

Maryland Environmental Trust Board of Trustees
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Date & Time: Monday May 6, 2024, 2:00pm
Type: Google Meet & Teleconference

Executive Committee members present: Gary Burnett, Mark Hoffman, Megan D’Arcy, Greg Bowen, and John Turgeon (non-voting)
Committee members absent none.
OAG Staff Participant: Talley Kovacs AAG
Staff absent: Kelly Price

1. Overview of items on the Board’s meeting agenda

John Turgeon started the meeting by reviewing the items on the MET Board’s upcoming meeting agenda, which was previously emailed to the Trustees with the Board’s meeting packet. John mentioned that a presentation will be made during the meeting by Dianna Rose from Montgomery Parks about meadow habitat restoration and management. The presentation will be held virtually to make it easier for the trustees attending from home to view the materials presented, as was done for the presentation at the February Board meeting.

He went through all the other items on the agenda, which include:

- Board votes on the recommendations by the MET Governance Committee to re-elect Trustees Megan Benjamin and Lori Lynch to their second four-year terms each,
- and to elect Trustee Keith Colston to his first four-year term. Mr. Colston had been elected Trustee in 2022 to serve out the remaining term of former Trustee Mary Burke who stepped off the Board early. He is now eligible to be elected to his first term.
- Mr. Turgeon also reported that the Board will be voting on recommendations from Governance to re-elect Gary Burnett as Board Chair and Greg Bowen as Vice-Chair, each to their second 2-year terms in those officer positions.

2. MET organizational updates

Mr. Turgeon discussed the Board’s recent election of Crystal Chissell as a new Trustee by e-mail vote held in March. The Speaker of the House of Delegates nominated Ms. Chissell, who is the Mayor of Highland Beach near Annapolis. The Board’s vote was made on the recommendation by the MET Governance Committee.

Mr. Turgeon reported that the Speaker designated Delegate Natalie Ziegler of Howard County to serve as Ex-Officio Trustee.

He reported that current Trustees Tom Prevas and Susanne Richards are stepping off the Board on May 31st upcoming, which is the end of their respective terms. They are not interested in serving second terms. Mr. Prevas has notified the Senate President, who originally nominated Mr. Prevas for Trustee, that he is stepping off the Board. Mr. Turgeon has also reached out to the Senate President’s office about obtaining nominations to fill this vacancy. Mr. Turgeon will reach out to the DNR Secretary’s office about getting nominations from the Governor to fill Ms. Richards position.

Mr. Turgeon also discussed the need for a new Board Secretary as Megan D’Arcy is not interested in a second term.

3. Other business

Chair Gary Burnett proposed that there be another MET Board and staff gathering to tour an MET easement property. He suggested trying to schedule this sometime in June before it gets too hot.

Treasurer Mark Hoffman discussed sending another letter to Governor Moore urging him to provide the funding passed in the Maryland the Beautiful Act in MET's FY 2026 budget. He recommended drafting the letter for the Finance Committee to review and then recommend to the full Board for approval at the June meeting. Preparing the State Budget for FY 2026 begins during this summer so now is the time to prepare this letter. The DNR Secretary and Secretary of the Dept. of Budget and Management will be copied on the letter, which will be signed by Mr. Burnett.

The Executive Committee adjourned before 3 pm.