



EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 8, 2025; 10:00 a.m.

Kenilworth Office Building, Riverdale, MD

(Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams)

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission ("Commission") Employees' Retirement System ("ERS") Board of Trustees ("Board") met virtually on Tuesday, July 8, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by VICE CHAIR HEDRICK.

Board Members Present

James Hedrick, Board of Trustees Vice Chair, Montgomery County Commissioner

Gavin Cohen, CPA, M-NCPPC Secretary-Treasurer, Ex-Officio

Pamela F. Gogol, Montgomery County Public Member

Theodore J. Russell III, Prince George's County Open Trustee

Elaine A. Stookey, Bi-County Open Trustee

William Spencer, M-NCPPC Acting Executive Director, Ex-Officio

Lisa Blackwell-Brown, MCGEO Represented Trustee

Joined at 10:16 a.m.

Caroline McCarthy, Montgomery County Open Trustee

Sgt. Anton White, FOP Represented Trustee

Sheila Morgan-Johnson, Prince George's County Public Member

ERS Staff Present

Jaclyn F. Harris, Executive Director

Leslie Harmon, Deputy Executive Director

Alicia C. Stanford, Administrative Specialist

Sheila Joynes, Accounting Manager

Other Present

Michael "Wes" Aniton, Deputy General Counsel, M-NCPPC OGC

Presenters

Meketa Investment Group – Mary Mustard, CFA and Aaron Lally, CFA, CAIA, CIPM

ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF JULY 8, 2025 CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION: MS. GOGOL made a motion, seconded by MS. McCARTHY to Approve the Consent Agenda for July 8, 2025. MS. BLACKWELL-BROWN was absent from this vote. The motion PASSED. (9-0) (Motion #25-22).

ITEM 2. CHAIR'S ITEMS

ITEM 2.A. CONFERENCE AND TRAINING SUMMARY – No notable discussion from the Board.

ITEM 3. CONSULTANT/MANAGER PRESENTATIONS

ITEM 3.A. MEKETA INVESTMENT GROUP

Ms. Mustard presented an overview of the Plan's performance as of May 31, 2025, highlighting a modest underperformance relative to the Target Policy Index, with a Total Fund balance of \$1.19 billion. The ERS Total Fund return for the quarter was 1.8%, compared to the Target Policy Index return of 2.3%. For the fiscal year-to-date period ending May 31, 2025, the performance registered at 7.2%. The three-year Total Fund return was 6.0%, versus the target policy return of 7.7%; the five-year return matched the target policy at 7.9%; and the ten-year return was 6.8%, exceeding the target policy of 6.4%.

ITEM 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

ITEM 4.A. Investment Monitoring Group

Ms. Morgan-Johnson informed the board that at the June 17, 2025 meeting, the IMG reviewed a presentation delivered by Meketa Investment Group concerning pricing for custodial services. The presentation included a comparison of four custodian banks: State Street, U.S. Bank, BNY Mellon, and the ERS custodian Northern Trust. The ERS fee agreement with Northern Trust is set to expire on June 30, 2025. Meketa was asked to assess the market to determine the contract's competitive value. The IMG evaluated the pricing of each firm and engaged in discussions with staff regarding their satisfaction with the existing relationship with Northern Trust. Northern Trust proposed a discounted fee of \$125,000. Meketa was able to successfully negotiate a \$15,000 discount given the bank's longstanding relationship with the ERS, however, there will be a 1.5% annual fee escalator applied to all Northern Trust clients going forward to invest in technology and advance the quality of online services. After discussion, the IMG agreed to recommend to the Board continuation of the relationship with Northern Trust under the new fee agreement.

ACTION: MR. RUSSELL made a motion, seconded by MS. GOGOL to Approve the Updated Northern Trust Custodial Services Fee Agreement. The motion PASSED. (10-0). (Motion #25-23).

ITEM 4.B. Administration and Personnel Oversight Committee

Mr. Cohen reported that during the June 17, 2025 meeting, a revised draft of the MOU between the ERS and the Commission's Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO) for IT services was shared with the Administration & Personnel Oversight Committee addressing the concerns noted at the previous meeting. After reviewing the changes, the Committee agreed to recommend approval of the updated MOU to the Board.

ACTION: MS. McCARTHY made a motion, seconded by MR. SPENCER to Approve the Revised MOU between the ERS and OCIO for IT Support and Services. The motion PASSED. (10-0). (Motion #25-24).

ITEM 5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Harris reported that on July 1, 2025 the ERS received the actuarially recommended employer contribution of \$39,551,467. Of the total contribution, \$28 million is allocated for investments, while the remaining \$11 million will be held as cash to cover future benefit payments.

ITEM 6. CLOSED SESSION

ACTION: At 10:37 a.m., MR. WHITE made a motion, seconded by MS. STOOKEY to go into closed session under the authority of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland Section 3-305(b)(5) to consider matters directly concerning the actual investment of public funds under the authority of this Board. The motion PASSED (10-0). (Motion #25-25).

Board of Trustees in Closed Session: Vice Chair Hedrick, Theodore Russell III, Elaine Stookey, Caroline McCarthy, Pamela Gogol, Lisa Blackwell-Brown, Gavin Cohen, Sheila Morgan-Johnson, Anton White, and William Spencer.

ACTION: MR. SPENCER made a motion, seconded by MS. GOGOL to Ratify the Action Taken in Closed Session. The motion PASSED. (10-0) (Motion #25-27).

The Board meeting of July 8, 2025 adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully,

Alicia C. Stanford

Alicia C. Stanford
Administrative Specialist

Jaclyn F. Harris

Jaclyn F. Harris
Executive Director