Minutes from meeting of MET's Land Committee Wednesday January 22, 2025 1:00 pm

Attending Committee Members: G. Burnett, M. Benjamin, C. Wells Attending MET Staff: J. Turgeon, J. Markline, D. Skalos, K. Bull, L. Paterini, M. Ludington

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 1 pm

Agenda Item 1. Easement Program

- a) Easement Program Updates: D. Skalos provided update on project pipeline.
 - 14 active projects, none for review this meeting, expect a large number for April meeting

Agenda Item 2. Stewardship Program

- a) Stewardship Program Update: J. Markline provided the following update:
 - Enforcement Policy completion has been delayed due to Chase Farm settlement. Near submission for Board approval. Policy was discussed at Land Trust Round Table event in November.
 - Staff are working with Back Office Thinking to automate processes and alerts in Salesforce database.
 - K. Bull has developed contact form for MET website and has sent to appropriate staff for comments. Form will direct public to appropriate staff and collect data on inquiries.
 - L. Paterini has completed significant amount of QA/QC of MET easements boundaries and has updated SDAT, DOIT and DNR GIS with updated files.
 - MET was selected as host for Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps internship program for a second year and will begin screening potential candidates to select a member to work with Stewardship next August.
 - Coholders have completed monitoring reports for the largest number of easements in MET history. 200 potential violations flagged by coholders but unclear how many are still active. Some are likely resolved but have yet to be marked in the database, some were flagged by satellite imagery and will need to be ground-truthed. Staff are working on resolving 31 documented violations in various stages, ranging from unlawful ATV usage to trash piles, to vegetative buffer clearing and encroachment.
 - MET ID #0746ROB03.HOWA OAG filed a complaint on behalf of MET in Howard County Circuit Court on 1/21/25. Current landowner is dumping and storing industrial equipment on property. Previous landowner was also served because they started the dumping.
 - b) Request for approval for MET ID #0681ROU02.WASH Gary Burnett motioned to delegate authority to the Director for approval in accordance with policy. Charlie Wells seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50pm.