that. There are negotiations between

MDE and the three sponsors of the bills (ours, hestor's, and well database). All three sponsors are going to speak for MDE, MDE requested for no advocates to not be in the meeting. That is an unusual move.

- Senator Hestor's Bill- Eddie is keeping an eye on the bill. There is not a second reader currently set for it. That does not bode well for the approval status of the bill.
- Bond Bill for Training Center- Delegates sent Eddie a form for a fillable PDF and had issues with submitting it. He was able to submit it. Andy found additional issues with it. Rumor is that Speaker Jones is only approving one bond bill per county.
- Eddie reached out to New Secretary

MDE Update

- BAT Installer course was successful. There were 67 people who passed class.
- Sand Mound and At Grade classes are upcoming in April/may but they are full.
- Eddie asked about the status of MDE's request to extend the emergency regulations. Travis believes that they were extended it but doesn't know the reasoning behind it. Travis recommended Eddie to contact someone else to get more information.

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

- Hoco Delegation/Bond Bill: see note in the Legislative Report. Delegate Chan (AA County) is interested in the facility too. He has been supportive of MOWPA in the past. It was suggested to write a letter to him.
- Equipment Donation Status/Plan: Twain Glaser (Watermark) has confirmed with PolyLok of \$3K worth of materials (want to do training), SKI \$3K (want to do training), Little Giant \$4K (want to do training). He inquired when MOWPA would want to get the material. His colleague, Neil King, has storage nearby if we need it.
 - o France- Merrick Foundation proposal: Requested \$150K in a letter of intent. Timeline states March 8, 2023. No word yet.
- Vendor Donation Letter Progress: Everyone on BAT Class 1 List has been emailed. Ryan hasn't received very many responses back. He is looking to find additional vendors that we can solicit to. He reached out to Aqua Flow who is local to Maryland. Matt Geckle will be donating various items to the site.
 - o Dwayne Jones submitted some questions that he needed further clarification on before he can reach out to his vendors. Board discussed the questions and will give the information back to Dwayne. Eddie clarified that MOWPA does not do brand specific training and our core audience is industry professionals. The manufactures would be welcomed to use our facility to teach their own technology but a MOWPA member would need to be present.
- DelTech Demo Center: Andy would like to re-visit the topic of having a field trip. Eddie stated that he was told to reach back after March 6, 2023. Eddie reached out last night but hasn't heard back as of yet.

High Waste Sub Committee

- No Update

Old Business

- Conference-Will contact Ten Oaks later today to secure a date for the conference. Conference planning will start at the next meeting. Elks Club in AA County is not big enough to do two tracks. Nancy asked whether we need to have two tracks in the future as the Pumper class is not well attended. Board is open to reviewing
- Website: The new website is updated. Travis asked if the Class attendance archive is still accessible and if Rachel could email him link.

New Business

- Open Topic: None

Next Meeting will TBD- it will be hybrid.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM