

Maryland Environmental Trust
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2017

Maryland Environmental Trust (“MET”) Board of Trustees (“Board”) Chair James W. Constable called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, Maryland 21032. Trustees in attendance were James Constable, David Greene, Connie Lieder, Tom McCarthy, Doris Blazek-White, Gary Burnett, Mary Burke, Royden Powell III, Julia Jitkoff, Toby Lloyd, Judge Jay Plager, Phil Hager, Sen. Adelaide Eckardt and Steve Quarles. Assistant Attorney General Kristen Maneval attended. MET staff Bill Leahy, John Turgeon, Michelle Grafton and Tanya Mekeal attended (Ms. Mekeal departed early). DNR Assistant Secretary Daryl Anthony attended.

I. Board Work Plan and Governance Topics

A. April 3, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes: *Ms. Jitkoff moved approval of the minutes, Mr. Lloyd seconded and MET Board unanimously approved and adopted April 3, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes.*

B. Chairman’s Report:

Mr. Constable with the consent of the Trustees announced the following committee appointments:

- Sarah Taylor-Rogers and Royden Powell to the Agriculture Committee
- Toby Lloyd to the Finance Committee
- Royden Powell to the Easement & Stewardship Committee

Mr. Leahy will distribute to trustees the charters for those committees that have charters. Mr. Constable, Mr. Leahy and Judge Plager have prepared a proposed list of committee assignments and committee chairs and will seek trustees’ input on the list. Additional announcements of appointments will be made at the May 16 meeting.

C. Director’s Report:

Mr. Leahy gave a slide presentation to preview the May 16 Board meeting. At that meeting, consultants and Mr. Leahy will present their findings on research they have done on the feasibility of a nonprofit corporation to strengthen land conservation in Maryland. Interviewees have shown interest in the idea and recognize the need, but no one person who has indicated willingness to make a large lead donation has emerged. Mr. Leahy presented slides showing possible complementary missions of both MET and a nonprofit corporation.

Regarding the annual plan, it will have four (4) focus areas: strengthening land trusts, fundraising, organizational effectiveness and launching a nonprofit corporation. Mr. Leahy seeks feedback on the draft annual plan, which Trustees will be asked to adopt on June 5. Ms. Jitkoff would like to see more explicit reference to signature landscapes in the annual plan.

The draft budget is a deficit budget (-\$287,000) as it includes increased spending on strategic priorities in the Strategic Vision Plan. Mr. Hager asked for additional DNR financial support in recognition of MET's 50th anniversary and to help the launch of a nonprofit corporation, suggesting that with ambitious effort to launch a nonprofit corporation, MET may need to de-prioritize other goals unless there is additional staff capacity. Mr. Leahy responded that DNR intends to allow certain staff to support the launch via staff time. Mr. Anthony discussed Mr. McCarthy's role as liaison between MET and DNR's Land Acquisition & Planning unit.

Mr. Turgeon gave a slide presentation on a recent 679 acre easement from Oldfield Point Farms, LLC. The deal included federal and state funding plus a bargain sale element. MET has now exceeded its goal of 1,000 acres for the fiscal year. Mr. Turgeon complimented the project management skills of Easement Planner Ann Carlson, who worked on the project for several years.

Mr. Constable announced that this was the last regularly-scheduled Board meeting for Ms. Lieder and Mr. Quarles, who are departing the Board on May 31 due to term limits. Ms. Lieder has been a member since 1989 and served as Chair. Ms. Lieder said that MET is the epitome of what government should do: help an individual accomplish his/her goal (in MET's case, preservation of land). Mr. Constable thanked Mr. Quarles for his service as a Trustee and as Secretary.

II. Committee Reports

A. Governance Committee & Nominating Subcommittee:

•Election of Trustee:

Judge Plager announced that the President of the Senate recommends Grant DeHart, Bevan Buchister and Sarah Taylor-Rogers for a trusteeship. Judge Plager reported that the Nominating Subcommittee recommended to the Governance Committee and the Governance Committee recommended to the Board the election of Sarah Taylor-Rogers as trustee for a term of June 1, 2017-May 31, 2021. *The Governance Committee moved, Mr. Hager seconded and the Board approved the election of Sarah Taylor-Rogers as trustee for a term of June 1, 2017-May 31, 2021.*

Ms. Mekeal departed.

