

**MOWPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
11 March 2024**

Board Members in Attendance:

Andy Lazur, UMD
Eddie Harrison, BAT Onsite LLC
Ryan Nagi, SPEK Home Inspections
Gene Von Gunten
Brad Rice, Atlantic Pumping
Rob Sell, McCrone, Inc.

Board Members Absent:

Doug Dufour, Earl E. Preston Jr., Inc. (Excused)
Amy Hart, Howard County (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
Kevin Koepenick, Baltimore County

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

Review of Agenda: The agenda was approved.

Review of February 2024 Minutes: Approved

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: Andy emailed Cliff to determine date. The tentative date will be in October 2024.
- Inspection Course: Will be offered in April on 16-17,2024. It will be in the Baltimore County Ag Building. The field day will remain the same. 17 people signed up.
 - o Changes to Inspection slides and minor edits in the manual. There will be a review session on 3/13 for it this week.
 - o Ryan, Eddie, and Nancy will be teaching the course.
- 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. Currently 33 people signed up with 1 person pending.
- 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. Will meet soon to make some tweaks. WorWic has requested that MOWPA teach for another year. Right now there are 11 people signed up. The first course had 12 people. Andy has put an email to the Campbell foundation to see if we could reapply for \$3K to cover the cost. That would cover travel for Eddie, Tuition, Printing Costs, and lunch.
- Septic 101/Homeowners Course: Will finish that up next month. Rob Powell will be the presenter. It will be posted on the MOWPA site. It will be free. 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.
- 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- Have not been voted on yet but is moving forward.
 - o Governor Study: The money hasn't been pulled from budget. No news is good news.
 - o HB 1320- Eddie testified last Wednesday. The Bill has been pulled. It was an unfunded mandate.
 - In the future, MDE is not against moving sewer connections to the other side.
 - Discussion of working with and connecting with the River Keepers as a possible allies.
 - o SB 835/HB992- Requires County health departments to submit quarterly reporting on septic's (filling for permit, stages and completion). That one is moving forward. Eddie wrote an informational testimony on that.
- Onsite Wastewater Board: No official update-on status of approval for the Eastern Shore Candidate. Eddie was emailed potential dates in April to set. Confidence level is high the guy will be confirmed soon.
- Property Transfer Regs: No one wants to touch the regs and are waiting for the Board to edit it.
- MACO: No Update
- Team Septic: See Legislation Report
- Other: There is talk of making BAT mandatory again. But it seems this time they are open to talking to the industry and doing it in a gradual manner and allows for exemptions. That is the environmentalists goal.
 - o Eddie would like to keep the dialogue open with the environmentalists about the benefits of onsite compared to sewer.

MDE Update

- Travis was out in field. No new updates.

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.
 - o 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: Secured UEI Number.
- DUNS: Now applying for that number. Should be an easy phone call.
- 319 Funding: MDE moving forward with submittal to EPA.
 - o MDE asked if the Board had approved a scope of work. MDE has put in the format that gets sent to EPA. The Executive Summary, Scope of Work, and Project Justification is exactly as submitted. Board voted and approved the document.
 - o They would like to have a sign that indicates the project is funded by EPA. Suggested a road sign or sign on the building. The EPA logo will be displayed and will meet specifications.
- MOU: Andy meeting on Tuesday with Darlene (manager) and the legal office to discuss it. Andy sent in a revised MOU. Andy had to send in answers to 6 questions they had. MOWPA has agreed that the building would be left for the University to use. He's hoping the meeting tomorrow will help the lawyer to understand the building.
- Equipment Donation: Ryan sent out commitment letters but haven't received anything back yet.
- Site Plan: The first work day will be on 3/27 to stake out site. Andy will speak with Twain Glazer to determine how much pipe is needed. Will need to decide who will do the work, there is \$16,000 to pay

towards that work being done. Andy asked all participants on work day to review pictures of other similar demonstration units (Texas, NC State, OK, Delaware, etc.) to get an idea best placement.

- The building will need to be in by end of December 2023. There is a possibility to get a no-cost extension. Ryan suggested getting a contractor to come out and give us an estimate.
- Eddie wants to draw a concept of the building (40x60). He wants to take the drawing to the local lumber company and see if they would engineer it and sale the material at a reduced price. This needs to get done soon so the University to review it.
- Rob asked if the electrical load had been calculated. Eddie said there will be 3 panels with 40 breakers each.
- Ryan suggested getting a price on the building shell and letting Eddie work on the inside.

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: Ryan will call Ten Oaks to reserve a room for the Conference. NOWRA's Conference is in October 2024.
- Cliff Mitchell: Eddie, Ryan, and Andy met with the Director of the Department of Health. He received funding to set up an apprenticeship program to pipeline Environmental Health Specialists. It is a collaboration with Morgan State University. He is going to use MDE Onsite personnel as potential instructors. He's going to get more information and get back to us.
- Hardware: N/A
- Nominations: N/A

Next Meeting will TBD- it will be hybrid.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM

