

Mordecai Land Trust Annual Meeting
Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club
July 30, 2023

At 5:05 p.m., President Linda Colgan called the meeting to order after determining that a Quorum was present. Tom Cox made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting, which was seconded by Jim Dugan. The minutes were approved without revision.

Nominations:

The 2023 Nominating Committee of the Mordecai Land Trust submits the following recommendations and information:

For appointment by the Members of Mordecai Land Trust to the Board of Trustees, Nominations for Appointed Trustees :
To serve a 3-year term, starting October 1, 2023, and expiring September 30, 2026:

Nancy Lampman
Shelley Spicer
Ben Condon
Susanne Moskalski
Suzanne Wolfinger

For appointment by the Members of Mordecai Land Trust to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees to serve a 3-year term starting October 1, 2023, and expiring September 30, 2026: Michele Budd

For appointment by the Trustees of Mordecai Land Trust at their next Trustees Meeting:

Officers, for the term starting October 1, 2022, until their replacement is named:

Linda Colgan, President
Jim Dugan, Vice President
Michele Budd, Vice President
Deb Harkness, Treasurer
Kathleen Birch, Secretary
Alyce Tatlow, Membership

Ex-Officio members of the Board of Trustees (nonvoting) as Past Presidents of MLT: Rich Oelkers

Following the appointments referred to above, the members of the Executive Committee of the Board of the Trustees and of the full Board (and their respective terms) would be as follows:

Executive Committee
Linda Colgan, 2024*
Nancy Davis, 2025*

Jim Dugan, 2025**
Tom Cox, III, 2026*
Michele Budd, 2026**
Laura Darling, 2027*
Mayor Nancy Davis, ex officio 1
* LEHYC Appointees
** Member Appointees

Board of Trustees (in addition to Executive Committee Members)

2024

Ken Gallant
Pat Miller
Lynne Neff
Bill Pilling
Jeanne Runne
Dr. John Wnek

2025

Kathleen Birch
Richard McOrmond
Deb Harkness
Norrie Oelkers
Elaine Stevens
Alyce Tatlow

2026

Nancy Lampman
Shelley Spicer
Ben Condon
Susanne Moskalski
Suzanne Wolfinger
Ex-Officio (nonvoting)
Rich Oelkers

Kathleen Birch made a motion to approve the slate as presented which was seconded by Rich Oelkers. There were no questions or discussion. The motion was approved.

The meeting portion was then adjourned.

The presentation by the USACE and NJDEP commenced: Mordecai USACE Coastal Wetlands Restoration Project, presented by Linda Colgan (MLT), ALEX Renaud (USACE), Scott SAnderson (USACE), Deborah Vogel (NJDEP), and Andrew McTeague (NJDEP).

President Linda Colgan introduced the panel and then discussed the history of Mordecai Land Trust, the habitat, and the projects with photos. An aerial photo from 1933 was shown. It is estimated that 70 acres has decreased to 45 acres in the 1900s. It is believed that 40% of the loss is caused by boat wake from the nearby NJICWW. The photos show undercutting from scarping and calving.

2001 - MLT established as a 501(C)(3) trust.

2006 - SWMERI - biologs placed - didn't work as planned.

2010 - SWMERII - geotubes were installed and worked as intended.

2015 - USACE Beneficial Use Dredge Place Area on the western shore filled in the cut with addition of the turbidity curtain.

2018 - Living Shoreline/Oyster Castle pilot breakwater installed (866). Stockton University placed gauges on both sides of the breakwater which are measuring wave and water levels.

2019 - WADS (Wave Attenuation Devices) placed on the SW edge.

Photos of wildlife on the island were shown, including ospreys and the banding of osprey chicks.

The MLT USACE Coastal Restoration Partners include the federal and state governments, the USACE, the NJDEP, and MLT. A photo was shown of the tentatively selected plan.

Bill Pilling spoke about the marina regulatory scheme in place when the biologs and geotubes were installed. The failure of the biologs caused re-thinking and regulations subsequently changed.

Continuing Authorities Coastal Restoration

Deb Vogel and Andrew McTeague spoke about changes in the rules regarding living shorelines that enable the building up of Mordecai Island. The NJDEP partners with the ACOE overseeing planning and in this case is a co-partner with MLT. It also sponsors the USACE regarding coastal storm risk management and hurricane and storm damage.

Slides were shown of Delaware "near-shore" breakwaters. It is a NJDEP BlueAcres project, aimed at attenuating waves thus preserving the shoreline.

The USACE Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) was discussed by Alex Renaud. CAP section 1135 of 1986 as amended speaks to ecosystem restoration. There are 9 statutes delegating authority for the USACE to act.

This project has 2 phases - Feasibility and Design/Implementation of the CAP project.

The USACE CAP study revealed the problem of Habitat loss (Threatened species complement existing restoration efforts. The Objective is to protect the MI salt marsh and restore the habitat. Identified Constraints include legal and policy issues, zero structures within 50 feet of the NJICWW, resources, and environment coordination/permitting.

Slides were shown documenting past erosion and wave modeling by Wind conditions.

Forecasting the Future:

Onshore measures have been considered. These include turf reinforcement, riprap revetments, shore stone revetment, offshore stone breakwater.

Questions: Can the channel be moved? Can the “no-wake” markers be moved closer to the Channel?

Compromise and evaluation led to the current plan - 3000' rubble mound breakwater at the 1977 tideline. It would have a 3' wide crest. 40' long sill vents between 60' sections. “No-wake” buoys moved closure to the NJICWW. There will be beneficial use of sediment.

After final approval of the feasibility portion, and the PPA signed, there will be study of plant species.

Question Time

Obstacles?

Funding is always the most difficult. 12 to 18 month window from end of feasibility to shovel-ready.

Where is Mordecai in the project queue?

It is the only CAP1135 in the Philadelphia area ACOE, but is competing for funds nationwide.

Is this project a small model of the Living Shoreline Projects?

Yes, Mordecai is setting a standard for the future. Yearly monitoring will be ongoing to see if projection matches reality for a minimum of 5 years.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Attendance list on file and available on request.