

**MOWPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
08 May 2023**

Board Members in Attendance:

Andy Lazur, UMD
Eddie Harrison, BAT Onsite LLC
Ryan Nagi, SPEK Home Inspections
Gene Von Gunten
Bob Johnson, Atlantic Solutions
Brad Rice, Atlantic Pumping

Board Members Absent:

Amy Hart, Howard County (Excused)
Doug Dufour, Earl E. Preston Jr., Inc. (Excused)
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
Nancy Minahan, Mayer Bro's
Rob Powell, Member
Travis Sterner, MDE
Reed Johnson, ORENCO
Kevin Koepenick, Baltimore County

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 April 2023 Minutes: Board Members voted and approved the minutes.

Election: N/A

Discussion Topics and Action Items:

Treasurer's Report: (See Treasurer Report Attachment)

Education Committee Report

- Soils Class: A Soil class held on 5/4-5 in Berlin MD for MD Board of Environmentalists. Class was successful with 24 people in attendance. Brad Rice volunteered to dig the pits. Andy felt it was the most engaged

group for the field portion of class. Rachel will send Andy email list so he can send out link to slides and program evaluation form.

- Inspection Course: New slides, revised manual, and exam questions sent to Adam Corry and Nony at MDE for review. Prior to this meeting, the questions were reviewed for the 1 hour review on the second day of the inspection class. Additional slides will be needed to be made for about 55 questions. Project is about 95% completed.
- O&M- Proposed second O&M course is either June 27 or June 28. Nancy will get back to us on her availability. Nancy and Dwayne will teach. It will be at the Howard County Bureau of Utilities.
- Education Meeting Recap: Andy would like to meet in person to go over a TBD course similar to how the Inspection course has been handled.
- Advanced Design Course: Would use the MOWPA design manual as the primary material for this course.
- Septic 101/102: Andy is 90% done material wise with 101 course. 102 Course will need additional material. These courses will be the first priorities for MOWPA moving forward after Inspection Course is completed. Andy will send out 101 first to get comment and go based on feedback. He will target for 2 weeks from today in getting it out to Board members. Eddie pointed out that MDE does not have to give final approval for these courses or Advanced Design Course. The courses will be recorded so they can be completed at their own pace.
- Homeowners Course: Would most likely be a split with NOWRA.

Legislative Report

- Session is Over: Errors and Emissions bill passed.
- MDE: No changes with regulations. The new board will be left to address them. Eddie has reached out to new secretary a few times but so far no response.

MDE Update

- The Sand Mound class has been postponed due to MDE issue. A new date will be released within the next month. The class tomorrow is off.
- MDE Website says that form must be followed for Inspections. Ryan stated that an inspector told him that MDE told him not to worry about the form. Travis said that the MDE form has to be used since 7/1/22. Ryan will find out who the Inspector spoke with at MDE. Travis is unsure whether the form was sent out but knows it is available on the website. He stated that areas on the form have been identified and need to be updated.
- Nancy had heard that there may be a shortage of funds for BRF monies and the timing/extension rebid of current BRF contracts. MDE is currently working on new IFB, no date set. Travis doesn't know where each county is with their funding amounts. There has been no change with amount of money coming in for BRF. Nancy asked if the counties be able to apply for more funds if there is an extension situation- travis said yes. Jeff Fretwell is the new contact for Finance for BRF. Bob stated that the contract was for 2 years found amendment which said it is good until September 22, 2023. Reed was concerned about the financial implications of being on 1 price for two years and MDE not getting it turned around by June. Reed would like to get a price increase to help cover ongoing pricing issues in the industry. Travis stated there was a 12%

price increase last July. Reed would like some urgency from MDE in getting this issue addressed. Travis is going to ask if the IFB is ready to go. He doesn't deal with the money-side of the BRF.

- Jeffrey.fretwell@maryland.gov; 410-537-3981

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

- Still looking for grant money. Ryan will follow up with a letter to the Contributors. We need to get something in writing from them. Reed stated that Orenco is committed to donating equipment and will send it to us.
- Eddie is going to draw up a rough drawing of the building to get an Engineer stamp of approval. Subsequent buildings will not need it. Reed offered to put it on CAD for Eddie. Andy suggested mapping the site out where we want specific technology to figure out where the water lines will need to be laid.
- MOWPA is looking for donations for everything. Bob said that having an actual site plan will help convince manufactures the plan for the site. Bob said that whoever is providing the family should be able to give us a plan.
- No current funding from the state was given to MOWPA. Andy is speaking with the 319 funds coordinator from MDE. Andy will be sending him a copy of our flier to see what they might be able to do.
- Reed suggested using the booth at MACo this summer to help advocate for more funding. Rachel suggested having an actual model of the site at the booth to help visually display and draw people to the booth.

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: Eddie is meeting with the accountant tomorrow. Amy will call in for the meeting. He will get an update on where we stand.

New Business

- Mail chimp: Vote was taken and approved to pay for monthly service. Rachel will check with Amy to see if we are signed up for the service.
- MACO: Looking for volunteers for summer session. The dates are August 16-18 (Wed-Friday). We are registered but have not received the invoice. Brad will need to look at his calendar (he may be fishing the Mid Atlantic). Nancy said she may be able to attend one day.
- 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. Motion was made to approve and it was passed.
 - 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: Rachel suggested contacting Dwayne Jones since he has handled contacting Vendors and Sponsors in the past. Ryan mentioned that we need to also be contacting companies (not just nationwide companies). The plan would be to try to find a sponsor for the food (breakfast, lunch, happy hour, etc). Credit will be given on the agenda, announced, etc.
 - 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. Happy Hour sponsors could give out event tickets. Eddie suggested thinking outside the box and contacting businesses such as Home Depot, Lowe's, etc. Bob stated that the sponsorship should be an box on vendor application. Eddie would like to have a booklet (i.e. church bulletin 8x10, 10 pages, color)

- 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. Ryan will reach out to MDE to officially ask them to speak (Nony, Les, or Travis). Gene suggested the new chairperson of the Septic Board. Discussion regarding individual county design courses as possible point discussion at conference. Baltimore County is starting July 1 for when contractors and designers can submit plans. The course is unlimited. Gene/Reed will work on a presentation for the conference to help create a dialogue for existing properties that have environmental issues by using technology to solve it.

Next Meeting will TBD- it will be hybrid.

Meeting adjourned at 2:47 PM