



FOREVER
MARYLAND

Enhancing and Advancing Land Conservation

May 9, 2023

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For Immediate Release

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**Forever Maryland Welcomes New Board Members,
Names Interim Executive Director**

*Organizational additions help position Forever Maryland for successful collaboration,
implementation of new statewide land protection goals.*

Annapolis, Maryland – Just weeks after the General Assembly passed *The Maryland The Beautiful Act*, strongly bipartisan legislation establishing a visionary statewide land protection goal of 40%, Forever Maryland added seven leaders from land trusts around the state to the Board of Directors. Kristin Kirkwood (Harford Land Trust), Steven Kline (Eastern Shore Land Conservancy), Sarah Knebel (Scenic Rivers Land Trust), Katie Lautar (Baltimore Green Space), David Lillard (Catoctin Land Trust), Kate Patton (Lower Shore Land Trust) and Alisa Webb (Cecil Land Trust) joined the board in April.

“Maryland boasts a diverse array of large and small, rural and urban, land conservation organizations. We are proud and excited to welcome leaders from some of the state’s most active land trusts to the Forever Maryland board, which will greatly strengthen Forever Maryland’s ability to serve the state’s land trust community, and grow support for land conservation statewide” said Nick Dilks, Chair of the Forever Maryland Board of Directors. The organization has also named Josh Hastings as Interim Executive Director. He steps in to succeed Forever Maryland’s founding President Wendy Stringfellow, who steps down May 12 after guiding the organization through its formative years. Hastings has for two years served as Forever Maryland’s Program and Policy Director.

“We are delighted to have Josh in this new role,” said Sarah Knebel “and we’re so grateful to Wendy Stringfellow for her tireless efforts to launch Forever Maryland. Thanks to Wendy we are poised for an important future supporting land conservation in Maryland.” Hastings, who will assume the interim role on May 15, has a long history in Maryland land conservation. Prior to joining Forever Maryland, he spent a decade working at Eastern Shore land trusts – including as Deputy Director of the Lower Shore Land Trust and seven years as Policy Manager for the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. In 2018, he was elected to the Wicomico County Council.

“We are coming off of a successful legislative session this year,” said Dilks “and one that saw the passage of important bills for land and forest conservation, as well as greenspace equity. Maryland has always been a nationwide leader in conservation, and Forever Maryland is poised for a bright future shaping Maryland’s conservation landscape.”

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Forever Maryland promotes and supports the land and water conservation community, through education, advocacy, and outreach, to permanently protect working landscapes and healthy ecosystems for all. Join Forever Maryland for the 2023 Maryland Land Conservation Conference in Annapolis, Maryland on October 4 and 5. Visit forevermaryland.org for more information.

FOREVER MARYLAND

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