

# RESILIENCE AUTHORITY

Annapolis and Anne Arundel County

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting Date:** December 17, 2025  
**Meeting Location:** Arundel Center, Annapolis  
Drafted on December 18, 2025

Approved on: March 15, 2026

**Board Members:**

Present (7 are required for quorum)			Absent
Nathan Betnun, Vice Chair	Mariah Davis		Mike Sewell
David Jarrell	Eileen Fogarty		Stacy Schaefer
Veronique Bugnion, Chair	Emily Clifton, Secretary		
Christopher Burgess	Jamie Benoit*		

\*Denotes virtual participation

**Staff:**

Matt Fleming, Executive Director, Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County

Kristina Alexander, Director of Operations, Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County

Gabe Cohee, Director of Programs, Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County

**Guests:**

Chris Becraft, Cedar Collective

Teresa Sutherland, CPA

Jennifer Wazenski, Watershed Legal Counsel

Dennis Whigham, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

Scott Poyer, Clerk of Court, Anne Arundel County

Mary Katharine Fowler, Chief Deputy Clerk, Anne Arundel County

William Seymour, S&B Company

George Chmael, Council Fire

Anne Roderer, City of Annapolis

**Reference Materials:**

[BOD Meeting Minutes September 17, 2025](#)

[Officer and Committee Positions](#)

[COI and DOI Policy](#)

[Presentation to Governance](#) (Prepared for Discussion and Board Review)

[Audited FY25 Financial Statements with Reports](#) (Prepared for Board Review)

[RA Budget 3rd Quarter](#) (Presented for Approval)

[RA Budget 3rd Quarter](#) (As Approved)

[2025 Annual Report](#) (Prepared for Approval)

[Resilient and Ready Framework Questions](#)

Meeting Minutes and Discussion:


Agenda	Discussion	Tasks/Conclusion	Responsibility
Meeting called to order at: 5:15 pm by Chair Veronique Bugnion			
Order of the Day	Veronique Bugnion, Chair, called the meeting to order and led a round of introductions of the guests to the meeting.	N/A	N/A
Guest Presentation: The Secret Life of Orchids	Dr. Dennis Whigham, founder of the North American Orchid Conservation Center, provided a presentation on orchid conservation.	N/A	N/A
Meeting Minutes	David Jarrell moved to adopt the minutes, Nate Betnun seconded, Unanimously approved.	Staff to post meeting minutes	Staff
Officer/Committee Positions	There are 2 vacancies and the Board needs to appoint a treasurer  The Chair mentioned that staff is working on legislation to expand membership eligibility beyond residents of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County.	N/A	N/A
Discussion of Federal Funding	The Chair opened a discussion regarding federal funding, noting that the Resilience Authority's RECI grant had been terminated and is currently under dispute through the federal review process. Emily Clifton provided additional commentary on the status of FEMA funding programs.	N/A	N/A

Agenda	Discussion	Tasks/Conclusion	Responsibility
	<p>Matt Fleming noted that the Authority is currently involved in one projects receiving FEMA funding, (Jonas Green). Eileen Fogarty provided a status update on the City Dock FEMA funding and outlined the current approval process under the new administration, noting that the next anticipated step is review and approval at the Secretary level.</p>		
Annual Conflict and Duality of Interest Policy	<p>Matt Fleming went over the Conflict and Duality of Interest policy, reminding Board members that they need to sign their annual conflict forms</p>	<p>Board members to complete annual conflict forms</p>	<p>BOD</p>
FY 25 Audit	<p>Bill Seymour presented the findings of the FY25 annual audit, noting that the auditors intend to issue an unmodified opinion. He also reported that this was the first year the Authority was subject to a federal Single Audit. Mr. Seymour explained that SB &amp; Company utilized the FORVIS audit approach and provided an overview of that methodology.</p> <p>Mariah Davis moved to approve the audit findings, and David Jarrell seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the findings of the audit.</p> <p>Nate Betnun asked how assured the Board could be that fraud had not occurred. Mr. Seymour responded that the primary elements associated with fraud include opportunity, rationalization, and pressure, but noted that an audit is not designed to provide absolute assurance that fraud has not occurred</p>	<p>Filing and posting the audit findings.</p>	<p>Staff</p>
Review FY 26 Budget	<p>Kristina Alexander provided an overview of the proposed FY26 budget amendments presented to the Board for adoption. David Jarrell moved to</p>	<p>Implement approved budget amendments</p>	<p>Kristina Alexander</p>