•Election of Officer:

Ms. Burke left the room.

Judge Plager reported that the Nominating Subcommittee recommended to the Governance Committee and the Governance Committee recommended to the Board the election of Mary Burke as Secretary for a term of June 1, 2017-May 31, 2019. *The Governance*

Committee moved, Sen. Eckardt seconded and the Board approved the election of Mary Burke as Secretary for a term of June 1, 2017-May 31, 2019.

Ms. Burke returned.

•Election to be held May 16:

Judge Plager announced that the Speaker of the House of Delegates recommends Grant DeHart, Loretta Lynch and Michael Pretl for a trusteeship. Judge Plager reported that the Nominating Subcommittee recommended to the Governance Committee and the Governance Committee recommends to the Board the election of Michael Pretl as trustee for a term of June 1, 2017-May 31, 2021. An election will be held on May 16.

Mr. Greene informed fellow trustees that MET is still waiting for nominations from the Governor. Mr. Hager commended the work of the Nominating Subcommittee and Governance Committee in moving forward the process established by SB 4 and in focusing on succession planning; in the future, he would like to see the Subcommittee and the Committee accept nominations for officers from the floor.

B. Finance Committee:

Ms. Blazek-White presented expenditures and income against budget for MET-Administered Funds through March 31. As of that date, MET had not yet met its target for contributed income. Mr. Leahy reported that MET received a significant stewardship gift from Donald Graham. Events income is getting closer to what is needed for the conference. MET is under budget on expenses for most items but is over budget on bookkeeping services and Carter contract. The Board will be asked to adopt the FY 2018 budget for MET-Administered funds at its June 5 meeting. Regarding the State budget, Mr. Leahy announced that MET is preparing the 2019 budget. Judge Plager reminded trustees that MET hopes that each trustee will contribute to MET each fiscal year. *Ms. Blazek-White moved approval of the compilation prepared by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, Mr. Lloyd seconded and the Board approved the motion.*

C. Easement & Stewardship Committee:

Mr. Turgeon reported that the Committee met on April 19 and discussed two (2) projects in concept and some stewardship matters.

D. Agriculture Committee:

Mr. Greene announced that he, Ms. Taylor-Rogers, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Powell, Mr. Turgeon and Jon Chapman met in April. The Committee discussed applications to U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service for Regional Conservation Partnership Program grants. These are challenging grant applications requiring 1:1 match. Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Powell have experience in seeking these grants. Land Trust Alliance decided not to apply.

Mr. Greene inquired about how MET vets its volunteers to make sure that members of groups who may have ulterior motives are not infiltrating MET’s volunteer program. The Committee suggests MET implement a non-disclosure agreement.

The Committee is networking with Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission and its new director, Shelby Watson-Hampton. Ms. Watson-Hampton may address the Committee and later the Board, and she has requested that a representative of MET address her board.

The Committee intends to meet with the Maryland Farm Bureau this summer.

E. Land Trust Advisory Committee:

Mr. Hager reported that the Committee met in April and could use more members. The last roundtable of the fiscal year will be on June 27 and will feature Chesapeake Conservancy. The Committee is working on its “State of Maryland’s Land Trusts” document. MET’s annual conference will be June 8. Trustees are encouraged to sponsor, bring a friend and attend.

F. Legislative Committee:

Mr. Hager reported that HB 863, which would have allowed electric generation stations on MET, DNR and Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation easements, was withdrawn. The General Assembly did pass a bill requiring the Public Service Commission to include in its review of proposed electricity generation stations a finding of consistency with local comprehensive plan and local zoning. Mr. Hager believes this makes it even more important for comprehensive plans to mention conservation easements.

G. Grants Committees:

1. 2017 Keep Maryland Beautiful Bill James & Margaret Rosch Jones Grants Committee

The Committee requests that the Board approve an additional \$700 for these grants. *Mr. Hager moved to approve an additional \$700, Mr. Burnett seconded and the Board approved the motion (Ms. Blazek-White voted nay).*

Ms. Lieder described the huge demand for the grants and growing interest in the environment from local schools. The Committee recommends the following grants:

Bill James Environmental Grants:

Calvert County Public Schools	\$1,000
ClearShark H2O	\$1,000
KidsSTREAM, Inc	\$1,000
North County High School	\$1,000
Reginald F. Lewis High School, Rm. 317	\$500

Total \$4,500

Margaret Rosch Jones Awards:

Harford Glen Environmental Education Center	\$1,000
It's About The Kids Education Organization	\$1000
Maryland League of Conservation Voters Education Fund	\$1,000
Phillips Wharf Environmental Center	\$1,000
Sky Valley Association, Inc.	\$1,800
Total	\$5,800

Senator Eckardt moved approval of these grants, Ms. Burke seconded and the Board approved the motion.

