



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 26, 2026
Virtual 1:03 PM

Present: Chair Dr. Karen Wayland, Vice Chair Mr. Robert Edwards, Treasurer Ms. Brittney Powell, Ms. Whitney Boles, Mr. Ben Link, Mr. Jerry Sanford, Director Kelly Speakes-Backman, Dr. Salvo Vitale, Dr. Eric Wachsman, Ms. Katherine Magruder, Ms. Martha Absher, Ms. Pamela Bucklinger, Ms. Amy Gillespie, Ms. Maggie Groff, Mr. Daniel Hazard, Ms. Dorothy Kolb, Mr. Ben Margolis, Ms. Limunga Mingo, Ms. Pamela Powers, Mr. Ben Rupert, Ms. Mary Sirois, Ms. Michelle Staudenmeier, Mr. Anmol Vanamali, Mr. Keith Wang, Mr. Noah Wood, and Mr. Simón Zimmer.

Welcoming Remarks: Chair Dr. Wayland and Ms. Magruder welcomed Board Members and staff to the meeting at 1:03 PM. Ms. Magruder updated Members on the new procedures for closed-session meeting minutes, as recommended by Counsel. Chair Dr. Wayland formally recognized and welcomed the Center’s newest board member, Director Kelly Speakes-Backman.

First Order of Business: The first order of business was to approve the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from November 20, Board of Directors Retreat Minutes from November 20, and the Board of Directors Interim Meeting Minutes from December 5, 2025, as presented.

Chair Dr. Wayland requested a motion to approve the Board of Directors meeting minutes for November 20, Board of Directors Retreat for November 20, and the Board of Directors Interim Meeting, December 5, 2025, as presented. Ms. Boles moved the motion. Dr. Vitale seconded the motion. The motion passed with no abstentions or objections.

<i>Chair Dr. Wayland – AYE</i>	<i>Ms. Boles – AYE</i>	<i>Director Speakes-Backman – Abst.</i>
<i>Vice Chair Mr. Edwards – AYE</i>	<i>Mr. Link - AYE</i>	<i>Dr. Vitale – AYE</i>
<i>Treasurer Ms. Powell – AYE</i>	<i>Mr. Sanford – AYE</i>	<i>Dr. Wachsman – AYE</i>

Financial Report: Ms. Kolb presented MCEC financial statements through December 31, 2025, reviewed FY26 budgeted expenses, and reported cash on hand of \$3,597,782. Ms. Kolb summarized the Grants and Programs Report and highlighted the new addition of an explanations page for each program. Mr. Margolis presented the MEIA financial statements, reviewed budget variances, discussed program funding for the Climate Tech Founders Fund (CTFF), and reported cash on hand of \$3,026,521.

Executive Director Report: Ms. Magruder updated Members on recent developments related to the implementation of the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant Program. Ms. Gillespie provided additional details and a brief overview of the CFI Grant Program in response to Vice Chair Edwards’ inquiry. Ms. Magruder provided an update on the Data Center Working Breakfast held in partnership with CPower, noting scheduling challenges and plans to reschedule after Maryland’s Legislative Session. Dr. Wachsman shared information about several upcoming events involving representatives from the data center sector. Ms. Magruder discussed the recommendation for David Lapp’s interim appointment to the 2026 MCEC Advisory Council.

Chair Dr. Wayland requested a motion to approve the interim appointment of David Lapp to the 2026 MCEC Advisory Council, as presented. Mr. Sanford moved the motion. Mr. Link seconded the motion. The motion passed with no abstentions or objections.

<i>Chair Dr. Wayland – AYE</i>	<i>Ms. Boles – AYE</i>	<i>Director Speakes-Backman – AYE</i>
<i>Vice Chair Mr. Edwards – AYE</i>	<i>Mr. Link - AYE</i>	<i>Dr. Vitale – AYE</i>
<i>Treasurer Ms. Powell – AYE</i>	<i>Mr. Sanford – AYE</i>	<i>Dr. Wachsman – AYE</i>

Ms. Magruder updated members on CY 2026 events and meetings. Members discussed the scheduling of Board Meetings and agreed to move the June meeting to June 10th. Ms. Magruder also provided updates on data accessibility compliance, data privacy, and AI tool guidelines. Ms. Magruder clarified that MCEC will utilize Maryland’s DOIT and collaborate with other state agencies, in response to Vice Chair Edwards’ inquiry regarding compliance. Chair Dr. Wayland recommended that staff provide an overview of MCEC’s data hygiene protocols and measures to protect against data breaches. Ms. Magruder provided a brief overview of recent legislative leadership updates, including the appointment of Speaker Peña-Melnyk and changes to committee assignments.

Finance Division: Mr. Vanamali updated Members on division activities, including the status of each MCEC finance program. Mr. Vanamali highlighted the specific ways in which MDPACE has generated revenue for the Center since taking over as administrator of the program. Mr. Vanamali presented an overview of the Bridge Finance Facility (BFF) program, including a summary of the program’s revolving fund structure and recommended Credit Policy & Manual for approval.

