



Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting January 9, 2023

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday January 9, 2023 at Mt. Nebo. Those Board members in attendance were: Mike Minnick, Mike Kozier, Mike Ferguson, Bill Buckel, Bill Aiken, Derek Buckel, Ken Fisher, John Bambacus, Fred Eggleston and Melissa Nash. Also in attendance was Siera Wigfield.

The agenda was approved with motion by Fred and 2nd by Mike F.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved following a motion by Mike K. and 2nd by Ken.

Bill Buckel read the treasurer's report. The only expenditure was the December meeting breakfast.

Forestry Board	\$4,864.27
MUCFC	\$0
NRCC	\$2,642.26
Workshop/Ed	\$543.11
Scholarship	\$1,763.05

A motion to accept the report was made by Mike K. and 2nd by John.

Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 3	Mike K – 10	Mike F. – 3
Mike M. – 15	Fred – 4	Derek – 3
Larry – no report	Will – no report	John – 3
Bill B. – 4	Bill A. – 3	

TOTAL 48 hrs

OLD BUSINESS:

Watershed Update

Siera reported the county is still working out funding for a watershed coordinator position. She is still working on documenting work that has been done under the 2014 Watershed Plan.

There is a new Director of Planning & Community Development (Steve Kelley). John suggested inviting him to a meeting so he can be familiar with the Board and its activities. Siera will reach out to him.

2023 Funding

Both the county budget request and Civic Club request have been submitted.

Poster Contest

Entries are due by January 20th. Melissa will reach out to the schools again to see if any of the teachers anticipate having posters. If we receive entries, we will likely need to do an online vote as the county winners are needed in Annapolis too soon after our February meeting to wait until then.

NRCC

Information has been approved for distribution and sent to high school teachers and guidance counselors. We will start reaching out again in February/March and try to plan some school visits.

Mushroom Workshop

Due to the mess last year, we cannot have the event inside at the Discovery Center. The park offered us a pavilion which would accommodate about 35 participants with enough room to work. After some discussion on number of people, cost, and date, Bill Buckel made the following motion: Hold the event on April 22 (Earth day) from 9am-12pm. Accept 35 participants at a cost of \$30 each. Extra logs (we should have 15) can be sold for \$15 each. The motion was 2nd by John. Melissa will confirm date and pavilion use with the park. Further discussion included that Mike M. would check with local loggers about getting white oak tops to use for logs. If that does not work, we can cut our own again.

Pens/Giveaways

Melissa shared pricing information on different pens as well as some other options (cups, notepads, water bottles). Siera suggested looking into wooden yard sticks. Discussion was tabled until the February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Big Tree

Mike K. and Melissa measured a white pine in December that turned out to be the new State Champion and the largest white pine ever measured for the program in Maryland. The tree is privately owned.

Mike M. gave the 2022 State Big Tree report. A total of 226 new trees were measured statewide.

We have 2 trees due for re-measurement this year (one at Swallow Falls and one on private property). Melissa will reach out to the private tree owner for permission. We

have also received a new nomination for a hemlock at Swallow Falls. Mike K., Derek and Melissa will try to visit the Swallow Falls trees soon.

MFA Legislative Update

Mike M. shared a recent email from Beth Hill regarding potential for a woody biomass bill to come up again this year. Last year's bill would have removed wood from being included as biomass if it had passed.

Forestry Day in Annapolis will be held January 31.

Frederick County Forestry Forum will be held February 15.

John reported that he has written Gov Elect Moore regarding the Yough issues, but has not heard back.

Coordinator Positions within the Board

Mike M. asked the following to continue or assume coordinating the following Board projects/initiatives:

Big Tree – Mike K.

Legislative issues – John

Envirothon – Will (absent but will ask at next meeting)

Urban Forestry – Derek

New Governor

Mike M. shared Gov Elect Moore's climate plan. Sustainable forestry and agriculture practices are outlined on page 6.

Mt. Loggers

Next Mt. Loggers meetings will be January 10 and February 14.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday February 13 at Mt. Nebo

Melissa Nash

Secretary

Upcoming Dates

January 10 – Mt. Loggers

January 20 – poster contest entries due

January 31 – Forestry Day in Annapolis

February 13 – next regular meeting

February 14 – Mt. Loggers