

**Maryland Environmental Trust
Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2018**

Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) Board of Trustees (Board) Chairman Jim Constable called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, Maryland 21032. Trustees in attendance were Jim Constable, Jay Plager, Doris Blazek-White, Royden Powell III, David Greene, Mary Burke, Mike Pretl, Gary Burnett, Julia Jitkoff, Gary Burnett, Sarah Taylor-Rogers, Tom McCarthy, Doris Blazek-White, Senator Addie Eckardt, and Phil Hager. MET staff Bill Leahy, John Turgeon, and Wendy Hershey attended.

I. Call to Order

II. Board Work Plan and Governance Topics

A. Adopt Minutes of April 2, 2018 regular meeting

April 2, 2018 draft meeting minutes awaiting final edits from Executive Board; not presented for approval and adoption by Board at this time.

B. Chairman's Report

Chairman Constable deferred his time to Director Leahy to provide both MET and FMF updates.

C. Director's Report

Director Leahy provided an update on the status of the Office Manager position. Three interviews conducted and final paperwork sent to Human Resources; expected start date of new hire is June 6, 2018. The update on Stewardship staffing included a reclassification to Admin II for two positions; 2 week position posting ended Friday April 27th; 34 applications received and interviews to be scheduled.

Director Leahy provided an overview of recent reorganization of the Monitoring portion of Stewardship. Ms. Hershey reported on recent activity with volunteer training and recruitment and on revised monitoring goal.

Director Leahy discussed assigning to FMF the grant that MET received from the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network. The grant will fund a position at FMF to implement BMP projects on MET easement properties. Mr. Greene would like to see landowners receive information on all other BMP programs available.

Mr. Leahy provided updates on progress launching Forever Maryland Foundation (FMF). He, Wendy Stringfellow and Ted Sudol are actively addressing administrative tasks associated with starting up the FMF including board recruitment, drafting job descriptions, branding and setting up LOCATE database. Ms. Burke inquired about privacy concerns sharing MET donor information with FMF.

Mr. Leahy provided additional updates on his efforts with FMF board member recruitment. He currently has commitments from Mr. Rob Etgen, Mr. Rob Deford, Mr. Nick Dilks, and Ms. Lisa Schroeder. His goal is to have seven to nine committed members on or before June 1, 2018.

Chairman Constable and members of the Governance Committee provided a list of names they have identified as potential FMF board members. Their list included:

1. Doris Blazek-White (declined)
2. Jim O'Connell
3. Steve Quarles
4. C.G. Appleby
5. Perry Kapsch
6. Ann Jones
7. Victoria Collins
8. Pedie Killebrew
9. Peter Fenwick

Ms. Collins and Mr. Appleby are on both FMF and MET lists and discussion on who would recruit both followed. It was decided Mr. Leahy and FMF would recruit both.

III. Committee Reports

A. Governance & Nominating

Judge Plager provided brief overview of nominating process according to MET By Laws including elections in even numbered years for 2 year terms. The Governance and Nominating Committee presented their slate for nomination including:

CHAIR	Mary Burke
VICE CHAIR	Toby Lloyd
TREASURER	Julia Jitkoff
SECRETARY	Sarah Taylor Rogers

Judge Plager asked if there were any other nominations for any or all positions. Mr. Hager made a motion to approve the slate presented. Senator Eckardt seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the nomination.

Judge Plager offered a brief impression of the MET By laws and the possibility of elected a fifth member, Assistant Treasurer, to the Executive and discussion Governance and Nominating Committee had regarding same. Mr. Powell made a motion to create a fifth member, Assistant Treasurer to the Executive Committee. Mr. Greene seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve a fifth member.

Ms. Jitkoff made a motion to nominate Major Burnett as the Assistant Treasurer. Senator Eckardt seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted to approve Major Burnett as Assistant Treasurer.

Mr. Leahy suggested the MET Staff Annual goals be shared and reviewed with Committee Chairs and added to September Board Meeting Agenda.

