

**MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION
OPEN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 23, 2021**

This meeting was held via internet and telephone conference call.

Trustees Participating:

William Allen, Chair
Taylor Huffman, Vice Chair
Jerome Klasmeier, representing Comptroller Peter Franchot
Joanna Kille, representing Treasurer Nancy Kopp
Deborah Herr Cornwell, representing Secretary Robert McCord, Maryland
Department of Planning
Julie Oberg, representing Secretary Joseph Bartenfelder, Maryland Department
of Agriculture
Cricket Goodall
Elizabeth Hill
Joseph Wood

Trustees Absent:

Catherine Cosgrove
Robin Kable
J. Bruce Yerkes

Others Participating:

Michelle Cable, MALPF Executive Director
Diane Chasse, MALPF Administrator
Chana Turner, MALPF Administrator
Sarel Cousins, MALPF Administrator
Amanda Massoni, MALPF Fiscal Specialist
Kim Hoxter, MALPF Monitoring, Enforcement and Database Coordinator
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
Beth Beales, Caroline County Program Administrator
Carla Gerber, Kent County Program Administrator
Billy Gorski, Anne Arundel County Staff
Will LeFort, DGS Appraiser
Julie Enger, DGS Appraiser
Darryl Andrews, DGS Appraiser
Stacey Kubofcik, MARBIDCO staff

Mr. Allen, 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.

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I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Open Minutes from February 23, 2021.

Motion #1: To approve minutes from February 23, 2021.

Motion:	Kille	Second:	Klasmeier
Status:	Approved		

II. ADDITION / DELETION OF AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Cable emailed additional items VI.A and B. on Friday, March 19th. Item VI. A. is being withdrawn.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Cable informed the Board that the two regulations that were approved at the end of 2020 were formally submitted to AELR to begin their review process. Ultimately the revised regulations will posted for public comment for a 90-day period before becoming effective.

Ms. Cable updated the Board on the status of the Capital Budget for FY22. Currently the full budget request of \$45,517,785 is moving forward with all cash (no longer a possibility for a bond substitute). In addition, there is a possibility that some of the payback funds from the 2016 BRFA may be included in the FY22 budget. The final decisions will be made by the end of session and the Board will be informed of the outcome of funding levels.

Ms. Cable thanked all the attendees for participating in the MALPF teleconference Board meeting. 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. Ms. Cable also 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

N/A

V. NEW AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION EASEMENT PETITIONS:

N/A

VI. PROGRAM POLICY

A. Withdrawn

B. Request approval for a revised Kent County Easement Prioritization Formula_

Request

Kent County requests approval to revise its Easement Prioritization Formula, used for ranking easement applications.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval.

Ms. Turner presented the item. Ms. Gerber addressed the Board explaining the changes of the easement prioritization formula. Ms. Kille asked whether the addition of the value-added category is in line with the Foundation's uses policy. Ms. Cable confirmed that it is. Mr. Allen expressed concern over potential negative impact on new farmers by the addition of the length-of-ownership category. Ms. Gerber explained that the local advisory board wants to show support to long-time and/or multi-generational landowners by awarding points to this category. Keeping the maximum points at a low number should not have a detrimental effect to new landowners. Ms. Turner

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explained that under the ranking guidelines, counties have the ability to add categories to their ranking systems that award points for county-specific priorities, and that both the value-added and length-of-ownership categories are reflective of some of Kent County's agricultural preservation priorities.

Motion #2: To approve the revisions to the Kent Easement Prioritization Formula.

Motion: Wood Second: Jones
Status: Approved

VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Legislative Update

Ms. Turner provided the Board with the status update of 2021 legislation which may affect MALPF.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Allen asked for a motion for adjournment of the meeting to move into a closed session, pursuant to the applicable provisions of General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b): (3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition; (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; and (8) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

Motion #3: To adjourn the regular session at 9:37 a.m. to move into a closed session to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition; to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; and to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

Motion: Kille Second: Oberg
Status: Approved

The Closed Meeting of the Board was held from 9:51 a.m. to 10:43 a.m. on March 23, 2021 via internet and telephone conference call, pursuant to the provisions of the General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b): Annotated Code of Maryland:

General Provisions Article Section 3-305(b):

(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition;

(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; and

(8) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

During the Closed Meeting, the following Board members were present: William Allen, Chair, Taylor Huffman, Vice Chair, Jerome Klasmeier, representing Comptroller Peter Franchot, Joanna Kille, representing Treasurer Nancy Kopp, Deborah Herr Cornwell, representing Secretary Robert McCord, Maryland Department of Planning, Julie Oberg, representing Secretary Joseph Bartenfelder, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Cricket Goodall, and Elizabeth Hill.

The following Board members were absent: Cathy Cosgrove, Robin Kable, Joe Wood, and J. Bruce Yerkes.

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The following MALPF staff and legal representatives were also present during the closed session meeting: Michelle Cable, Diane Chasse, Chana Turner, Sarel Cousins, Kim Hoxter, Amanda Massoni, Michael Steadman, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Patrick Martyn, Assistant Attorney General, Maryland Department of General Services and Renee Dyson, Assistant Attorney General, Maryland Department of General Services.

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

- A. Approval of February 23, 2021 Closed Session Minutes
- B. Status Report of Pending Legal Issues
- C. FY 2021 Round One Offers

Respectfully Submitted:



Michelle Cable, MALPF Executive Director