Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: March 25, 2026
Meeting Location: Arundel Center, Annapolis
Drafted on March 26, 2026

Approved on: 06/24/2026

Board Members:

Present (7 are required for quorum)			Absent
Nathan Betnun, Vice Chair	Mariah Davis*	Mike Sewell	Stacy Schaefer
David Jarrell	Eileen Fogarty		
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:
Teresa Sutherland, CPA
George Chmael, Council Fire
Holly Fowler, Council Fire
Michelle Cullen, Council Fire
Zoe Johnson, Naval Academy
Erica Matthews, Anne Arundel County
Monica Downs, Anne Arundel County
Dylan Laconich, City of Annapolis

Meeting Minutes and Discussion:

Agenda	Discussion	Tasks/Conclusion	Responsibility
Meeting called to order at: 5:03 pm			

Agenda	Discussion	Tasks/Conclusion	Responsibility
Order of the Day	On behalf of Veronique Bugnion, Chair, Matthew Fleming called the meeting to order and led a round of introductions of the guests to the meeting.	No formal action was requested or required.	N/A
Resilient and Ready Portfolio of Projects	Matt Fleming provided an update on the Resilient & Ready (R&R) implementation plan and introduced the Council Fire team, who presented progress to date. The presentation highlighted the program's objective of strategically leveraging public funding to advance resilience projects, expand long-term financing capacity, and secure additional funding resources for resilience investments across Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis. Council Fire reviewed ongoing efforts related to the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) L-GEM and Solar Technical Assistance programs, including assessments of potential solar opportunities on public facilities, parking areas, and rooftops. The team also summarized lessons learned from the Annapolis Maritime Resilience Initiative (AMRI), including project prioritization methodologies and funding strategies that may inform future resilience investments. The presentation included an overview of Phase I of the Regional Solar and Energy Resilience Strategy, which focuses on identifying near-term pilot projects, evaluating existing solar assets, mapping future opportunities, and developing sustainable funding and revenue strategies. Potential funding mechanisms discussed included grants, financing tools, and public-private partnerships, with an emphasis on creating a scalable and replicable implementation framework. Board members discussed stakeholder engagement strategies and recommended expanding participation	No formal action was taken. BOD requested continued update and engagement as this progresses.	Matt Fleming

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	to include additional City and County commissions, elected officials, community organizations, and other non-governmental stakeholders. Members also emphasized the importance of coordinating with finance and policy decision-makers when evaluating future funding mechanisms and identified additional resources, including resilience planning efforts associated with the U.S. Naval Academy, that may inform future project development.		
Solar Development Opportunities and Role of the Resilience Authority	Matt Fleming, Monica Downs from the County and Dylan Laconich from the City presented and discussed an overview of opportunities to maximize the value of on-site solar investments by structuring projects to generate long-term revenue that can be reinvested into resilience, energy, and infrastructure priorities. The presentation highlighted approximately $4.3 million in Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) L-GEM funding awarded to Anne Arundel County coupled with federal incentives to strategically deploy solar generation and energy efficiency projects. Mr. Fleming reviewed several potential ownership and operating models for future solar projects, including: (1) local government ownership and operation; (2) local government ownership with Resilience Authority operation; (3) third-party ownership and operation; and (4) Resilience Authority ownership and operation. Advantages and disadvantages of each model were discussed, including project delivery timelines, revenue retention, operational responsibilities, and risk allocation. Particular attention was given to the potential for the RA-owned and operated model to establish long-term revenue streams and support future opportunities such as virtual power plants and battery energy storage systems.	RA Staff will continue evaluating legal, financial, and operational considerations. RA Staff will continue discussions with Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis regarding preferred projects and implementation approaches. RA Staff will further evaluate opportunities to integrate battery energy storage systems (BESS) with future solar projects. RA will identify project opportunities that may qualify for available federal investment tax	Matt Fleming

