

MARINE ACTIVITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTE MEETINGS FROM JANUARY 17, 2023

Committee Members Attending: Donna McElroy (acting chair), John Latham, Jerry Leuters, Mike Johnson, Sue Challis (acting secretary) – Absent: Dave Allen

Board Liaison Rick Farr attended remotely.

Guests: Steve Farr and Kevin Smith, Maryland Coastal Bays Program and Cindy Hoffman, reporter for the Bayside Gazette and OCToday

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by acting chair Donna McElroy. Donna introduced two special guests from Maryland Coastal Bays, Steve Farr and Kevin Smith, as well as a reporter from the Bayside Gazette/OCToday, Cindy Hoffman, who will be reporting on Ocean Pines committee activities for the weekly paper.

Farr and Smith from Coastal Bays presented the group with information on various grants that are available, from a new mini grants program from Maryland Coastal Bays, to larger grants from Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Chesapeake Bay Trust (see the attached summary of those grants). There were lots of questions and discussion from the MAAC members. Jerry Leuters pointed out that he felt shore restoration should be a priority. Steve Farr said that Jenkins Point will be a major focus in Ocean Pines this year, and that they will be doing a lot of outreach to the community. Ocean Pines is contributing financial help (\$10,000) for that overall grant project, which involves protecting and restoring the shoreline in the area (near the Yacht Club) and creating increased habitat for wildlife in that area.

John Latham asked whether there are specific grants that our committee or other committees in Ocean Pines should be pursuing. Steve Farr said that it really depends on the grant process – which is typically driven by subject matter. He gave materials to the group on a grant program from DNR (Gateway) that offers broad opportunities for various environmental projects. He recommended that the Committee look over the materials (see summary at the bottom of these minutes). Farr also gave some history of MCBP working with Ocean Pines on projects – and an update on the most recent, Bainbridge Park/Pond, which was a large project with the County and Ocean Pines. Steve Farr also said that Coastal Bays just did a survey of the “Route 90 Pond” area with the Environmental Committee.

Jerry indicated that he felt the priority should be shore restoration in Ocean Pines and that there are several areas we could look at for the most needed subjects of grants.

Farr and Smith offered their help at any time to answer questions about grants and distributed their contact information to all members of the committee.

There was a brief discussion about the Marine Debris Plunder, which last year was organized by the committee with MCBP but was cancelled due to weather. Sue Challis said she will meet

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with Sandi Smith from MCB in the next few weeks to discuss a 2023 Plunder, which would be planned for the Fall instead of spring and would report to the group at the next meeting.

Business Meeting:

Administrative: Donna said that Doug Parks had asked all Committees to share with their members the procedure and purpose of Microsoft Teams, which is becoming more prevalent with Board and other Ocean Pines meetings. She also said that Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedure should be followed in meetings, and that observers should be encouraged and invited to meetings. The committee agreed that meetings will continue to be held the third Tuesday or each month at 10 a.m. through 2023.

Old Business:

Charging Document – Dave Allen is still working on it. Tabled until February meeting

Oyster Restoration – There was an article in “This Week in Ocean Pines” email this week, and it is scheduled to be part of the quarterly Ocean Pines magazine. Cindy Hoffman (reporter) said she was very interested in doing an article and would follow up with Dave Allen and others. Donna said it might be a good idea to invite Joe Jankowski (who makes and sells the oyster cages) to a future meeting as a speaker to give an update and invite Ocean Pines residents to attend. We should also look at speakers for future meetings to address shore erosion and other issues. Jerry suggested we prioritize and discuss speakers at the next meeting.

Kayak Launches – there was a brief discussion, including pursuing new (or replacement?) signage at for the launch area at the White Horse Park boat ramps. Tabled until next meeting.

Upcoming articles/community education – Jerry Leuters said he would put together a short article on the upcoming Boating Safety checks by the Power Squadron as well as the special fishing flea market coming up in April.

Marine Debris Plunder/Community Education Turtle Excluders – Sue mentioned that last year we did some joint appearances at the Farmers Market with Coastal Bays and their educational displays and materials on turtle excluders, ghost posts and other environmental issues. She will discuss opportunities for 2023 with Sandi Smith from MCBP and report at the February meeting.

Unfinished and/or New Business:

After a brief discussion, the Committee members decided that the February meeting will be devoted to working on our goals for 2023 – formulating and prioritizing them. Donna

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suggested the group allow extra time for that meeting (90 minutes was suggested) and that members come prepared. Mike volunteered to take a closer look at the Charter and report on how that should guide us in the process.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m. The next committee meeting will be February 21, 2023 at 10 a.m.

SUMMARY OF GRANT OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE BY MCBP

- 1. MCBP mini-grant proposals** for environmental projects and scientific research benefit the Coastal Bays watershed – this is a new program with funds available to any individual, group, school, organization, service, youth or civic group for projects that will raise awareness about the challenges and solutions to restore the coastal bays, engage citizens in community-based restoration and protection projects or educate students about coastal bays. The funding opportunities must align with the Maryland Coastal Bays Management Plan (see www.mdcoastalbays.org). Applicants for the community stewardship grants may request up to \$5000 for their projects. Funding details and information <https://md-coastalbays.org/funding-opportunities/>. **Proposals must be submitted by March 1, 2023.**
- 2. Chesapeake Bay Trust – (cbtrust.org)** This group awards more than \$10 million in grant funding each year to hundreds of non-profits and community organizations throughout the region for hands-on projects to ensure cleaner, greener, healthier Chesapeake, Coastal Bays, and Youghiogony watersheds. The deadline is past for 2023 projects – but **applications for FY24 (calendar year 2023/24) education grants will be accepted beginning June 30, 2023.** The focus of the education grants may line up with some of the projects our committee has been suggesting.
- 3. Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Chesapeake and Coastal Grants Gateway** provides a resource for partners seeking technical and financial support for projects that foster healthy and resilient ecosystems, communities and economies. The purpose of the Gateway is to provide a single point of entry to streamline the grant application process for "governments, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations". Eligible projects are outlined across five "outcomes" categories, including improving water quality, restoring local waterways, increasing resilience to climate impacts, and improving navigation and boating access sites for the benefit of the boating public. These grants appear to be tailored more to a community group such as ours working in partnership with either the County government and/or a group such as Maryland Coastal Bays. Calls for proposals went out in July 2022 for 2023 and were due by November 2022. <https://webportalapp.com/sp/grants.gateway>

Submitted by Sue Challis, Acting Secretary – February 3, 2023

