

Maryland Environmental Trust Board of Trustees  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Date & Time: Monday February 5, 2024, 2:00pm  
Type: Google Meet & Teleconference

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Executive Committee members present: Gary Burnett, Mark Hoffman and John Turgeon (non-voting)  
Committee members absent: Greg Bowen and Megan D’Arcy  
MET & OAG Staff Participants: Kelly Price, and Talley Kovacs AAG

The MET Executive Committee meeting started at 2:04pm.

There were no minutes taken of the prior Executive Committee meeting on 11/1/23

John Turgeon started the meeting by reviewing the upcoming Board Meeting agenda items that were listed in the Board Packet that was emailed to the trustees. He asked the committee members if anyone had any concerns, changes or additions needed to the agenda. The Committee members had no changes or concerns. John mentioned that a presentation will be made during the meeting by Kelly Dudeck of Cultivate and Craft, and the presentation will be held virtually to make it easier for the trustees attending from home to view the materials presented.

Mr. Turgeon updated the Executive Committee on the Chase Farm easement litigation matters. He said that the trial has been postponed until January 2025. Ms. Kovacs informed the committee on why the trial was postponed.

Mr. Turgeon advised the Executive Committee that he will relate some key points from his director’s report that was emailed to the Board, and he highlighted some areas to the Committee that are in his report. He informed the Committee that MET has three new staff members since the last meeting. Stewardship Planner, Kevin Bull, joined MET at the end of November, and he previously worked for MET. Easement Planner, Matt Ludington, is working closely with Ann Carlson on acquiring new conservation easements. Stewardship Specialist, Laural Paterini, is a long-term contractual employee that was hired in December to assist the Stewardship team. Mr. Turgeon mentioned there are Trustee vacancies and he said the Speaker of the House nominated Crystal Chissell, who is the Mayor of Highland Beach. Mr. Turgeon explained that Toby Lloyd has already been in contact with Crystal, requesting a brief biography from her to present to the Governance Committee and to have a Board vote via e-mail so she can hopefully attend the May Board meeting. A discussion took place among the Executive Committee regarding the new candidate.

Mr. Turgeon informed the Executive Committee that some of the Board of Trustees’ terms are expiring. He said that Toby Lloyd spoke with Tom Prevas and he does not want to stay on the Board for another term. Megan Benjamin does want to do another term, and he has not heard back from Keith Colston, Susanne Richards, or Lori Lynch. Mr. Lloyd will follow up with them so they have confirmation on how many new vacancies they will have on the Board. Mr. Turgeon said that Gary Burnett and Greg Bowen’s officer positions are up for renewal and they both have expressed interest for staying Chair and Vice-chair respectively for another term. He said that Megan D’Arcy has requested to be removed as Secretary, so they will need to find a replacement for her.

Mr. Turgeon spoke about upcoming legislation. He asked Mark Hoffman if he had any insight into existing legislation that may affect MET. Mr. Hoffman mentioned a bill that deals with historic

easements, but he said that he needed to get more information regarding the bill. He also mentioned a possible solar siting bill. Mr. Hoffman gave a brief overview of the solar bill.

Mr. Turgeon discussed MET's FY25 stateside budget with the Committee. He asked Kelly Price if there were any updates regarding the FY25 budget, or if MET's FY24 budget deficiency requests to DNR was approved. Ms. Price informed the Committee that FY25 budget is complete and unfortunately, programs established in SB470 did not get funded. She said that MET will again make the request for these funds when preparing the FY26 budget. Ms. Price mentioned that DNR FAS advised her that the FY24 deficiency requests will get funded. These are for the GIS field data collection tool that DoIT is creating for MET, and for MET's purchase of Salesforce (database). These items will be funded as long as the costs stay within the anticipated projected budget.

The Executive Committee adjourned at 2:28pm.