

ART Board Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2026

ART Board members: L. Ruiz, F. Seymour, J. Verdieck, P. Umunay, R. Fosuah Adjei, P. Dolma Sherpa, B. Bumpers

ART Secretariat: C. Magerkurth, J. Bloom

Absent: C. Voigt

ART Board members held a virtual meeting on August 6, 2026. The meeting focused on a continued review and discussion of the Secretariat's experiences to date with the validation and verification process, including stakeholder feedback from Participants, Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs), and other stakeholders. The meeting also reviewed proposed changes to the TREES Validation and Verification Standard.

1. Introductions

INFORMATION

The Secretariat and the Chair welcomed the Board and previewed the meeting's agenda. The Secretariat walked the Board through the topics that will be discussed in upcoming Board meetings.

DISCUSSION

- The Board asked if the Secretariat had events planned for New York Climate Week.
- The Board requested that any additional Board meetings in August and September be scheduled as soon as possible.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Action Item: The Secretariat will propose additional Board meetings for the coming months to facilitate several key discussions including Beyond Carbon Benefits Certification and potential issuance review meetings.

2. VVB Challenges, ART's Response to Date, and Proposals for Moving Forward

INFORMATION

The Secretariat shared reflections on experiences to date with VVBs both by the Secretariat and from other stakeholders. The Secretariat also summarized steps taken to date to improve the process' effectiveness and efficiencies. These included work across five

themes: VVB Competencies Understanding requirements, VVB Processes, Communications, and Timelines. The Secretariat also presented the proposed changes to the Validation and Verification Standard and additional ongoing activities to help strengthen the overall validation and verification process.

DISCUSSION

- The Board supported the Secretariat's efforts to more explicitly document key aspects of the validation and verification process in writing.
- The Board supported the proposed plan to expand ART's trainings for VVBs and to start charging a modest fee to cover costs while not creating a barrier to entry for new VVBs.
- The Board asked where the stakeholder comments on the Validation and Verification Standard originated.
- The Board discussed whether to require a gender balance for the VVB teams engaged in the on-the-ground validation and verification process.
- The Board discussed the need for rigorous oversight while preserving the independence of the VVBs and their processes, the level of oversight provided by other Standards, and the need for integrity. The Board supported the Secretariat's effort to continue maintaining this balance and suggested adding text to the TVVS on this topic to ensure transparency.
- The Board discussed whether VVBs should be required to utilize official ART templates as part of their validations and verifications to ensure consistency.
- The Board suggested permitting Participants to provide their written consent for the Secretariat to share relevant program information with the VVB.
- The Board suggested hosting a public webinar to share key lessons learned and how they are incorporated into the revision with relevant stakeholders when TVVS version 3.0 is launched.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Action Item: The Secretariat will add gender balance as a consideration for VVB teams engaged in on-the-ground validations and verifications.

Action Item: The Secretariat will circulate the draft TREES Validation and Verification Standard, version 3.0 to the Board in advance of the next Board meeting on August 18th.

3. Closing and Next Steps

INFORMATION

The Chair thanked the Secretariat and the meeting was adjourned.