



Final Minutes – July 21, 2023

Approved – November 3, 2023

MD APA Executive Committee Meeting

Time: 1:00 pm- 2:30 pm

Location: Virtual

**1 Call to Order:**

1.1 Meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM with the following attendees:

Sarah Diehl	Dr. Siddhartha Sen
Chris Jakubiak	Jacqui Rouse
Andrew Bernish	Alan Feinberg
Michael Bayer	Ashley Traut - GBWC
Rich Hall	

1.2 **Action on proposed agenda:** Sarah proposed brief discussion about future meeting times.

1.3 **Approve outstanding minutes** – approval pushed to next meeting.

**2 Housekeeping Issues**

**2.1 New meeting times**

- Due to standing scheduling conflict on Friday mornings (10:00), need to reschedule ExCom meeting times.
- In general Friday AM seems to work best for the group; will check with Lynda about having meeting earlier (9:00)
- Doodle poll to coordinate – Sarah to work with Lynda on

**3 Chapter Administration Issues: Updates**

**3.1 MD APA Newsletter/email blast – UMD student blog post and Meet & Greet recap**

- Discuss item at next meeting; Sarah to follow up with April/Lynda

**3.2 Jenny Plummer-Welker retirement party information – Olivia**

- Sarah to follow up with Olivia for details to share
- Rich noted ExCom had discussed also recognizing Helen for her work as President- we need to revisit plans for this.

**4 New Business**

**4.1 Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition: Ashley Traut, Senior Advisor**

- The Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition (GBWC) was formed in 2015 as a result of funding from super storm Sandy. First funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation looking at coastal resiliency in central MD but expanded to include watershed resiliency.
- National APA was a lead partner from the beginning; David Rouse had been contact at the national level but he is retired – no longer representing National APA. GBWC looking to bring in MD APA chapter to continue partnership at a more local level.
- Ashley noted that visions of GBWC align with APA visions particularly when it comes to creating resilient infrastructure.

- GBWC helps bring people and organizations together in coalition thinking – there is a lot of work that needs to be done, communities need help, and one organization can't do it alone.
- GBWC has 60+ partners working on their mission and vision – includes federal, state, local NGOs, academics – to green central Maryland.
- Key priorities and strategies:
  - Strengthen collaboration, coordination, and capacity of Coalition members, partners, and communities.
  - Improve regional planning for green infrastructure and climate action.
  - Prioritize and support implementation of green infrastructure projects.
- GBWC has worked with Harford County in the past on their green infrastructure master plan; David Rouse also involved with community green infrastructure master plan in south Baltimore.
- Group is funded by grants – finds fiscal partner for grants, helps build relationships.
- There is a steering committee but remains group led; potentially opening up to business partners to join.
- MD APA could help convene groups – GBWC advocating for state-sponsored green infrastructure incentives that encourage local municipalities to plan together; look towards a regional green infrastructure network.
- DNR and MDOT are steering committee members; Jacqui suggested reaching out to master gardener association.
- Local government level has been tough to engage.
- GBWC still hashing out full role; the coalition works to build capacity and get resources to groups that are on the ground doing the work. GBWC has helped communities find grants for green infrastructure planning.
- Alan offered to connect Ashley with Frederick planners and the Mid-Atlantic Planning Collaboration.
- Next steps: MD APA consider signing the accord; shows that we agree with the vision and mission and will contribute as capacity allows to help achieve the mission. If possible, someone from MD APA to participate in workgroup meetings and attend annual meeting. There are no fees to join; GBWC is looking for a diversity of partners – might help find new funding opportunities. Individuals may also sign on.
  - Current workgroups are looking at planning, mapping, and tracking; marketing and communications; green workforce development; and tree planting (securing funds for planting trees throughout central MD). GBWC also talked about climate and public health and potentially a policy workgroup.
- Steering Committee members meet quarterly to decide on what grants to pursue, what partners are accepted, strategic planning and other structural things.
  - Generally, members need to be involved for at least 6 months before being invited to be a part of the steering committee.
- Bulk of the work gets done with workgroups; also publish a quarterly newsletter.
- Nature City Forum coming up in September; watch website for details.
- Chris noted that we need to define as an organization (MD APA) what commitments we are making, where we are placing support, priorities, etc.
- Moving forward: Jacqui suggested it would be helpful to talk with David about his involvement before we make any decisions. Michael and Rich will be connecting with David to learn more and will report to the group during next meeting before we vote.
  - Chris added it is key to learn how joining GBWC benefits our membership, what professional development opportunities it provides, etc.

#### 4.2 **Annual Reporting/Chapter Workplan**

- Michael to continue coordinating with Lynda on the workplan.
- Group thinks it's a good idea to address workplan and strategic plan updates at the same time. Developing/refreshing these items will help set a clear direction for the chapter and where we want to commit our time, resources, support, etc.
- Sarah suggested that as part of the planning process, perhaps reach out to membership with a very brief survey/prioritization exercise to get input on what key issues/opportunities membership would like to see MD APA focus on.

- Jacqui noted importance of keeping workplan simple; refresh and revisit a strategic plan. We can scale our workplan based on capacities.

#### 4.3 **MD APA Conference Planning Committee**

- Sarah noted she's still willing to lead the conference planning committee but will need help. She had conversation with Jim about 2019 conference; seems like hiring third party group to help coordinate would be very helpful (used Platinum PR in the past).
- Group on board with continuing conference discussion but we need to make some key decisions (as a group) on timeframe, format, etc. before moving forward.
- Sarah to propose to Lynda that majority of next meeting be spent talking about developing strategic plan/work plan and hashing through early conference planning decisions.

#### 5 **Regional Representative Reports:** moved to next meeting.

- Rich noted interesting editorial in the Baltimore Sun re: smart growth, housing- will share with the group
  - Also added that he will be following up with Garrett Knapp from the National Center for Smart Growth about their ongoing survey effort and any plans to distribute results.
- Jasmine has shared draft document with the group that outlines Emerging Planners Group mentoring program that she would like to start.

#### 6 **Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 2:30

#### **ACTION ITEM SUMMARY**

1. Sarah to coordinate with Lynda re: doodle poll for new meeting times.
2. Sarah to follow up with April re: UMD student blog post and meet and greet recap
3. Sarah to follow up with Olivia re: retirement party details for Jenny Plummer-Welker and share with the group
4. Michael to continue coordination with Lynda re: workplan
5. Alan to connect Ashley Traut and GBWC to Frederick and Mid-Atlantic Planning Collaboration.
6. Michael and Rich to connect with David Rouse and discuss involvement with GBWC.