



Cecil County Board of Elections

March 19, 2025

MINUTES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Public notice of the Board meeting was provided by displaying the meeting information and agenda on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Cecil County Administration Building, and by posting on the Election agency website and Election agency social media platforms. A copy of the agenda was made available.

MINUTES of the Cecil County Board of Elections meeting held on the March 19, 2025, in the Northeast Room on the 1st Floor of the Cecil County Administration Building located at 200 Chesapeake Boulevard in Elkton, Maryland. Public viewing of this meeting was available in person. Board member attendance was in person, as noted below.

ATTENDEES

Jennifer Graham	President
Stephen Stiles	Vice President
Krista Moretz	Secretary
Bradley Moore	Board Counsel
Eunice Grant	Board Member
Holcombe Grier	Board Member
Gary Holmes	Director
Karen Benecewicz	Deputy Director
Sheri Woodruff	Election Supervisor
Mary Nelson	Public
Sean Brimm	Public

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order by President, Jennifer Graham at 3:04 pm. Quorum was established with all five (5) Board Members present.

AGENDA

No additions to the agenda.

- MOTION:** Holcombe Grier, member Cecil County Board of Elections motioned to approve agenda for the February 19, 2025 Board Meeting.
- SECOND:** Stephen Stiles, Vice President Cecil County Board of Elections
- ACTION:** Minutes approved unanimously.

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

Jennifer Graham started by thanking everyone for there attendance at the meeting and being diligent in coming out to all the meetings. Jennifer reminded everyone about the State Board of Elections Biennial Meeting in May which the Board and Counsel are required to attend. In addition, Jennifer mentioned the Board Chair and Vice Chair meeting that she and Stephen Stiles attended and would discuss later in the meeting (under new business).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the February 19, 2025, Board meeting were provided to the Board with a copy in each of their folders. The minutes required the addition of Eunice Grant’s name as an attendee.

- MOTION:** Holcombe Grier, Member Cecil County motioned to approve Minutes for February 19, 2025.
- SECOND:** Board of Elections Board Vice President, Stephen Stiles
- ACTION:** Minutes approved unanimously.

DIRECTOR' S REPORT

(Everyone present received a copy in their folder.) Gary Holmes, Director started the meeting by announcing that the office had set up a new information kiosk in the front lobby. It was a collaborative effort. The office worked with David Black on updating the maps: polling places, drop boxes and one with both polling sites and drop boxes (copies of the maps were included in folder as well).

The office staff spent time this month working on cleaning up the website by updating links and removing outdated information. The office was assigned Wicomico Co. for the Critical Oversight for the month of February- it was completed and submitted. The warehouse staff (Jasmine and Ashira) are continuing to complete Post Election Maintenance (PEM) and will have it complete prior to the April due date. In addition to PEM they are also starting on the annual inventory – inventory is to be completed by July.

Gary listed the meetings he and the staff have attended or will be. Most recently Gary meet with the Emergency Services to discuss the Homeland Grant funds the office was awarded. The grant has very specific uses and will not cover a great deal. Since there is no immediate need to spend the money, the decision was made to hold off until we can relocate and use it for upgrades on the new space or wait until we are closer to the election and have a better list of needs. Thoughts were to use it for the drives that store the drop box footage and /or panic buttons for office and warehouse. The Director Meeting is coming on Thursday March 20, 2025. Several members of the staff are on various MAEO committees: Sheri and Karen are on the Conference Planning Committee, in addition Sheri in on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee as well as the Legislative Review Committee. Jasmine and Ashira are attending the Election Technology Committee, and Brenda is on the committees for Election Judges, Voting in Person, and Vote by Mail.

March 27, 2025 is the SBE Board Meeting, April 3rd an Election Debrief Training (in person and virtually) and on the April 8th Gary, Karen and Sheri will be at the State Warehouse to discuss the reconfiguration on the locks on the drop boxes (trying to eliminate the confusion of voters thinking they are locked). Lastly Gary announced that Jared DeMarinis is planning a visit to Cecil some time in April. The date is still to be determined.

