

Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, May 21, 2026

Time: Meeting called to order at 1:36 p.m.

Location: Hybrid (in person @ MPT & virtual via Zoom)

Commissioners in attendance:

- Richard Bodorff (Chair)
- Rebecca Hanson (Vice Chair)
- Bruce Wahl
- Ellie Wang
- Beth Suarez
- Dr. Lakeisha Lashley
- Dr. Kimberly Moffitt
- Dr. Carla Hayden
- Dr. Debra Bright
- Bob Douglas
- Rebecca Hanson

MPT Staff in attendance:

- Steven Schupak
- Chuck Roberts
- Fran Minakowski
- Linda Taggart
- Tom Williams
- Travis Mitchell
- Betsy Peisach
- Susan Wolfinger Schmitt
- Patricia Fitzhugh
- Ling Ling Sun
- Dionne Neblett
- April Martin

Guests and representatives in attendance:

- Craig Fuller (Chair, MPT Foundation)
- Lara Hjortsberg (Principal Counsel and AAG, Office of the Attorney General)
- Erin Senior (representing Dr. Carey Wright)

I. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Dick Bodorff; a quorum was confirmed.
- Updates were provided regarding the 90-minute meeting time limit, the upcoming joint dinner on June 18, and the implementation of an observation link for the general public.
- Mr. Bodorff reported that he had been appointed by Governor Moore to an additional five-year term on the Commission. The status of the term extension applications for Bob Douglas and Bruce Wahl was discussed.
- The minutes from the March 24 meeting were reviewed and approved.

II. President's Report (Steven Schupak)

- PBS Annual Meeting: Held in Austin, Texas. Attendance was strong despite industry challenges. Key programming announcements include Crime and Punishment in America, Once Upon a Time in Space, and Charles Lindbergh. Forsyth (Season 2) and All Creatures Great and Small were also highlighted.
- MPT Programming: Chesapeake Collectibles taping is scheduled for October 3–4 at MPT studios.
- Public Affairs: MPT hosted and broadcast a Republican primary debate on May 19, which is available on MPT's YouTube page.
- Outreach: MPT is planning to host a screening event with Henry Louis Gates in Maryland, likely in Frederick.
- Chesapeake Week: Concluded with 84 total broadcasts as of April 25.
- MSAA Performance: The BHA campaign was approved (\$2 million). MSAA is on target to hit or exceed \$6.6 million in revenue for FY27.
- State Impact: MSAA is unique as the only state-run ad agency in the country, working with over 22 state agencies to date.

III. Operations Report (Chuck Roberts)

- Chesapeake Week: Concluded with 84 total broadcasts as of April 25.
- MSAA Performance: The BHA campaign was approved (\$2 million). MSAA is on target to hit or exceed \$6.6 million in revenue for FY27.
- State Impact: MSAA is unique as the only state-run ad agency in the country, working with over 22 state agencies to date.

IV. Budget & Compensation Committee Report (Rebecca Hanson, Chair)

- New members added: Bob Douglas and Bruce Wahl.
- The state has provided an additional \$600,000 for Center for MD History Films.
- Discussion was held regarding the financial stability MSAA provides to MPT.

V. Human Resources Report (Susan Wolfinger Schmitt, VP):

- Staffing: 142 employees on staff with 151 approved positions available. Two contractual positions were recently converted to permanent state jobs.
- Contractual Hires: 58 at present (including freelancers), providing flexibility and controlling salary expense.
- Internship Program: 12 students are currently on board (paid and unpaid).
- Apprentices are funded partially by DSCI & partially by MPT.
- MPT was selected to receive two fully funded A.I. interns for summer 2026.

VI. Motions and Approvals

- Motion 1: Approved the 2027 budget (as presented by Patricia Fitzhugh), which includes the proposed bonus plans. Moved by Ellie Wang, seconded by Bruce Wahl.
- Motion 2: Approved the transfer of \$310 (recruitment ad charges) to the Foundation. Moved by Rebecca Hanson, seconded by Ellie Wang.
- Both motions were unanimously approved.

VII. Foundation Updates (Craig Fuller, Foundation Chair)

- Governance: Revisions to the MPT Foundation, Inc. purchasing guidelines and amended affiliated foundation agreement documents were provided for commissioner review.
- Development: Recent screenings of Lifeblood and Racing Rivals at the Avalon Theatre have been successful in donor and board member acquisition.
- Financials: The ending market value across all portfolios is \$15,629,618.

VIII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dick Bodorff at 3:17 PM.
- The information required by §3-306 of the Open Meetings Act with respect to the closed session held at the Special Meeting of the Commission on March 24, 2026, is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A.

MARYLAND PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMMISSION
SUMMARY OF CLOSED SESSION HELD ON MARCH 24, 2026

1. Statement of the time, place, and purpose of the closed session:

Time of closed session: 11:24 a.m. (meeting adjourned in closed session at 11:34 a.m.)

Place (location) of closed session: *Zoom link provided for purpose of the Commission meeting*

Purpose of the closed session: *Discussion of the performance evaluation of the CEO*

2. Record of the vote of each member as to closing the session:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Richard J. Bodorff	X			
Rebecca J. Hanson, Esq.	X			
Debra A. Bright, Ed.D.	X			
Robert Douglas, Esq.	X			
Dr. Carla Hayden	X			
Lakeisha D. Lashley, Ed.D.	X			
Dr. Kimberly Moffit**				X
Beth E. Suarez	X			
Bruce A. Wahl	X			
Ellie K. Wang	X			
Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.				X

** Appointee awaiting swearing in at the time of this vote.

3. Statutory authority to close session:

This meeting was closed under the following provisions of General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b):

➔ **Topic #1: § 3-305(b) (1) and (13)** ➔ **Topic #2: § 3-305(b) ()** ➔ **Topic #3: § 3-305(b) ()**
(add others as needed)

4. Listing of each topic actually discussed, persons present, and each action taken in the session:

Topic description	Persons present for discussion	Action Taken/Each Recorded Vote
#1: Review and discussion of the performance evaluation of the CEO	Commission members noted above; Erin Senior (representing Dr. Carey Wright); Susan Wolfinger-Schmitt; Lara Hjortsberg (OAG)	No action; information only

May 21, 2026