Agenda	Discussion	Tasks/Conclusion	Responsibility
	<p>approve the budget amendments, and Emily Clifton seconded the motion.</p> <p>During discussion, Emily Clifton asked for clarification regarding the matching funds associated with the WWA grant, and Gabe Cohee explained the sources and structure of the required match. The Board then voted unanimously to approve the budget amendments.</p>	<p>and include meeting minutes.</p>	
<p>Annual Report</p>	<p>Gabe Cohee presented the 2025 Annual Report, noting updates to the organization’s mission statement. Mr. Cohee highlighted that the Authority raised approximately \$36.2 million in 2025 and more than \$50.2 million since inception. He reviewed several projects featured in the report, including the completion of the Chestnut Hill Cove project, as well as ongoing efforts at City Dock, Glen Burnie Town Center, Carr’s Beach, the Edgewater Recreation and Community Center, EVSE installations, and the Galesville Community Resilience Initiative. The report also includes a section describing the Authority’s unique role, along with maps showing project locations in both the City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Chris Burgess moved to adopt the Annual Report, and Jamie Benoit seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>File and post annual report.</p>	<p>Staff</p>
<p>Open Discussion</p>	<p>The Chair led a discussion regarding (1) prioritization of projects and (2) potential financing structures, including approaches that may present risks the Authority should avoid. Matt Fleming explained that current efforts are focused on solar generation projects, including identification of priority sites associated with L-GEM funding. The</p>	<p>The Chair and staff will further evaluate project prioritization and potential financing approaches for solar development,</p>	<p>Veronique Chris Burgess Matt Fleming</p>

Agenda	Discussion	Tasks/Conclusion	Responsibility
	<p>Chair noted that timing is critical due to pending expiration of certain federal tax incentives. Mariah Davis asked whether additional staff capacity or specialized expertise in solar development may be needed. David Jarrell asked about coordination with BGE, and Mr. Fleming responded that the Authority is currently working with BGE on EVSE projects. Chris Burgess noted that BGE is advancing battery storage projects to address grid reliability needs. Emily Clifton asked about eligibility for the Investment Tax Credit (ITC), and Mr. Fleming explained that projects must either begin construction or expend at least five percent of project costs to meet the ITC safe-harbor requirements.</p> <p>The Chair then led a discussion of possible financing mechanisms for solar projects. Options discussed included: (1) municipally owned projects funded through L-GEM grants, (2) projects owned by the Resilience Authority and funded through L-GEM, and (3) use of bond financing to fund projects beyond available grant amounts, with repayment supported through power purchase or similar agreements.</p> <p>Nate Betnun suggested that a bank loan could be considered as an alternative financing vehicle. Chris Burgess advised that the Authority should consider safe-harboring as many projects as feasible, and Jamie Benoit recommended consulting with Two Rivers, which has completed similar projects.</p>	<p>including ownership structures and funding mechanisms, and will prepare additional information for a more detailed discussion at the March Board meeting.</p>	
Public Comment	No public comment	N/A	N/A

Agenda	Discussion	Tasks/Conclusion	Responsibility
Adjorn	The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:32.	N/A	N/A
<b>Future Agenda Items:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Resilient and Ready Portfolio of Projects</li> <li>● Solar Siting and Maximizing the Impact of On-Site Solar</li> </ul>			
<b>2026 Scheduled Meetings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <del>March 25th, 2026</del></li> <li>● June 24th, 2026</li> <li>● September 30th, 2026</li> <li>● December 16th, 2026</li> </ul>			
Meeting adjourned at: 7:32 pm			

Submitted by:  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Matthew Fleming, Resilience Authority Director  
 Resilience Authority of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County

Date: March 16, 2026