

Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 17th 2025, 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Pleasant Valley Regional Forestry Office

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Chair, Marie Miller.

Members Present: Marie Miller, Bernie Zlomek, Juls Wood, Sarah Llewellyn, Brad Metzger, and Adam Miller

Members Not in Attendance: Deborah Landau, Anne Stark, Steve Resh, Champ Zumbrun, and Darrell Williams

Special Guests: Ted Hoxie

Goals and Annual Work Plan for the Board to meet for 2025

- **Completed** Develop the 2025 Goals and Annual Work Plan
- **Started** Raise funds to support Allegany County Forestry Board
- **Started** Maintain current membership and welcome new members as appropriate
- **Started** Hold at least 6 local Forestry Board meetings and 4 special events
- **Started** Complete all financial disclosure forms and update Volunteer forms as needed
- **Completed** Find, interview, approve and financially support 2 students for NRCC
- **Completed** Promote outreach for NRCC
- Support NRCC at camp with volunteers
- **Completed** Facilitate the Forestry portion of the Envirothon
- **Completed** plan and co-sponsor with Allegany Arts Council the photo contest at the Allegany County Fair
- **Completed** Facilitate 2 PLT Workshops
- **Completed** Facilitate Liberty Tree Program and implement a Liberty Tree planting at the Allegany County Courthouse to be coordinated with July 4th event.
- **Started** Support Big Tree Program
- **Started** Support Cumberland Watershed Plan Implementation
- **Started** Facilitate both webpage and Facebook links and keep them active and adaptive
- **Completed** Conduct a county-wide 5th grade Arbor Day poster contest
- **Completed** Review and approve urban tree planting grants such as MDOT & MUCFC
- **Completed** Initiate planning to commemorate celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary with a representative big tree and public outreach event for 2026
- **Completed** Support Real World Forestry program at Evergreen Heritage Center

Note: Goals will be listed for the Forestry Board to track their success and act as a reminder of needed accomplishments for the 2025 Annual Work Plan. The word "completed" will be placed in the front of each goal once it has been accomplished.

Old Business:

Review of Minutes:

Prior meeting minutes were already reviewed online.

Volunteer Hours (Since last meeting): 71 hours total (Bernie – 28, Marie - 12, Brad – 10 Sarah – 5, Darrel – 4, Steve – 4, Champ - 4 and Juls – 4)

Financial Activities

Bernie provided a copy of the updated financial report. He reported that all accounts were balanced and up to date. He reported that there were multiple checks the board had written needing to be cashed in order to clear the account. Bernie also informed the board that Dawn Balinski with MD Forestry Foundation reached out to discuss upcoming changes, specifically with banking. The general consensus with the board was positive in receiving this news.

Project Learning Tree (PLT)

Several board members assisted with facilitating a workshop at Frostburg State University for Elementary Ed majors, as well as for Allegany College Forestry students. In total, 18 students attended, and the overall review of the workshop was very positive! This was the 90th workshop facilitated by the board in 33 years!

Big Tree Program

Marie reported that she led a brief meeting and a big tree measurements day in August. The board measured 3 big trees along with help from Allegany College Forestry students. The board will work with Marie to schedule more big tree measuring days this fall.

New Business:

Statewide Forestry Board Meeting

Adam provided a quick snapshot of what is to be expected at the meeting. He asked if anyone is interested in attending in person and also said there should be a virtual option. Marie offered for the board to attend the virtual meeting at Allegany College forestry library. Marie will confirm if Steve plans to attend in person. Adam can provide transportation for any board members to attend in person. The board was asked to present a successful project as part of a panel discussion during the meeting. The board decided that PLT would be the best choice.

Liberty Tree:

Brad thanked everyone for helping keep the Liberty Tree watered at the county courthouse. He will continue to make sure the tree is watered throughout the remainder of fall. Meanwhile, Liberty Tree requests continue to roll in as we approach the 250th celebration of our country.

