



Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting October 7, 2024

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday October 7, 2024 at the Mt. Nebo office. Those Board members in attendance were: Mike Ferguson, Will Williams, John Bambacus, Fred Eggleston, Ken Fisher, Mike Kozier, Larry Tichnell, Siera Wigfield, Bill Aiken and Melissa Nash. Molly Ramsey also attended.

The agenda was approved following a motion by Ken and 2nd by John.

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

Reading of the treasurer's report was suspended due the treasurer being unavailable.

Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 5	Mike K – 6	Mike F. – 3
Siera – 3	Fred – 3	Derek – no report
Larry – 3	Will – 6	John – 6
Bill B. – no report	Bill A. – 3	

TOTAL 38 hrs

OLD BUSINESS:

Watershed Update

Siera is working on an ARC grant application for strengthening the Deep Creek Lake website for better transparency on projects, improved engagement, workshops, learning videos for best management practices, etc. The ultimate goal is to continue to move forward with the watershed management plan. A discussion followed on communication with the public, disaster preparedness with the recent hurricane, winter weather, drought, etc.

Ken asked about the former advisory committee for the watershed management plan. They ceased meeting when the previous watershed coordinator left. There had been representatives from different interest groups in the community. Siera reported that Molly will be working on getting that going again.

Siera is looking for more information on the history of public recreation access to Deep Creek Lake and would like to work on improvements.

Public outreach on trails planning for Route 135 to Oakland and Oakland to Herrington Manor will begin in late October. She has received a grant for an intermediate trail in Fork Run and is looking into the possibility of doing some timber management on that property.

Watershed Moments

Melissa, Ken, John and Will attended the recent presentation and gave an overview.

Envirothon Training

Will facilitated the training on Oct 4th. It was a good session with both teams. Nearly all of the Northern students are new this year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Forest Stewards

Molly shared that Dave McGill with WVU Extension does Forest Steward seminar programs monthly. A discussion on something similar or a possible field tour in the future in Garrett County followed.

Arbor Day Seedlings

John made a motion to order 500 sugar maple for the spring. Mike K. 2nd and the motion passed. Melissa will place the order.

2025 Planning

Will led a discussion on our planning for the upcoming year. Staple activities include the fair, NRCC and Envirothon. Please bring other ideas to the next meeting (workshop, fundraisers, etc). Both the 100th anniversary of the Big Tree Program and Deep Creek Lake will be in 2025. One idea discussed was a possible Big Tree tour at Kitzmiller.

Calendar

Please promote the calendar for the holidays.

Mt. Loggers

Meeting will be held Oct 8th at Pine Lodge. Elimination dinner will be held Nov 9th at Friendsville VFD hall (ticket required). They raised over \$200,000 with this year's Log A Load Auction for WVU Children's Hospital.

Tree Campus

Garrett College will plant 15 shrubs at the Learning Center on Oct 17th and issue an Arbor Day proclamation. They will be ready to apply for TreeCampus USA recognition at the end of the year.

Presidents Circle

Breakfast will be held 10/30. RSVP is required.

November Meeting

Due to the 2nd Monday of October being a state holiday, the meeting will be held November 4th.

Hickory Tree Classroom

Siera is working on looking for grant funding for Hickory to install a treehouse classroom on campus. Melissa met with staff earlier in the fall to look at possible locations & anchor trees.

History of Deep Creek Lake

A presentation on the history of Deep Creek Lake (pre-lake) will be Oct 16th at the PAC. It will be available on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iaMLF7mPb1Y>

A motion to adjourn was made by Fred and 2nd by Mike K.

Upcoming Dates

10/8 – Mt. Loggers meeting

10/16 – History of Deep Creek Lake

10/17 – Garrett College Planting

11/4 – Next regular meeting

11/9 – Mt. Loggers elimination dinner

11/12 – Mt. Loggers meetings