



## Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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

#### Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday December 11, 2023 at Perkins Restaurant. Those Board members in attendance were: Mike Minnick, Will Williams, John Bambacus, Bill Aiken, Mike Ferguson, Siera Wigfield, Fred Eggleston, Mike Kozier, Bill Buckel, Ken Fisher, Larry Tichnell and Melissa Nash.

The agenda was approved with motion by John and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike K.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved following a motion by Will and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike F.

Bill B. read the treasurer's report. There were no changes since the last meeting.

Forestry Board	\$4,981.30
MUCFC	\$1,451.00
NRCC	\$3,802.26
Scholarship	\$2,494.07

The report was accepted following a motion made by Fred and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Siera.

#### Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 5	Mike K – 4	Mike F. – 3
Mike M. – 7	Fred – 3	Derek – (3)
Larry – 3	Will – 3	John – 12
Bill B. – 7	Bill A. – 3	Siera – 3

**TOTAL 56 hrs**

#### **Special Presentation**

Mike Minnick was presented with a Directors Commendation from the Maryland Forest Service for his outstanding service to the Garrett County Forestry Board.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **Watershed**

The watershed coordinator position has been advertised again and shared with the college and other possible sources of applicants.

Dredging at Arrowhead Cove is ongoing. The county will be contacting landowners about projects to reduce sediment & working on the stream assessment. A Brunch & Learn update will be held Dec 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Big Tree Calendar**

Melissa shared proposed monthly photos and suggested 1 tree per month along with information about the species/specific tree along with coordinates for publicly accessible trees. Will made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John to proceed with that format. The motion passed. Melissa and Siera will work on a layout.

### **Garrett College Trivia**

The event was very well attended. Mike K. and Melissa participated. Proceeds from the fundraiser benefit a student trip to Costa Rica to learn about exotic wildlife and habitats. John made a motion to donate \$1,000 to the students from the Board. Fred 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion included unknown total cost/need. John withdrew his motion until Melissa could find more information.

Melissa received a response during the meeting and shared that 8 students planned to attend at a cost of \$1,800-2,000 each. After fundraising, remaining expenses are out of pocket for the students. John reintroduced his motion to donate \$1,000 and Larry 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion passed.

### **BBD/BLD Webinar**

Beech leaf disease has been observed in many MD counties now, including Garrett. The webinar was recorded.

### **Yough River**

John reported we are still waiting on the judicial review. He would also like to see the local advisory board meet on a more regular basis with a mandated frequency. They will meet Monday Dec 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Hickory Open House**

Will be Dec 20 from 5-7pm. A planetarium show will be offered.

#### **Kitzmiller Light up the Park**

Ongoing through New Year's. Walk through the Botanical Garden and view decorated/lighted trees at your convenience.

#### **Poster Contest**

The Board will again sponsor local level awards.

#### **Scholarship**

We will start promoting applications after the first of the year.

### **Civic Club Request**

Melissa sent the donation request. We should hear back sometime in February/March about the funding meeting. A representative will need to attend.

### **MD Forest Service Personnel Updates**

Anne Hairston-Strang has been named state forester. Katherine Phillips has been selected as the Western Region Urban Forestry Coordinator. She will still be filling the 5 Million Tree program duties for the time being.

### **Healthy Forests Healthy Waters**

This program primarily applies further east. Garrett and Allegany counties utilize the Western MD RC&D tree planting grant. Approximately 107 acres of planting projects will be submitted for Garrett County to be planted in 2026.

### **County Budget**

Ken made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike K. for Melissa to submit the request to Kevin Null and ask for \$2,500 (we have been receiving \$2,000). The motion passed.

### **Potomac Garrett SF**

Mike K. reported the draft work plan is posted online. No advisory committee meeting has been scheduled.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Monday January 8<sup>th</sup> at 9am at Mt. Nebo.

Melissa Nash  
Secretary

### **Upcoming Dates**

December 20 – Hickory open house 5-7pm  
Ongoing through Jan 1 – Kitzmiller Light up the Park