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	Board Member, Chris Burgess presented a financial case study based on the County's planned EV charging sites utilizing solar parking canopies. Using conservative assumptions and standardized site designs, the analysis demonstrated the potential for projects to achieve cost recovery within approximately four years. Board members discussed considerations including system degradation, changing federal and state policy conditions, project economics, and opportunities to leverage revenues to support resilience projects that are otherwise difficult to fund. Mr. Fleming also discussed the potential integration of battery energy storage systems (BESS) with solar installations and requested Board feedback regarding the Resilience Authority ownership and operating model. Board members discussed implementation considerations, including the preferences of County and City partners, project-specific revenue structures, staffing and expertise requirements, utility coordination, and qualification for available federal investment tax credits. Several members noted the importance of structuring projects to maximize available incentives and ensuring revenues are reinvested into future resilience and energy initiatives. The Board expressed support for further evaluation of specific flagship projects and supported presenting the Resilience Authority-owned and operated model to the County.	credits and safe harbor provisions. RA Staff will return to the Board with additional analysis and recommendations regarding solar project development, operations, financing, and revenue reinvestment strategies.	
Treasurer's Report	**Treasurer Appointment** The Chair nominated Emily Clifton to serve as Treasurer of the Resilience Authority. David Jarrell moved to approve the appointment, and Nate Betnun seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.	The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Emily Clifton as Treasurer of	Kristina will update Authority records and governance documents to reflect the

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	FY2026 Budget Amendments Kristina Alexander presented the proposed FY2026 budget amendments for Board consideration. Following discussion, David Jarrell moved to approve the budget amendments as presented, and Nate Betnun seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. **Financial Report** Kristina Alexander provided an overview of the Authority's financial statements through December 31, 2025, including a summary of revenues, expenditures, and fund balances. The Board received the report and engaged in discussion. No additional actions were requested by the Board regarding the financial report.	the Resilience Authority. The Board unanimously approved the proposed FY2026 budget amendments as presented by staff. The Board received and reviewed the Authority's financial statements through December 31, 2025.	appointment of Emily Clifton as Treasurer. Kristina will implement the approved FY2026 budget amendments and update internal financial records accordingly.
Governance and Administrative Action	**Approval of Meeting Minutes** The Board reviewed the December 2025 Board meeting minutes. Mike Sewell moved to approve the minutes as presented, and Eileen Fogarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. **Approval of Closed Session Minutes** The Board reviewed the June 2025 and January 2026 closed session meeting minutes. Mike Sewell moved to approve the minutes as presented, and David Jarrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. **Executive Director Annual Review Process** Emily Clifton presented a proposed update regarding the process for conducting the Executive Director's annual performance review. Discussion focused on whether the process should be codified through an amendment to the Authority's bylaws, including delegation of responsibility to the Chair, or addressed through revisions to the Employee Handbook.	The Board unanimously approved the December 2025 Board meeting minutes. The Board unanimously approved the June 2025 and January 2026 closed session meeting minutes. The Board reached consensus that the Executive Director annual review process should be incorporated into the Employee Handbook rather than addressed through a bylaw amendment.	Kristina will update the Authority's records to reflect approval of the December 2025 Board meeting minutes and the June 2025 and January 2026 closed session minutes. Matt will incorporate proposed language into the Employee Handbook language outlining the Executive

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	Following discussion, the Board reached consensus that the Executive Director annual review process should be addressed through the Employee Handbook rather than through amendments to the bylaws.		Director annual review.
Public Comment	**Board Member Comments** Board members offered comments recognizing recent accomplishments of the Resilience Authority and its staff. Teresa Sutherland commended Gabe Cohee for his presentation to the Annapolis City Council regarding the Carr's Beach project and acknowledged the quality of the outreach and engagement efforts. Eileen Fogarty recognized the Executive Director's efforts to identify alternative funding opportunities for the City Dock Resilience Project during a period when FEMA funding approval remained uncertain. Nate Betnun commended the accomplishments of the Resilience Authority, noting the significant progress and funding secured in a relatively short period of time since the Authority's establishment.	No formal action was requested or required.	N/A
Adjorn	Mike Sewell moved to adjourn, Eileen Fogarty seconded, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn.	Meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm	N/A

Future Agenda Items:

- Update on City Dock Project
- Solar Siting and Maximizing the Impact of On-Site Solar
- Staffing and scale up strategy

2026 Scheduled Meetings:

- ~~*March 25th, 2026*~~
- ~~*June 24th, 2026*~~

Agenda	Discussion	Tasks/Conclusion	Responsibility
• *September 30th, 2026* • *December 16th, 2026*			
Meeting adjourned at: 7:12 pm			

Submitted by:____

Matthew Fleming, Resilience Authority Director
Resilience Authority of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County

Date: 6/10/2026