2. 2017 Hollman & Hughes (Land Trust Assistance) Grants Committee

Ms. Lieder recommended that \$2,000 Aileen Hughes award be given to Cecil Land Trust, Inc. in honor of its president. Bill Kilby. Mr. Kilby has shown leadership with the Cecil Conservation Partnership and in developing a relationship with a local school, West Nottingham Academy. *Senator Eckardt moved approval of this grant, Ms. Burke seconded and the Board approved the motion.*

3. 2017 Hollman & Hughes (Land Trust Assistance) Grants Committee

Ms. Lieder recommended that the Board award the following grants:

Baltimore Green Space, Inc.	\$4,000
City of Annapolis through its agent Annapolis Conservancy Board	\$1,500
Conservancy of Charles County, Inc.	\$4,500
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, Inc.	\$2,500
Harford Land Trust, Inc.	\$3,500
Lower Shore Land Trust, Inc.	\$5,000
NeighborSpace Baltimore County, Inc.	\$4,500
Scenic Rivers Land Trust, Inc.	\$7,000
Urban Ecosystems Restoration, Inc.	\$4,500
Total	\$37,000

Ms. Grafton noted that Ms. Burke secured an additional \$7,000 from Land Trust Alliance. *Ms. Jitkoff moved approval of these grants, Mr. Greene seconded and the Board approved the motion.*

4. 2017 Keep Maryland Beautiful Clean Up & Green Up Grants Committee

Mr. Burnett reported that applicants cumulatively requested \$234,000. Department of Housing and Community Development increased its grant to \$150,000. The Committee recommends the following grants:


Alice Ferguson Foundation	\$5,000
Annapolis Maritime Museum	\$4,000
Art League of Ocean City	\$5,000
Blue Water Baltimore	\$4,000
Brunswick Main Street	\$3,429
C.A.R.E. Community Association	\$4,975
C.A.T. Club (Citizens Against Trash)	\$5,000
Cambridge Main Street	\$1,764
Citizens of Pigtown	\$5,000
City of Cumberland's Neighborhood Advisory Commission	\$5,000
City of Greenbelt's Department of Public Works	\$4,998
City of Hagerstown	\$5,000
City of Taneytown	\$2,000
Downtown Frederick Partnership	\$3,500
Druid Heights Community Development Corporation	\$5,000
Elkton Alliance, Inc.	\$1,500
Ellicott City Partnership	\$5,000
Friends of Patterson Park	\$3,800
Greater Patapsco Community Association, Inc.	\$3,500
Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition	\$4,932
Hollins Roundhouse INC., a community association	\$5,000
Kent Island Beach Cleanups	\$2,500
Main Street Historic Chestertown	\$3,385
Main Street Middletown	\$1,500
Montgomery Parks Foundation	\$4,995
NeighborSpace	\$5,000
Old Takoma Business Association	\$5,000
Parks & People Foundation	\$5,000
Patapsco Heritage Greenway	\$2,272
Pigtown Main Street	\$2,500
Rebuilding Together Baltimore - Govans	\$5,000
Southwest Partnership	\$5,000
Sykesville Main Street Assoc.	\$2,000

Town of Hancock	\$1,100
Town of Oakland	\$5,000
Town of Williamsport	\$1,600
UMD Harford Ex - Family & Cons Science. Master Gardener	\$5,000
Whitelock Community Farm	\$3,500
York Road Partnership	\$2,250
Total	\$150,000

Mr. Burnett moved approval of these grants, Sen. Eckardt seconded and the Board approved the motion. Judge Plager suggested that in the future, the Committee include the amount that applicants requested. Ms. Grafton reported that the Grants Committees will meet during the summer to discuss how to advertise next year.

IV. Adjourn: The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



 James W. Constable
 Chair

These minutes were approved/revised by the Board of Trustees on May 16, 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.