

CPPDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FOR NOVEMBER 25, 2025



Administrative/Operational

Processed the FY 26 Passages of the Western Potomac Heritage Area (PWPHA) Management, Marketing, and Block Grants.

Hosted the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) Quarterly Meeting at the Allegany Museum. After the meeting, participants enjoyed lunch and a ride on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad, followed by a tour of the Frostburg Coal Miner Memorial. Thank you to the Allegany Museum, Ellen Arnone, and the WMSR in making this day a success.

Reviewed new criteria for the MHAA State-Wide Implementation of the new Strategic Plan.

Continue to process the PWPHA County-Wide Boundary Expansion and Management Plan.

Attended weekly meetings with the Coalition of MD Heritage Areas.

River Park at Canal Place

The engineering and design for the River Park at Canal Place project is over half way complete. We continue to meet with the necessary permitting agencies (MDE, Army Corps of Engineers) to assist with efficiency of the review process.

ARC grants for marketing and sediment testing are pending.

A public meeting to discuss the progress of the project will be held on Nov 25th. Hosted by the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce, speakers

will include: Dee Dee Ritchie, Executive Director CPPDA; Juli, McCoy, President Allegany County Chamber of Commerce; Ashli Workman, Director of Tourism, Allegany County; Andy Arnold, Gwin Dobson & Foreman (GD&F) Engineering; and Bobby Smith, Chief Engineer for the City of Cumberland.

Toured Canal Place with ARC regional leadership during the recent ARC Conference.

Participated on Tourism panel for Leadership Allegany.

Spoke at Canal Towns monthly meeting to provide update on the River Park project. Hosted the group at Canal Place.

Attended a meeting of the AFNHA. Grants are open and applications are currently being accepted

Financials

Completed three months of FMIS Modernization meetings that covered multiple aspects of the current financial system.

Attended multiple Budget and Accounting Workshop meetings.

Attended Canal Towns Partnership meetings. Canal Place hosted the October meeting while the November meeting was in Poolesville, Maryland.

Participated in a number of River Park meetings with EcoLogix and GD&F.

Met with the ParkMobile account manager to discuss the new ParkMobile 360 layout for financial reporting.

Met with a DGS representative to discuss and plan the upcoming dormer and roof repair of the Western Maryland Railway Station.

Marketing

Hosted the Quarterly MHAA meeting in Cumberland on Oct 22, 2025, at the Allegany Museum. Thirty-five state representatives and Heritage Area Directors attended.

Continued work on the AI Experience. Canal location is being reviewed now. Photography and video have been completed. Other sites are being developed now.

River Park collateral created for public meeting. Personal invites to partners and local leaders sent for the meeting. Presentation prepared for meeting. Working with River Park committee and venue to prepare for the Public Meeting.

Set up an online store for the River Park Gear. Apparel will be available on our website for purchase. We will announce this at the public meeting.

Attended the MD Tourism Summit and MTTTS board meeting.

Preparation for the Celebration of Lights and Holiday Market. Twenty-four vendors confirmed and two paid sponsors for a total of \$1,400. DJ and one entertainer, Santa and Mrs. Claus and five food vendors will also be participating.

Golden Ticket promotion is in place and there are 22 participating businesses in the program this year. The promotion will begin on Nov 21 and run until Dec 24. The promotion has been shared on social media platforms, the local tourism website, our website and other partner outlets.

Tenants at Canal Place

Fiber installation has been completed and made accessible to all of the tenants within the Western Maryland Railway Station. Nicole Gray is the contact for any tenant that needs more information.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

PACE – January 22-23, 2026

Upcoming Events at Canal Place

November 29th-Celebration of Lights & Holiday Market

CPPDA Administrative Offices will be closed on the following days:

Thursday, November 27th- Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 28th- American Indian Heritage Day

Thursday, December 25th- Christmas Day

Thursday, January 1st- New Year's Day



*Kody Martin, a maintenance worker with Canal Place, strings Christmas lights Wednesday outside the Western Maryland Railway Station.
Steve Bittner/Times-News 10/23/25*