

**Maryland Environmental Trust
Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2017**

Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) Board of Trustees (Board) Vice Chair Jay Plager called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, Maryland 21032. Trustees in attendance were Jay Plager, Doris Blazek-White, David Greene, Royden Powell III, Gary Burnett, Julia Jitkoff, Senator Addie Eckardt, Sarah Taylor-Rogers, Tom McCarthy (departed early) and Mary Burke. MET staff Bill Leahy, John Turgeon and Wendy Hershey attended. Ted Sudol of Bob Carter Companies LLC attended. Jackie Byam with NRCS attended.

Jackie Byam with NRCS presented on the many different programs, including those for stewardship, available to easement property owners, and she said that she looked forward to partner opportunities going forward. Mr. Leahy used this presentation to discuss work he was doing with the Land Trust Alliance committee looking at reauthorizing a number of NRCS programs under the proposed new Farm Bill. This effort is looking especially at maintaining funding and expanding eligibility under the Agricultural Conservation Easement Programs.

I. Board Work Plan and Governance Topics

A. October 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes were not submitted for approval due to the departure of our office administrator. We look to have October minutes to the Board ahead of the December Board meeting.

B. Director's Report. Mr. Leahy provided an update from the Forever Maryland Foundation ("FMF") Planning Implementation Committee ("PIC") and announced the PIC recently held their third meeting. To date, the PIC has been working to refine the mission, vision, specific areas of strategic focus, and high-level organizational goals. The next two PIC meetings are scheduled for November 15 and December 5, 2017. The goal is to have a final set of recommendations from the FMF PIC prepared and presented to the Board for review by the end of December 2017.

Mr. Leahy also reported that a "Hiring Freeze Exception" has been submitted in order to hire a new office administrator position just vacated by Ms. Mekeal in October. Mr. Leahy added that a MET Staff Annual Planning Review meeting took place last week. He reported highlights from the meeting including:

- Conservation Easement Program will be finalizing several easements by the end of 2017. He attributed a portion of the increased volume to increased community based informational meetings and getting the word out on the easement program at 10 gatherings so far this fiscal year.
- KMB Grant Application program will be closing November 14. Mr. Leahy stated that MET staff sent letters to federal, state and locally elected officials to notify them that their constituent(s) received a KMB grant(s). The letter also included a description of the

project and an announcement of the next grant cycle deadline. MET did receive thank you letters/emails from elected officials in Frederick, Anne Arundel, Queen Anne's, Kent, Caroline and Cecil counties.

- At the October Land Trust Alliance Conference in Denver, Colorado, Mrs. Tully presented on the new LOCATE database and it's KOBO Tool. It has been requested that she also present an overview to Chesapeake Conservancy, and to the MET Board at an upcoming meeting.

Vice Chair Plager asked board members if they felt a more in-depth discussion of the connection(s) with MET and FMF was desired. He suggested a half-day or full-day meeting to discuss the relationship. Mr. Powell asked whether the Board will have governance of FMF. Senator Eckardt's response served as a reminder that the Board identified the need for FMF in its five year Vision Plan, adopted in 2017, which led to the Carter Study which in turn led to the FMF PIC. Vice Chair Plager stated that a foundation previously was formed as more of a fundraising organization and that foundation was not successful. Mr. Greene and Mrs. Blazek-White expressed a real desire to see such a meeting happen before the end of the year. Mr. Leahy restated the final PIC meeting is scheduled on December 5, 2017, after which a final set of recommendations from the committee would be developed for Board review. Mr. Sudol suggested it would take two weeks to finalize the PIC's findings and recommendations, and a meeting could take place between December 18th and 21st. Dr. Taylor-Rogers and Dr. Burke suggested a doodle poll be sent to target a suggested date.

II. Committee Reports

A. Governance and Nominating:

Judge Plager announced as of June 1, 2018, we will have six Board member vacancies. If the Board chooses to renew those Trustees eligible for a second term (Geb Byron, Richard D'Amato, and Toby Lloyd), there would be three vacant board seats left to fill. In accordance with the process described under Senate Bill 4, one name will need to be selected from lists of three names to be provided by the Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House. As in past, the MET nominating committee will send a list of recommendations to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House for their consideration as they put together their recommendations. The names that the nominating committee is proposing are:

1. Ann Helton
2. Ben Tilghman
3. Bernie Marczyk
4. CG Appleby
5. Douglas Worrall
6. Gary Allen
7. Mark Hoffman
8. Gregory Bowen
9. Martha Ann Clark
10. Matt Teffeau

11. Victoria Collins

It was discussed that all 11 names would be sent to Governor, Speaker of the House and Senate President for consideration. Ms. Burke asked if these names would satisfy the diversity goal set forth within Senate Bill 4. Senator Eckardt urged that all Board members continue outreach to ensure diversity of candidates. Mr. Burnett and Ms. Burke stated they had additional names to suggest for consideration. They will provide them to the Nominating Committee this week. Judge Plager made a motion to approve nominees discussed. Motion passed unanimously. Judge Plager stated the Governance Committee will meet to discuss Succession Planning in the near future.

B. Finance Committee:

Ms. Blazek-White provided Statement of Activities for the First Quarter of FY 2018. She noted that budget Line Item 8620 under Stewardship expenditures was not included in FY 2017 budget figures. Also noted, Line Item 8510 under Other Expenditures was expended for the purchase of a park bench for J. Hutson Memorial.

C. Easement and Stewardship Committee

Mr. Turgeon and Ms. Jitkoff reported that in the October 25th Easement and Stewardship Committee meeting, three new easement properties were presented and approved. Mr. Plager questioned if the landowner of the Keyser Run LLC easement was aware that 19 buildable lots were being extinguished by the proposed easement. Mr. Turgeon and Ms. Jitkoff confirmed the landowner was aware of the extinguishment. Mr. Plager inquired on the location of the right of way adjacent to Willoughby Beach Road on the Monk's Creek property. Mr. Turgeon identified the location. Mr. Plager questioned the verbiage provided within the Nob Hill Inc. easement, and Mr. Turgeon provided the explanation as to why it was worded as such.

D. Agriculture Committee

Mr. Greene had no additional updates.

E. Other Committees

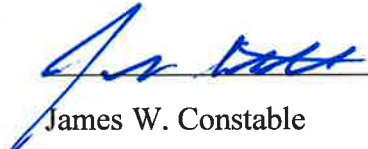
None

F. Other Business

None

III Adjourn: The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



James W. Constable
Chair

These minutes were approved/revised by the Board of Trustees on December 4, 2017.

Attachment(s):

Please note that for most attachments listed and that are considered regular meeting handouts (like Stateside Budget/Finance, MET Administered (non-State) Funds Budget/Finance and Director's reports), a copy is stored with Handouts and MET Board Packets for the meeting at which that information was distributed to the Board. In that case, a duplicate copy will not be attached here.