



Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting December 13, 2021

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday December 13, 2021 at Mt. Nebo. Those Board members in attendance either in person or remotely were: Bill Buckel, Derek Buckel, Bill Aiken, Mike Ferguson, Larry Tichnell, Will Williams, Fred Eggleston, Mike Minnick, and Melissa Nash. Also in attendance were Anne Hairston-Strang (acting State Forester), Joli McCathran (Forestry Board Association President), and John Bambacus (forest landowner).

The agenda was approved with additions and a motion by Fred and 2nd by Will.

Guests were introduced.

Anne gave an update on the State Forester Position. The hiring process is moving forward and they hope to be able to advertise in the next couple months. The state has temporarily lifted the hiring freeze. She went over various vacancies and expected new hires. There will be 13 new positions hired next year in support of the 5 million trees goal. They will be divided into regional teams. In the western region, Jeff Simcoe has been hired as Trail Planner, based out of Savage River. Jesse Morgan is now the manager of Green Ridge State Forest. Becky Wilson (Urban & Community Forester), Randy Kamp (Fire Manager) and Mike Kay (Washington/Frederick Project Manager) have all either retired or will be at the end of the year.

Mike M. asked if there have been any updates on the Luke mill property. Anne said there has been recent interest, but nothing concrete at this point. MARBIDCO has been awarding grants for new investments as a result of the Economic Adjustment Strategy. Due to the EAS, forestry is now a specific component of economic plans throughout the state. There was a brief discussion on wood energy potential in the county and the importance of building connections between supply and market need.

Joli gave information on her background on the Montgomery County Board. She is now serving as the new Association president and continues as vice chair of the Big Tree Program.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved following a name spelling correction and motion by Will and 2nd by Fred.

Bill B. gave the treasurer's report.

Forestry Board	\$6,136.45
MUCFC	\$180.00
NRCC	\$1,620.26
Workshop/Ed	\$543.11
Scholarship	\$1,430.00

The only change is that the \$100 refund for NRCC has been issued to Nate Brenneman. The report was approved following a motion by Larry and 2nd by Fred.

Volunteer Hours:

The Board's hours since the last meeting were as follows:

Ken – no report	Mike K – no report
Mike M – 10	Fred – 3
Larry – 3	Will – 3
Bill B. – 5	Bill A. – 3
Mike F. – 3	Derek B. – 3

TOTAL: 33 hrs.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mushroom Workshop

The Discovery Center is available for April 2nd. Bill A. went over the options for inoculation (sawdust or plugs). The plugs will be easier for a large group. Cost is \$42/1,000 plugs which will inoculate about 20 logs that are 4" diameter and 40" long. We will also need to purchase a couple containers of wax seals at \$5 each and drill bits. We should consider an angle grinder bit attachment (\$45) as well as several specialty bits with a depth stop for regular drills (\$7 each).

Bill B. made a motion to hold 1 morning session on April 2nd and charge \$25 per person, but allowing those who signed up previously to remain on the list if they chose to do so. The motion was seconded by Mike M. and passed.

Further discussion included that logs would need to be cut in February. We will start advertising and accepting payments (cash, check or PayPal) in January. Some portions of the workshop will need to be done outside, so we should have a backup plan (canopies) in case of rain. Melissa will confirm the date with the Discovery Center manager.

LLPRP

Siera is hoping to create an infographic or series of graphics from some of the forestry numbers. The draft has been delayed, but should be available in January.

Waterwise

Siera suggested a meeting tentatively the first week of January to talk about the forestry

specific aspects of the program. She will send an email to coordinate with Ashley at Extension.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mountain Loggers

Mike M. reported that the next meeting is December 14th at Pine Lodge. The group recently presented funds from the Log A Load auction and elimination dinner to WVU Children's Hospital.

Poster Contest

Melissa has sent the poster contest information to the Board of Ed for distribution approval. It has been approved and sent to 5th grade teachers. She will send the information to private and home school contacts this week. Local prizes are \$75, \$50 and \$25.

Civic Club

Melissa will take care of getting the request paperwork in by the Dec 31 deadline. Someone from the Board will need to attend their March 29th funding meeting (time and location TBA) and will have 2 minutes to speak.

Hickory Open House

Hickory will hold an open house on December 20th from 5-7pm.

Webinar

A third Thursday webinar on the 5 million tree goal will be December 16th. Information was previously sent to all Board members.

WVU Woodland Stewards

WVU Woodland Stewards will hold a webinar on a variety of topics December 14th. Information was previously sent.

Scholarship

Melissa has also sent the scholarship information in for Board of Ed approval. It has been forwarded to school guidance counselors. Anne suggested that the Mel Fellows may be able to help promote it. The application is available on our website. Deadline is March 1st.

County Funding

Melissa will take care of sending the request letter.

Healthy Forests Healthy Waters

The program is seeking planting projects. They must be in the Bay watershed to qualify.

Chestnut Planting

Baltimore Co Forestry Board has chestnut seedlings available (must be picked up or shipped). See the email sent out by Anne Gilbert for details.

Newsletter & Website

The GCFB Leaflets Newsletter was sent last week. Melissa has also been adding news updates to the website. All past newsletters are also now available there. Mike M. would like everyone to update their biography photo for the website.

Ethics Ruling

Anne gave a brief overview of the recent ethics ruling and need for proper declaration of potential conflicts of interest when new member joins the Forestry Board.

Big Tree

We have no trees in need of remeasurement for 2022. Mike M. would like to promote the program locally.

Smokey Bear

Mike M. suggested doing more in 2022 to promote Smokey Bear's message. Many kids who visited the fair booth weren't familiar with him.

Pest Update

The annual pest update is planned for February 23rd at New Germany State Park. More info to come.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be January 10th at 9am at Mt. Nebo.

Melissa Nash
Secretary

Upcoming Dates

December 13 – Mountain Loggers 6pm @ Pine Lodge

December 14 – WVU Woodland Stewards webinar

December 16 – 3rd Thursday webinar

December 20 – Hickory open house 5-7pm

January 10 – Next meeting

February 23 – Pest update @ New Germany