



Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting March 11, 2024

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday March 11, 2024 at Mt. Nebo. Those Board members in attendance either in person or virtually were: Mike Minnick, Mike Kozier, Mike Ferguson, Will Williams, Larry Tichnell, Ken Fisher, Bill Aiken, Bill Buckel, Derek Buckel, John Bambacus, Fred Eggleston, Siera Wigfield and Melissa Nash. Guest in attendance was Don Sebold.

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

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

Bill B. read the treasurer's report. A deposit of the county funding was made. Expenses included calendar printing. Bill and Melissa worked on getting set up for the electronic transfer of MUCFC funds for the 3 recently approved grants, but money has not been received yet.

Forestry Board	\$4,506.00
MUCFC	\$821.00
NRCC	\$3,702.26
Scholarship	\$2,494.07

The report was accepted following a motion made by Larry and 2nd by Fred.

Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 6	Mike K – 3	Mike F. – 3
Mike M. – 11	Fred – 3	Derek – 3
Larry – 3	Will – 3	John – 8
Bill B. – 6	Bill A. – 3	Siera – 10

TOTAL 62 hrs

OLD BUSINESS:

Big Tree Calendar

250 calendars were ordered and are expected to arrive by the end of March. Will suggested having an envelope or rain sleeve if we are selling calendars at any events.

DCL Water Level Legislation

No recent legislative updates have been received. A hearing was held on this bill and the public was largely left out of its development. There have been concerns raised from multiple user groups.

Watershed Update

Siera reported they had 2 good candidates and are working on scheduling interviews for the watershed coordinator position. She is hoping to have someone on board by summer. The MOU has now been signed by MDE, DNR and the county.

Dan McCrary is working on a stream assessment for tributaries to Arrowhead Cove.

The 100th anniversary of Deep Creek Lake is being planned for 2025. This would be a good opportunity to promote the management plan.

Trail Planning Grant

Several Board members expressed concerns with offering blanket support to trail planning, given lack of public involvement on past projects so a letter of support was not provided. Siera envisions a county plan that looks at trail connectivity within the region and takes into account various types of user groups (walk, bike, ORV, water, etc). She is looking into multiple sources of funding for trail planning.

Yough River Advisory

Don advised the hearing will begin April 2nd at 9am at the courthouse. There are still many questions and concerns over the bridge project.

He further advised that any trails being planned within the corridor should be presented to the advisory board.

The advisory board will meet 3/13 at 9am in the Commissioners meeting room.

Smokey Reading Challenge

Two kickoff events with Smokey Bear appearances have been scheduled for 3/27 at the Grantsville Library and 4/2 at the Oakland Library. Set up of the window will be 4/2 prior to the program. Melissa will be picking up the prize books from the Book Market.

NEW BUSINESS:

NRCC

We have 3 applicants already, but some are missing recommendation letters. Melissa or Mike M. will reach out to the students and ask they get their applications completed ASAP. A discussion was held on funding. Siera made a motion that we fully fund up to 3 students this year. If more applications come in, we will look at other sources of funding or put students on an interest list for 2025. Will 2nd and the motion passed.

The urban forestry camp has been approved for this year, but no further information was available.

We still have time to put together items for Gabrielle's gift basket.

NRCC Planning Committee

The planning committee is looking for new members. Contact Dawn Balinski if interested.

Civic Club Funding Meeting

Melissa will make the presentation. The Board will reimburse her \$25 for the lunch. Siera offered to be a backup presenter if needed.

Seedlings for Schools

Trees will arrive soon and we will plan on packaging them in the Mt. Nebo shop at 10am on March 28th.

Chamber of Commerce

There is an option for non-profit organizations to join for \$175/year. Some discussion was held and benefits included advertising events, while concerns included politics. Discussion was tabled.

Mt. Loggers

No March meeting will be held.

Forestry Board Summit

A save the date for June 10-12 in Annapolis was sent. No further information was available.

Allegheny Wood Products

Another blow was delivered to local wood markets with the shutdown of AWP recently. Several local loggers are still owed money by the company.

MUCFC

All 3 spring grant applications were approved. Melissa will share planting dates as they are scheduled.

Scholarships

Applications are due May 1. Please try to promote where you can.

Native Plant Festival

We will raffle off a few trees again and Bill A offered to donate a mushroom log. We will also have the Big Tree calendars to sell. The event is May 11 at New Germany State Park.

Transition Fair

Melissa shared info on the Garrett County Public Schools transition fair for seniors. Since we don't have any job opportunities, the Board decided not to attend.

Poster Contest

A total of 49 entries were received from 4 schools (Yough Glades, Grantsville, Accident and Calvary Christian). Mike M., Melissa and Ken met at Mike's shop to narrow them down to about a dozen for the entire Board to judge. Results are as follows:

- 1st Place (\$75) – Kylie Foley, Yough Glades
- 2nd Place (\$50) – Ayla Younkin, Calvary Christian
- 3rd Place (\$25) – Lane Miller, Yough Glades

Kylie's poster will be sent to Annapolis for the state contest, which will be judged on March 27th.

Melissa Nash
Secretary

Upcoming Dates

- March 27 – Smokey Bear program at 4pm at Grantsville Library
- March 27 – State level Arbor Day poster contest judging
- March 28 – Package school seedlings at 10am at Mt. Nebo shop
- April 1 – Commissioners meeting/Arbor Day proclamation at 4pm in Commissioners meeting room at courthouse
- April 2 – Set up Library window at Oakland Library at 1pm
- April 2 – Smokey Bear Program at 4pm at Oakland Library
- April 3 – Maryland Arbor Day
- April 16 – Envirothon training
- April 23 – Garrett College tree planting (time TBD)
- April 26 – National Arbor Day
- April 30 – Envirothon competition
- May 11 – Native Plant Festival at New Germany State Park