

Minutes from meeting of MET's Land Committee
Wednesday April 24, 2024
1:00 pm

Attending Committee Members: M. D'Arcy, G. Burnett, M. Benjamin, A. Jones,
Attending MET Staff: J. Turgeon, J. Markline, A. Carlson, J. Pinkney, K. Bull,
M. Ludington
Attending OAG: T. Kovacs

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 1 pm

Agenda Item 1. Stewardship Program

a) Stewardship Program Updates: J. Markline provided the following updates:

- The ESRI based Monitoring Application has been launched and is functional! Still working out some minor glitches with syncing data from the application to our database, but no issues with recording observations on the digital monitoring form and taking photos in the field using cell phones and tablets.
 - DoIT invited MET to speak with them again at TUGIS in August to talk about the new monitoring application. It drew a lot of attention last year and will probably draw more back to hear an update on how it's working out for staff.
- Kevin is drafting an Enforcement and Violations SOP and Policy that will eventually need BOT approval. This will help us streamline how we classify, prioritize resolution/mitigation, and otherwise manage violations.
- Kevin has also taken on a lot of backlogged violation flags from past reports that needed follow up visits and is determining resolutions for those.
- Laural has also been checking off backlogged monitoring visits to new owners of easements and has undertaken the task of revising easement boundaries that have been found to be inaccurate on our maps using GIS.
- Kevin and Justyn have started planning to do a forest stand delineation on one of the fee simple properties we own on Marshall Hall Road in Charles County. They will create a forest conservation plan for that property by July that will identify what is there and if there is any actual conservation value on the property. All we know right now is that it is wooded and wet.
- We are hosting an in-person Roundtable for all Stewards on April 30 in Glen Burnie. We have more than 20 RSVPs so far and are very excited to get together and have time for a less formal discussion to share highlights of success and challenges and ask questions about how all of our programs operate to inspire some confidence and build relationships. It will be a good opportunity for new folks to meet and exchange helpful info.
- Justyn has been offered a permanent job as a Planner I with the Cecil County Planning and Zoning Division, so he will be completing his Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps service with us a little early, but we are happy for him, and we look forward to collaborating with him on easements in his region in the future.

Agenda Item 2. Easement Program

a) Easement Program Update: A. Carlson provided the following update:

- Completed 12 site visits, following up on landowner interest in conservation

- Since last meeting the Scheig easement (84.26 ac in Garrett County) was recorded.
- Current fiscal year acres protected is 1046.18 acres
- J. Turgeon recorded the Boehm easement (37 acres in Anne Arundel County) on 4.23.2024
- J. Turgeon and A. Carlson attended the retirement event for Kate Patton of LSLT.
- A. Carlson was a speaker at Harford Land Trust Annual meeting in March.

b) Easement Pipeline Report: - A. Carlson provided the following update:

- The Sapp Hamilton project is moving again. The Board approved this easement in September 12, 2022. The easement had been delayed due to subordination and landowner timing.

Agenda Item 3. Conservation Easement Projects

- a) 43.23 +/- ac in Queen Anne's County with Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, Inc. A. Carlson presented the project. M. D'Arcy moved to approve and place the project on the Consent Agenda. A. Jones seconded the motion. **The Committee unanimously voted to put it on the Consent Calendar.**
- b) 103.459 +/- ac in Worcester County A. Carlson presented the project. A. Jones moved to approve and place the project on the Consent Agenda. M. D'Arcy seconded the motion. **The Committee unanimously voted to put it on the Consent Calendar.**
- c) 42.06 acres in Cecil County with Cecil Land Trust A. Carlson presented the project. A. Jones moved to approve and place the project on the Consent Agenda. M. D'Arcy seconded the motion. **The Committee unanimously voted to put it on the Consent Calendar.**
- d) 217.483 in Queen Anne's and Caroline Counties A. Carlson presented the project. M. D'Arcy moved to approve and place the project on the Consent Agenda. A. Jones seconded the motion. **The Committee unanimously voted to put it on the Consent Calendar.**

Other Business

J. Turgeon gave an update on the 40x40 work group. The group comprised of DNR and MDP staff, including J. Turgeon are drafting the legislatively required plan to meet the goal of protecting 40 percent of Maryland by 2040.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50pm.