

John Gontrum, Esq.
Executive Secretary

Gabriel Gnall, Esq.
Procurement Advisor

Rachel Hershey, Esq.
General Counsel

William Morgante, PWS
Wetlands Administrator

Board of Public Works
Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis

House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Public Safety and Administration
Delegate Lewis
January 23, 2024

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Subcommittee on Education, Business and Administration
Senator King
January 24, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you on behalf of the Board of Public Works. Today's presentation supports our fiscal year 2026 operating budget. We are pleased that the Department of Legislative Services analysis recommends adoption of the Board's proposed operations budget.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS SUMMARY

Board budget overview. The Board's budget contains two types of appropriations: agency operations and pass-through accounts. The proposed FY 2026 pass-through grantees, Historic Annapolis Foundation, the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, Western Maryland Scenic Railroad, the Signal 13 Foundation, Historic Sotterley, the Justice Thurgood Marshall Center, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust, are prepared to comment on their requests. In addition to these grants, the pass-through portion of the Board's budget includes the Board's contingent fund and compensation payments under State Finance and Procurement Article § 10-501 to erroneously incarcerated individuals. In total, these pass-through items comprise over 90% of the Board of Public Works fiscal year 2026 operating budget request.

Board operations. The remaining amount budgeted for Board operations is comprised primarily of salary expenses. Our mission remains to enable the Board Members to carry out the myriad duties involved in stewarding State assets and also to ensure public and intra-governmental access to Board deliberations, decision-making, and records. All of which are vitally important to the Board and to Maryland citizens.

CONCLUSION

We continue to do an excellent job of managing our resources and meeting the tasks – expected and unexpected – assigned to us. Thank you for your continued support of our sustained efforts to improve our operations and service to the Board members, the General Assembly, and the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Gontrum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

John Gontrum