

**Allegheny County Forestry Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> 202, 9:00 am – 11:30 am**  
**Pleasant Valley Regional Forestry Office**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Chair, Marie Miller.

**Members Present:** Bernie Zlomek, Sarah Llewellyn, Brad Metzger, Annie Stark, Darrel Williams, Champ Zumbrun, Steve Resh, Marie Miller and Adam Miller

**Members Not in Attendance:** Caity Embly

**Special Guests:** Anna Twigg and Ted Hoxie

**Goals and Annual Work Plan for the Board to meet for 2026**

- **Completed** Develop the 2026 Goals and Annual Work Plan
- **Started** Raise funds to support Allegheny 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
- **Started** Find, interview, approve and financially support 2 students for NRCC
- **Started** Promote outreach for NRCC
- **Started** Support NRCC at camp with volunteers
- **Started** Facilitate the Forestry portion of the Envirothon
- **Started** plan and co-sponsor with Allegheny Arts Council the photo contest at the Allegheny County Fair
- **Started** Facilitate 2 PLT Workshops
- **Started** Facilitate Liberty Tree planting event at Constitution Park with DAR
- **Started** Support Big Tree Program
- **Started** Support Cumberland Watershed Plan Implementation
- **Started** Facilitate both webpage and Facebook links and keep them active and adaptive
- **Started** Conduct a county-wide 5<sup>th</sup> grade Arbor Day poster contest
- **Started** Conduct a high school poster contest at Allegheny Highschool
- **Started** Support urban tree plantings with prior funds from MDOT & MUCFC grants
- **Started** Initiate planning to commemorate celebration of our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a representative big tree and public outreach event for 2026

**Note:** Goals will be listed for the Forestry Board to track their success and act as a reminder of needed accomplishments for the 2026 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): 25 hours total** (Bernie – 3, Champ – 20, and Brad – 2)

**Financial Activities**

Bernie provided a copy of the updated financial report. He reported that all accounts were balanced and up to date. He reported his check book having \$25 less than the checking account, which was due to a check not being cashed from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade poster contest in 2025. It was decided to cancel

this check as it has been more than 6 months since issued. Adam said he had received a \$40 money order for Liberty Tree and \$500 from ASCD for NRCC.

## **New Business:**

### **2026 Urban Tree Plantings**

Ted Hoxie provided a brief report on upcoming urban tree plantings in Allegany County. 7 trees are being planted in city of Frostburg and 3 trees in Westernport. He stated that no urban grants were applied for since funding from last year remains to be used up.

### **Forestry Board Changes overview**

Anna Twigg provided an overview of the upcoming changes to the structure of the Forestry Boards. She provided some timelines to the board as well as answering several questions from various board members. She stated that the official transition is set to occur on March 31<sup>st</sup> and the first regional meeting will occur sometime in mid-April.

### **Updated Contact List / Volunteer Forms / Financial Disclosure Forms:**

Adam provided the group with an updated contact and asked for any edits. Adam reminded the board to complete any volunteer forms if they haven't already done so. Anna noted that financial disclosure forms only need to be completed by those seeking to be on the regional board.

### **Big Tree Program**

Adam provided an update on the status of measuring big trees that are due to be remeasured. A total of 9 trees have been measured so far, a combination of new nominations and remeasures. John and Joli have contacted landowners to get permission, however there's still around 10 trees to re-measure.

### **Statewide Forestry Meeting:**

Adam advised the group that the statewide meeting will be held in Annapolis on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Anna provided a little more context on what to expect from the meeting and encouraged all to attend if possible. Adam said transportation would be arranged for those planning to attend. Steve expressed interest in attending.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade poster contest:**

Marie said she will put together an information packet for teachers to hand out to students pertaining to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade poster contest. Marie, Sarah and Champ will reach out to local schools to promote the program. Sarah said she would work on a flyer that could be shared on social media. Posters are due at the county forestry offices by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The top 3 county winners will be awarded a monetary prize which is sponsored by the board.

### **NRCC**

Adam informed the board that the Allegany Soil Conservation District has donated \$500 to sponsor a total of a student to attend camp in 2026. Champ stated that it was approved by the LaVale lions club to donate \$500 to sponsor a second student for camp. Marie informed the group that planning meetings / webinars will be upcoming and anyone who is interested in helping can attend. Also, there is new leadership at camp as Will Williams and Bud Reaves will be running it. ACM Forest Technician, Abel Gonzales will be promoting recruitment for camp. No applications have been received so far.

### **High School Art Poster Contest:**

The board voted to do a trial run of a high school art poster contest at Allegany Highschool. The theme will be centered around trees/forestry and our country's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. Annie will contact her art/science teachers and provide them with the details. Adam will talk to Ferleman Gallery to see if they will help sponsor the competition by providing half the award money. There will be prize money for the top 3 posters, voted on by the board. The goal of this contest is to educate students about forestry and natural resources and promote the field of forestry as a career option of Highschool students.

### **Liberty Tree**

Champ updated the group that he has continued interest in the program with our country's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. He is wondering who will pay for the 26 Liberty Trees that are going to each county in Maryland. Will it be the MD Forest Service or MD 250 club? Anna said that she would try to find out by asking up the chain. Champ has also been in contact with a company who is willing to graft the existing Liberty Tree in order to preserve the DNA of the original Liberty Tree. They would also be willing to assist with distribution. This idea is being tabled until the next meeting. Champ said that there will be a Liberty Tree planting event at Constitution Park in Cumberland later this spring/summer with Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

### **Project Learning Tree (PLT)**

Bernie updated the board that our next workshop will be on February 27<sup>th</sup> at FSU, and we are expecting around 37 students. Adam informed the board that he spoke with Bo Evans about partnering with Allegany Board of Ed to put on a workshop for Highschool science/ag teachers. Bo said this would be very doable and even gave a date of November 11, 2026. He estimates there will be around 30 science/ag teachers attending. Marie offered Allegany College as a possible location. There was discussion about adjusting the itinerary of the workshop, however it was decided to keep it as is.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Next meeting – February 25<sup>th</sup>

PLT workshop – February 27<sup>th</sup>

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

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

- **January 21, 2026:** Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting at Pleasant Valley. **Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Darrel Williams, Sarah Llewellyn, Francis Zumbrun, Marie Miller, Bernie Zlomek, Annie Stark, Adam Miller, Ted Hoxie, and Anna Twigg**