

## CARROLL COUNTY FORESTRY BOARD - MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Thursday, 16 January 2025

**PLACE:** Google Meets

**TIME:** 6:00 PM – 7:40 PM

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Attending: Fred Dickinson, Steve McDaniel, Geary Schwemmer, Bryan Shumaker, Bill Warburton, Jamie Weaver

Previous meeting: December 19, 2024

- review minutes and AIs in distributed document “12\_19\_2024\_CCFB\_minutes”.

Notes:

AIs all complete except **Fred** reaching out to the two CCFB gmail contacts about Weed Warriors, low priority.

### **Old Business:**

- New member status for Bill and Fred (Jamie/Geary)

Notes: Complete. Geary sent out the approval notice, Jamie has the documentation in hand, We're official.

- High tunnel rehab funding.

Notes: Jamie asked Cara Dudzik to look at getting a handle on costs to re-skin and add roll up sides. Fred forwarded advice/resource info email from his contact to Jamie, Cara, et. al. On 1/20/25.

- Web site updates & schedule (Bill)

Notes: Installed a number of plugins, broke some stuff, but mostly all working now. We need to decide on priorities and structure. Will do minor things now like update Board members, roles. May timeframe for more substantial rework and will need a meeting or two to decide/review. Big Tree updates potentially an initial focus.

**AI: Steve & Bill** – find photos Steve had that could be used on website

### **New Business:**

- Participation in Earth Day event at Piney Run Nature Center 4/26/25 (see email).  
Update on email exchange (Fred)

Notes: Initial contact made via email exchanges with Master Gardeners who are organizing it.

**AI: Fred** – follow up with them for status by next meeting

- NRCC process

Notes: No applicants last year. Geary has already seen one applicant and Fred has responded to a query on the Board's gmail so expect we'll get at least one more. The applications with letters of recommendation are submitted to the Board from Dawn and the students typically attend one of the Board meetings for an interview. The Board pays tuition for two of the students, but they pay the activity fee (\$150). And sometimes if there's financial merit, the Board has paid for the activity fee as well. Ideally, we have the previous year students in and they report on their

experience, but not possible this year since we had no students last year. **AI: Feb mtg we need to nail down contact Board member and coordination on this**

- Piney Run MUCFC grant to plant 41 potted trees/shrubs in advance of a larger reforestation project to occur in spring 2026 (Jamie)

Notes: Piney Run has about 80 acres of open land that they've been mowing, converting that to a combination of ~20 acres pollinator habitat, 60 acres of native hardwood trees and shrubs. In advance Dylan/Basil doing 41 potted trees to plant Spring 2025

Some of the funding is coming through MUCFC, probably in another month or so, so heads up to Geary to have someone from the Board sign off on that funding. We're basically a pass through, they distribute the check to us, we deposit and then distribute the money to the recipient.

- Have Graphic Design students at Carroll Community College create a Board logo? Board member to fill out the questionnaire. (Bill)

Notes: We agreed to go forward with this, no restrictions from upper management based on Big Tree logo effort.. Bill agreed to be point person. **AI:Bill** - schedule a meeting coming week to finish filling out the client questionnaire. He made it available to the Board on Google Docs and we reviewed it some during the meeting. Bill and Geary had already worked on answers. There were several ideas brainstorming around logo usage. Brochures like Big Tree, tabling, letterheads, gmail signature line, etc.

- Fund raising and Board purpose and goals for that (Fred)

Notes: Before 2020, most funding came from the annual workshop. A number of years we also had grants from the Chesapeake Bay Trust but there's a hiatus period built into eligibility for those and we may still be in it. Also direct appeal to local businesses but that was usually in the context of the seminar sponsorship, and the Backyard Buffer workshop generated some small income. If we send two students to NRCC this year, we'll need to come up with some fundraising. Tabling is a possibility, for example going to local business like nurseries (Sweet Bay), arborists, etc. and see if they would donate to support NRCC and Arbor Day poster contest etc. in exchange for promotion at tabling. At minimum three tabling events in 2025, Earth Day, CC Environmental Symposium, Piney Run Fall Fest. There was a lot of discussion around what Bryan might be able to raise for us to sell. We should make up some bigger promo material for the scholarships we support or other programs we do for table promotion.

Grant research and writing still possible but currently no Board experience with that other than the Secretary. To be continued ...