Chair Dr. Wayland requested a motion to approve the Bridge Finance Facility Credit Policy and Manual, authorize the Executive Director to execute any agreements or instruments necessary for transactions approved for lending under the Facility and approve opening of necessary bank accounts to manage the Bridge Finance Facility. Vice Chair Mr. Edwards moved the motion. Ms. Boles seconded the motion. The motion passed with no abstentions or objections.

Chair Dr. Wayland – AYE

Ms. Boles – AYE

Director Speakes-Backman - AYE

Vice Chair Mr. Edwards – AYE

Mr. Link - AYE

Dr. Vitale – AYE

Treasurer Ms. Powell – AYE

Mr. Sanford – AYE

Dr. Wachsman – AYE

PTAS: Mr. Rupert presented the recommendation for the proposed sole source contract services with the Center for Climate Strategies (CCS) to conduct a study to assess the total cost of greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland, in partnership with the Maryland Departments of Environment (MDE) and Maryland Department of Commerce. Ms. Magruder noted that the pre-study scope of work and the study's pre-modeling were developed in collaboration with CCS.

Chair Dr. Wayland requested a motion to approve the sole source justification and procurement with The Center for Climate Strategies (CCS) on behalf of the Maryland Comptroller. Ms. Boles moved the motion. Mr. Sanford seconded the motion. The motion passed with no abstentions or objections.

Chair Dr. Wayland – AYE

Ms. Boles – AYE

Director Speakes-Backman - AYE

Vice Chair Mr. Edwards – AYE

Mr. Link - AYE

Dr. Vitale – AYE

Treasurer Ms. Powell – AYE

Mr. Sanford – AYE

Dr. Wachsman – AYE

Mr. Rupert provided an update on the PTAS division, including updates on the current Service Contract Award, RFQ Solicitation, and Sole Source Agreement Solicitation. Ms. Magruder emphasized the increasing demand for the Center's PTAS work and the goal of securing additional funding to hire more support within the division.

Government & Industry Relations: Ms. Magruder outlined current and proposed funding for anticipated legislation in Maryland's 2026 Legislative Session. Ms. Magruder recommended that Members review the bill proposed by the League of Conservation Voters (LCV), which includes a carve-out for research funding, in response to Dr. Wachsman's inquiry. Members discussed proposed legislation, potential funding sources and structures, and impacts on the Center if legislation were passed. Ms. Powers updated Members on the Center's activities during Legislative Session, including the weekly Policy Watch Webinar, anticipated legislation, and state budget. Ms. Staudenmeier briefed Members on the 2026 Legislative Reception, including changes to the event time as well as ticket and sponsorship goals. Ms. Powers clarified that the change in event timing was to encourage more legislators to attend, in response to Mr. Link's inquiry.

MEIA: Mr. Margolis informed Members on the recommendation for the appointment of Chris Peoples to serve on the CTFE Oversight Committee.

Chair Dr. Wayland requested a motion to approve the appointment of Chris Peoples to serve as a member of the CTFE Oversight Committee, effective immediately. Dr. Vitale moved the motion. Mr. Link seconded the motion. The motion passed with no abstentions or objections.

Chair Dr. Wayland – AYE

Ms. Boles – AYE

Director Speakes-Backman - AYE

Vice Chair Mr. Edwards – AYE

Mr. Link - AYE

Dr. Vitale – AYE

Treasurer Ms. Powell – AYE

Mr. Sanford – AYE

Dr. Wachsman – AYE

Mr. Margolis provided a program update on MEIA, including upcoming events and the status of CTFE current commitments.

Legal Matters: Chair Dr. Wayland requested a motion to move to closed session at 2:48 PM.

Chair Dr. Wayland requested a motion to move to closed session under General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice related to Federal Grant legal matters. Dr. Wachsman moved the motion. Ms. Boles seconded the motion. The motion passed with no abstentions or objections.

Chair Dr. Wayland – AYE

Ms. Boles – AYE

Director Speakes-Backman - AYE

Vice Chair Mr. Edwards – AYE

Mr. Link - AYE

Dr. Vitale – AYE

Treasurer Ms. Powell – Excused

Mr. Sanford – AYE

Dr. Wachsman – AYE

Members returned to the open meeting at 2:56 PM.

Closed Session Report: Ms. Magruder reported that during the closed session, no action was taken.

Open Discussion, New Business & Announcements: Chair Dr. Wayland proposed creating a Budget and Operations Committee. Members discussed policies and procedures for establishing a new committee. Ms. Absher noted that the Board would not be required to update the bylaws except under certain circumstances and discussed specific requirements the committee must follow. Ms. Sirois noted that a shared drive for Members is being created as a resource for accessing documents and information, in response to Mr. Link's inquiry.

Adjournment: Chair Dr. Wayland thanked everyone for their time. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 3:09 PM.

Recording of the meeting can be found at: [MCEC BOD 1.26.2026](#)