COUNSEL' S REPORT

Bradley Moore, Board Attorney, stated there was nothing to report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Several pieces of legislation relating to elections had crossed from the House to Senate or vice versa. Eunice Grant mentioned the Bill HB 22 which related to the requirement of proof of citizenship. Sheri discussed that the Legislative Committees would draft testimony to support, oppose or just provide information from the viewpoint of MAEO and local boards. The legislation for Risk Limiting Audits (SB313) which MAEO took a stand to oppose, due to the

costs and delays in certification it would cause while having to the audits already in place. Clear Ballot the 3rd party auditor of election results could be optional if the RLA legislation stands as written. It would be a cost savings for the state, but would not be a cost-effective measure of the counties.

Also discussed was the legislation that would grant certain privileges to elderly and disabled at polling places. The MAEO committee stated that they believe that they address these issues currently in training election judges with place holder cards and allowing those with issues standing to sit. MAEO took the stand that they don't want to seem against the legislation as it will help voters, but at the same time may cause disruptions if abused.

Lastly (HB 412) as it relates to the Open Meeting Act – initially the bill would require that Open Board Meetings and Canvass would have live streamed. Canvass streaming has been removed from the bill and streaming will only apply to board meetings if the measure passes.

OFFICE REPORT

Gary Holmes the Director reported that over the course of 2 days they had interviewed 5 candidates for the contractual PINS. The interview panel was Gary, Karen Benecewicz – Deputy Director for Cecil County, Christine Jones, Director of Queen Anne's and Cheemondia Blake, Director of Kent County. One offer had been made and we are waiting to hear if it was accepted.

NEW BUSINESS

Gary has meet with the County Finance department to discuss the 2026 budget and addressed our need for new warehouse space. The new warehouse regulations that will be taking effect will require new warehouse space. It was determined a working meeting to discuss the needs would be held on April 10, 2025 at 3PM. Stephen Stiles motioned that the next Board Meeting an invitation be sent to Andrew (Finance), Dan Schneckenburger, Adam Straight and perhaps members of the County Council. Eunice Grant 2nd the motion – all were in favor. Gary stated that he would send the invitations. Gary is also in contact with a realtor who has the measurements of our current space and has an idea of what we are looking for. Jennifer Graham, Board Present stated that she would draft a letter from the board to the County addressing our needs for a new space.

Jennifer Graham, Board President and Stephen Stiles, Board Vice President discuss the recent MAEO committee meeting they attend on March 10, 2025. The meeting was moderated by Guy Mickley, Director of Howard County. The various boards chairs and vice chairs compared how board meetings are conducted, how guests at meetings are handled, how canvasses are conducted, mostly a sharing of best practices. Questions were raised if the boards should have a standard format and it was agreed that no one size fits all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISCLOSURES

Jennifer Graham, Board President disclosed that she is involved with NAMI of DE and is taking training classes. Her involvement may involve interactions with DE Legislators, but only under the topic of mental health.

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mary Nelson mention that she became involved in attending meetings during the redistricting process and the meeting were lived streamed back then due to COVID. She also mentioned the lawsuit that the State Board of Elections had recently lost regarding request for voter rolls, the access to the rolls and what their intended use may be. Mary also brought with her the Clear

Ballot report. According to Clear Ballot, there were minor discrepancy in the Board of Education and Judge contests.

Sean Brimm mention that everyone should read the Open Meetings Act manual and look into the New Carlton V Rogers case from 1980 which laid the groundwork for the Open Meetings Act.

Board Folders:

- February 19, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes for approval
- Director's Report
- March 19, 2025 Board Meeting Agenda
- Maps
- VR 13 Monthly Statistical Report

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Board Meeting will convene at 3:00 PM on April 16,2025 in the Rising Sun room in the Cecil County Administrative Bldg.

ADJOURNMENT

Holcombe Grie, Member Cecil County Board of Elections motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Graham, President Cecil County Board of Elections. The meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Moretz, Secretary

Jennifer Graham, President

Meetings, Trainings, and Important Dates:

April 16, 2025 - Board Meeting
May 4-9, 2025 – MAEO Conference Ocen City, MD
May 21, 2025 – Board Meeting
May 26, 2025 – Memorial Day Holiday
June 18,2025 – Board Meeting
July 16,2025 – Board Meeting
August 20, 2025 – Board Meeting
September 17, 2025 – Board Meeting
October 15, 2025 – Board Meeting
November 19, 2025 – Board Meeting
December 17, 2025 – Board Meeting