MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION
OPEN MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 2025
This meeting was held via internet and telephone conference call.

Trustees Participating:

Cricket Goodall, Chair
Steve Connelly, representing Secretary Kevin Atticks, Maryland Department of Agriculture
Deborah Herr Cornwell, representing Secretary Rebecca Flora, Maryland Department of Planning
William Buckel
Gary Dell
Sean Hough

Trustees Absent:

Ben Speigel, representing Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman
Jenell McHenry
Tanya Spandhla
Joseph Wood
J. Bruce Yerkes

Others Participating:

Michelle Cable, MALPF Executive Director
Chana Turner, MALPF Lead Administrator
Rama Dilip, MALPF Administrator
Beth Beales, MALPF Administrator
Erin Lueders, MALPF Administrator
Amanda Massoni, MALPF Fiscal Specialist
Patrick Martyn, Assistant Attorney General, Department of General Services
Renee Dyson, Assistant Attorney General, Department of General Services
Mike Steadman, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Maryland Department of Agriculture
Megan Benjamin, Baltimore County Program Administrator
Elisa Deflaux, Talbot County Program Administrator
Donna Landis-Smith, Queen Anne's County Program Administrator
Joe Pippin, Queen Anne's County Program Administrator
JP Smith, Carroll County Program Administrator
Billy Gorski, Anne Arundel County
Michael Stringer, Anne Arundel County Program Administrator
Jennifer David, Calvert County Program Administrator
Catherine McCulley, Caroline County Program Administrator
Mike Weyand, Montgomery County Program Administrator
Julie Enger, Department of General Services Appraiser
Jeffrey Fretwell, MDA
Roy Cool, Allegany County Program Administrator
Collin Harrison, Wicomico County Program Administrator

Ms. Goodall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. via internet and telephone conference call. Ms. Cable stated the names of the participants on the conference call, for the record, and asked anyone that was not named to identify themselves.

MALPF Board Open Meeting Minutes April 22, 2025

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Open Minutes from March 25, 2025

Motion #1:	To approve minutes from March 25, 2025.		
Motion:	Hough	Second:	Dell
Status:	Approved		

II. ADDITION / DELETION OF AGENDA ITEMS

N/A

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Cable announced that the Governor's Office formally appointed Cricket Goodall as the Chair of the MALPF Board. This leaves the position of Vice-Chair open, to be filled by one of the non-governmental positions of the Board of Trustees, who will preferably be a member who: has been on the Board for a few years; is willing to serve as Chair after Ms. Goodall's term expires; and who has at least a few more years remaining on their years of availability after Ms. Goodall's term ends. Ms. Cable let the Board know that Gary Dell is willing to volunteer to serve in this role. Ms. Cable further asked that if any other members are interested, they please let her know. There will be an official vote at the next meeting.

Ms. Cable informed the Board that the 2025 Legislative Session ended on April 7th. The MALPF budget numbers did not change from the figures provided at the March meeting, with $6.6 million of state funds and $12 million of county funds approved. Ms. Cable did note that there was already discussion of under-attainment of FY25 revenue, which would mean the "starting funds" from the transfer tax revenue may be decreased to reflect any under-attainment at the close of FY2025. When more information becomes available, Ms. Cable will update the Board.

Ms. Cable asked the county staff that were on the call whether anyone had any announcements to make; there were none.

Ms. Cable asked all participants to keep themselves muted, and when unmuted, to clearly state their names before asking a question, or making a motion, etc. She reminded the Board members that when motions were made, Board members only needed to state their names if they were voting in opposition to the motion, rather than saying "aye" to vote in favor of a motion.

IV. EASEMENT AMENDMENTS

A. WASHINGTON COUNTY

1. 21-80-02SUB#1 Ford, Donna and Dale ~42.47 acres

Request:
To void the second amended preliminary releases for the child lots for Brittany F. Burtner, Blaine Ford, Bradley J. Long and Heather M. Teplitz, merging the child lots into easement property; and to reimburse the payback amounts previously paid to the Foundation for the child lots.

Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval per the criteria specified in Article – Agriculture Section 2-505(c)(5), subject to satisfaction of the following conditions:

1. The lots are conveyed to the farm owner free of any liens.
2. Merger of the four (4) tax parcels of the lots (Lot 2, Lot 3, Lot 4, and Lot 5 on plat) into the Ford's tax parcel 291.
3. Recording of a new (Simplified) Plat per #1 above to vacate the lot lines.
4. Recording an agreement to void the preliminary releases in the Land Records.

Ms. Beales introduced the item and was available to address any questions from the Board.

Motion #2:	To approve the to void the second amended preliminary releases, incorporating staff recommendations, as presented.		
Motion:	Herr-Cornwell	Second:	Dell
Status:	Approved		

V. NEW AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION EASEMENT PETITIONS:

N/A

VI. PROGRAM POLICY

A. FY25-26 Matching Funds Request

Request:
To approve the fifteen counties who have requested to participate in the matching funds program for the FY25/26 easement cycle:

1. Anne Arundel
2. Baltimore
3. Caroline
4. Carroll
5. Charles
6. Frederick
7. Garrett
8. Harford
9. Kent
10. Queen Anne's
11. St. Mary's
12. Somerset
13. Talbot
14. Washington
15. Worcester

Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval.

Ms. Cable introduced the item and was available for any questions from the Board.

Motion #3:	To approve the fifteen counties who have requested to participate in the matching funds program for the FY25/26 easement cycle, as presented.		
Motion:	Dell	Second:	Hough
Status:	Approved		

VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Legislative Update

Ms. Cable provided a summary of the outcome of the 2025 Legislative Session.

B. FY 2025 Quarterly Inspection Report

Ms. Cable provided the Board with the quarterly inspection report.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

There was no Closed Session.

There being no further business, the Open Session was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Motion #4: To adjourn the Open Session.

Motion:	Dell	Second:	Hough
Status:	Approved		

Respectfully Submitted:

Michelle Cable, MALPF Executive Director