### **Administration:**

- Treasurers Report (Geary)

Notes: Report distributed prior to meeting. We have a balance of just over \$2,000 and I put all the transactions that I have documented on that report. So this year we have almost \$360 less than we started with. That's all at the end of the year and mainly because we didn't send anybody to the NRCC camp this past year. Since we have \$2,000 in the bank, we're not in dire straits for this year. If we send two students, that'll burn \$1,000. And besides that we spend a few hundred here and there but not a whole lot of other expenses for us. It depends on what we want to accomplish.

- Board member & volunteer recruitment. 2025 planning, Jamie role.

Notes: Some general discussion around this, no conclusions, evolved into conversations around our goals, programs, who do we need to do what, skill mix, how to recruit for that, etc. Bryan brought up good points around Board size and focus, suggested a **AI: Fred - New Business** item for February meeting. Geary added a lot of things we need to articulate are in the logo questionnaire. The workshop came up, see summary of that discussion below.

### Programs:

- Big Trees: (Geary)

Notes: Report distributed prior to meeting. Nice summary of main points of the year in review. Geary inducted into MD state Big Tree committee. Congrats! That comes with new work at the state level like research on one of the early Big Tree leaders. Other updates on Geary's work, fun story about measuring a Bald Cypress.

- Wakefield Valley Agroforestry (Jamie, Fred)

Notes: no updates

- Arbor Day Poster Contest Status

- info distributed 12/7, Geary update 1/8/25 on Carroll Arts Council display.
- Other next steps at this time?

Notes: Bryan will coordinate where the finished posters will be at which schools, needs other people to pick up posters this year, **Fred** volunteered. Discussion around timeline to coordinate data with Arts Council that Geary is doing, our judging schedule. **AI: Fred** will put together a proposed timeline and distribute. (That went out 1/19 in email "Arbor Day poster timeline draft".) Discussed incentives and getting that info out to teachers upfront. I put that in the timeline doc but no response. **We'd need to get that info out to teachers ASAP if we agree to do it.**

- BYB Status

- email blast this month.
- Distribution plan, potential ½ day workshop?
- Outdoor School partnering plans?

Notes: Bulk ordered 7000 seedlings for BYB and beyond. Bryan gave an update on resurrecting their nursery and interface with Bear Branch folks. Then discussion of providing labor, pots, potting mix to pot seedlings up in the nursery for future use. Jamie mentioned having some at Morgan Run. **AI: - Jamie** will send email week of 1/20, bcc Board.

### Other topics:

- Annual workshop restart

Notes: Extended discussion around that. Need a point person. New venue at Wakefield Valley Park possible. All the planning Chris did, lots of contacts/info in the Chris' Board Gmail repository. New staff possibly go to Baltimore County workshop on 3/22, Oregon Ridge to see what its like.

Steve gave a high level summary of the concept: You have a series of speakers on various topics. We've pruning, chainsaw safety. We've had talks about the big trees and Firewise planting. pretty much anything to do with trees. I gave a talk about bees and trees. and then you usually have tables representing different groups, could be some of the same ones that are speakers, some of the commercial arborists would have a table there for publicity purposes and they would often chip in as a sponsor. There's a catered lunch and usually it's a pretty fun, full day event, 100 people or more. Yeah, it is a lot of work.

Question of how much time and energy to invest on that, Jamie mentioned a couple treasurers ago we had done a financial analysis and the sweet spot was half day events with a breakfast thing provided was where we made the biggest profit margin, lunch eats into margin so back to discussion that Bryan kicked off of purpose of the event, education or fund raising, and has different needs and goals and what do we want to do. More to discuss, no conclusions. Didn't really take any action items, could check with Abby on venue, could review all of Chris' work ... but not now.

Geary and Bryan brought us back to purpose of the Boards. to encourage forest owners, land owners with trees on them to basically practice sustainable forestry putting them in conservancy, that sort of stuff, supporting that, reaching out to tree owners basically forest owners. Need to set some priorities, we are like-minded and that we have a passion for trees, getting more of them, sustaining the ones we have and especially with the big tree effort and carbon sequestration and understanding that you don't get big trees without planting new ones, but what's the process and who are we trying to reach? The website is amazing, but how do we drive our "business"?

- Proposed memorial for COVID

Notes: Steve distributed a concept document after the meeting, see his email 1/17.