B. Finance

Ms. Blazek-White provided Financial Statements for years ending Jun 2016 and 2017. She provided Financial Activities: Actual Expenditures against Budgeted and stated we are under budget or on target on most items. Line Item 8620 continues to be higher than normal due to costs associated with LOCATE database. She reported the Finance Committee has reviewed the pro forma budget for FY 2019. Ms. Blazek-White stated Ms. Rudnicki will alert Brown Advisory of the officer switch on or before June 1, 2018.

Mr. Leahy suggested Ms. Jitkoff and Mr. Burnett identify opportunities for increased DNR stewardship funding.

C. Easement and Stewardship

Mr. Turgeon presented on 37 acre property in Charles County offered for donation by Cove Point LNG LP. The property is located across the Potomac River from Mount Vernon. The donated easement would provide a visual barrier for visitors of Mount Vernon of the proposed Cove Point LNG compressor. Mr. Turgeon reported the Easement Committee voted to approve the donated easement.

Judge Plager asked for clarification on the aerial imagery provided specifically the proposed compressor site in relations to the proposed easement. Mr. Turgeon provided description on both. He stated The Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union approached Dominion Power about donating the easement. Mr. McCarthy offered Mount Vernon has a long history of proactively conserving surrounding lands. He stated Mount Vernon is very technologically advanced in their approach and use of GIS data.

Mr. McCarthy made the motion to approve the donation of Cove Point LNG LP easement. Mr. Greene seconded the motion. Board unanimously approved.

Judge Plager asked a follow up question on the Easement and Stewardship Committee Meeting notes regarding the OAG review of the Hatton's Garden easement. Mr. Turgeon responded that OAG had completed its review of this easement. The document is now with the landowner to sign.

D. Agriculture

Mr. Greene reported the Agriculture Committee met and reviewed Program Open Space Funding. They suggested inviting Senator J.B. Jennings to future Agriculture Committee meeting to discuss his recent transferable tax credit legislation (Senate Bill 1235).

The Committee also discussed the proposed DelMarVa Power natural gas pipeline and the impacts on many MET and Eastern Shore Land Conservancy easement properties. Ms. Taylor-Rogers stated Mr. Josh Hastings with ESLC is well versed in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) process. Mr. Leahy suggested communicating with 1,000 Friends of Maryland about this issue.

Mr. Greene reported plans by Agriculture Committee to invite Dena Leibman, Executive Director of Future Harvest-CASA to attend both Agriculture Committee Meeting and full MET Board meeting.

Mr. Greene reported he had reached out to MALPF Director Carol West for recommendations for potential MET Board member names.

E. Land Trust Advisory Committee

Mr. Hager provided an updated on the 2018 MET Conference. We are on track with registration of 130 attendees from 72 organizations. The Committee met in April and has been "full court press in Conference preparations". Mr. Hager stated additional committee members are desired on the LTAC.

F. Grants Committee

Major Burnett reported the April 16th Keep Maryland Beautiful event with First Lady Yumi Hogan was well attended and overall a success. Ms. Burke reported that at the event Department of Housing and Community Development was recognized and received an award from the "Keep America Beautiful" CEO Helen Lowman. Additionally, DHCD was selected as the host for the 2019 Keep America Beautiful Conference.

G. Legislative Committee

Mr. Hager provided an overview of relevant 2018 Legislation including:

HB 766/SB 610 Forest Conservation Bill (FAILED)

HB 252 Agri Tourism (PASSED)

Provides a definition of agri-tourism

HB 1588 Zoning Amendments –Energy Generating Systems (PASSED)

Prohibits local officials from granting amendments to zone classifications if the primary reason for proposed amendment is the existence of certain energy generating systems(s) (solar and/or wind)

HB 1765 On-Site Sewage Disposal System - Watershed Implementation Plan & Bay Restoration fund (PASSED)

Authorizes certain reductions in nitrogen to on-site sewage disposal system to count toward nitrogen load reduction required in watershed implementation plan

Chairman Constable inquired about the status of any solar energy bills. Mr. Hager stated many solar bills were proposed but very few passed.

H. Other Committee Updates

None

IV. Other Business

Mr. Greene made a motion to name Jim O'Connell and Connie Lieder as Board Member Emeriti. Senator Eckardt seconded the motion. Board unanimously approved.

Mr. Lloyd provided an update on Director Search.

V. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