Urban Tree Planting

Ted Hoxie provided a quick update on two plantings planned for this fall. Town of Westernport – 7 trees and city of Frostburg – 17 trees. The board will pay for trees with leftover urban grant money from spring of 2025. No new grant applications need to be submitted.

Upcoming Events:

Next Meeting – 10/15/25

Big Tree Measuring Day – TBD

Statewide Meeting – 10/30/25

The meeting adjourned at 11:05pm.

Attended Events: (note, members should attend at least 50% of yearly meetings to be in good standing)

- **January 15, 2025:** Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley. **Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Darrel Williams, Julie Wood, Sarah Llewellyn, Francis Zumbun, Marie Miller, Bernie Zlomek and Adam Miller**

- **January 13, 2025:** Brad and Champ attended a virtual meeting with MD 250 group to talk about getting Liberty Trees. **Brad Metzger and Champ Zumbrun**
- **February 2025:** Sarah reached out to 5 schools promoting the arbor day poster contest. **Sarah Llewellyn**
- **February 28th, 2025:** PLT workshop at FSU for 18 elementary ed major students. **Bernie Zlomek, Francis Zumbrun, Steve Resh, and Adam Miller**
- **March 5th, 2025:** Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley. Voted on 5th grade Arbor Day posters. **Darrel Williams, Juls Wood, Francis Zumbrun, Marie Miller, Bernie Zlomek and Adam Miller**
- **March 6th, 2025:** Attended statewide forestry board meeting at Greenbriar State Park. **Steve Resh and Adam Miller**
- **March 28th, 2025:** NRCC student interview with Abigail Squire at Pleasant Valley. **Juls Wood, Brad Metzger, Champ Zumbrun, and Adam Miller**
- **April 8th, 2025:** Attended Ag Awareness Day at Washington Middle School for 6th grade students. **Marie Miller, Adam Miller, and Sarah Llewellyn**
- **April 23rd, 2025:** County Envirothon at Rocky Gap State Park. **Bernie Zlomek, Francis Zumbrun, and Adam Miller**
- **May 12th, 2025:** NRCC student interview with Lucas Colledge at Pleasant Valley. **Francis Zumbrun, Brad Metzger, and Adam Miller**
- **June 5th & 6th, 2025:** presented prize money to Allegany County 5th graders who were top 3 in the arbor day poster contest. **Sarah Llewellyn & Adam Miller.**
- **June 6th, 2025:** NRCC student interview with Luke Arkins at Allegany College. **Steve Resh, Marie Miller & Adam Miller**
- **June 11th & 12th, 2025:** Maryland State Envirothon competition at Garrett County 4H center. **Francis Zumbrun, Bernie Zlomek & Adam Miller**
- **June 14th, 2025:** Liberty Tree Planting at Allegany County Courthouse. **Francis Zumbrun & Brad Metzger**
- **June 23rd, 2025:** Attended Brad Metzger's retirement event after 35 years of service with MDE. **Bernie Zlomek, Francis Zumbrun, Darrell Williams, Steve Resh & Adam Miller**
- **July 13th, 2025:** Forestry photo judging and July board meeting at the Allegany County Fairgrounds. **Bernie Zlomek, Marie Miller, Juls Wood, Brad Metzger, Sarah Llewellyn, and Darrell Williams.**
- **August 20th, 2025:** Forestry Board meeting and presentation of prize checks to the photo contest winners. Big tree measurements field day. **Marie Miller, Darrell Williams, Brad Metzger, Sarah Llewellyn, Bernie Zlomek, & Colby Whiteside**
- **September 5th, 2025:** PLT workshop at Frostburg State University for 18 students. **Marie Miller, Bernie Zlomek, Steve Resh, Champ Zumbrun, Brad Metzger, and Adam Miller**
- **September 17th, 2025:** Forestry Board meeting at Pleasant Valley Regional Forestry Office. **Marie Miller, Bernie Zlomek, Brad Metzger, Sarah Llewellyn, Juls Wood, and Adam Miller**