



Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting September 11, 2023

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday September 11, 2023 at Mt. Nebo. Those Board members in attendance were: Mike Minnick, Mike Kozier, Will Williams, John Bambacus, Bill Aiken, Ken Fisher, Larry Tichnell, Siera Wigfield, Fred Eggleston and Melissa Nash. Also in attendance was Dan McCrary.

The agenda was approved with motion by Mike K. and 2nd by Will.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved following a motion by John and 2nd by Larry.

Melissa read the treasurer's report. We took in a total of \$1,365 on the chainsaw raffle, which was deposited into the NRCC fund. We will have a total of \$550 going back out in deposits to the NRCC students once all letters are received. Two checks (one from the poster contest and one from the photo contest) still have not cleared the bank.

Forestry Board	\$4,981.30
MUCFC	\$0
NRCC	\$3,952.26
Scholarship	\$2,494.07

The report was accepted following a motion made by Will and 2nd by Ken.

Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 11	Mike K – 18	Mike F. – 22
Mike M. – 37	Fred – 12	Derek – 3
Larry – 5	Will – 27	John – 20
Bill B. – no report	Bill A. – 3	Siera – 5
TOTAL 163 hrs		

OLD BUSINESS:

Watershed

Siera introduced Dan McCrary, the County's CBT Climate & Conservation Corp member. He is working on several watershed related projects, including possibly

developing a report card for Deep Creek Lake. The county has advertised for a watershed coordinator and received a few applications.

Fair

During our shift in the fry booth, we cooked 950 lb of potatoes. When we receive a check from Rotary, that money will be put toward NRCC. Also going into the NRCC fund will be \$1,365 from the chainsaw raffle. We had 12 entries in the 4-H Forestry Photo Contest and received a thank you card from Luke Ashby for his 1st place award.

NRCC

We have received letters from 4 out of our 5 students, all of which were very well written. One of our students was awarded the Fred Besley Award. Ken suggested using quotes from the letters in next year's promotion. A motion was made by Fred and 2nd by Siera to return the deposits for the 4 students who successfully completed camp and have sent their letters. The motion passed. Melissa will remind the 5th student.

Yough River Bridge

Larry advised the county is waiting on the updated designs. John reported that the Advisory Board met and that the Board of Public Works and Attorney General Office have been involved. Several interest groups statewide are watching the issue, especially with the old growth area in question. A discussion was held on the frequency of Advisory Board meetings. There is no set policy on frequency. Members of the Board are appointed by the Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fall Envirothon Training

The forestry portion will be held in the afternoon on October 17th.

American Chestnut

Melissa shared that the WV Chestnut Festival will be held in Rowlesburg on October 8th. A screening of TACF's documentary film "Clear Day Thunder: Rescuing the American Chestnut" will be shown on the hour in the historic Rowlesburg School. Other events will take place throughout the day in the school and nearby Cheat River Park. Full information is on the WV TACF Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/WVTACF>

TACF (national) will host a Chestnut Chat webinar September 15th on the status of Darling 58. View recording on the TACF YouTube channel. https://youtu.be/9w_ehqYyxGY?si=rtnhKsun4OxOcsKo

Statewide Meeting

Forestry Board statewide meeting will be held November 2nd in Baltimore. More details will be available soon. If you want to attend in person, let Melissa know so she can arrange transportation.

October Meeting

Due to Columbus Day, Will made a motion, 2nd by Larry to move the October GCFB meeting to October 2nd. The motion passed. We will meet at the Kitzmiller Town Pavilion (in the Botanical Garden) and plant additional specimen trees following the meeting.

School Seedlings

Bill A. made a motion, 2nd by Mike K. to purchase 500 white oak seedlings for Arbor Day. The motion passed, and Melissa will place the order.

Woods in Your Backyard

A webinar series will be held throughout October on natural area management.

Beech Leaf Disease

BLD has been confirmed in Harford County.

Spotted Lanternfly

SLF is now common in Cumberland.

Graduate Student Fire Project

Mike M. received an email from a UMD student working on wildfire prevention technology. Melissa will connect them with MD Forest Service Fire Staff.

Big Tree

Melissa and Mike K. recently measured a new red oak. It is 30 points shy of the current county champion, but we will submit it to include in the database.

A discussion was held on the possibility of doing a Big Tree calendar for 100 years of the program in 2025. Melissa said cost will be approximately \$3-6 each depending on quantity (either 250 or 500 comes out to about the same amount). We would need to have them by summer 2024 to distribute. Ideas included making sure we have seasonal photos over the next several months, whether or not to include sponsorships, inclusion of appropriate forestry dates (arbor day, fire prevention week, etc), amount of effort involved vs return, outlets for selling (fair, autumn glory, etc). John made a motion to proceed with planning for a calendar. Will 2nd and the motion passed. Other Big Tree celebration ideas included a Big Tree walk/tour in Kitzmiller.

Mt. Loggers

Meeting is 9/12 at Pine Lodge.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be October 2nd at 9am at Kitzmiller.

Melissa Nash
Secretary

Upcoming Dates

September 12 – Mt. Loggers

September 15 – Chestnut Chat webinar

October 2 – Next regular meeting @ Kitzmiller

October 8 – WV Chestnut Festival