



Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting December 9, 2024

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday December 9, 2024 at Perkins Restaurant. Those Board members in attendance were: Fred Eggleston, Larry Tichnell, Mike Ferguson, John Bambacus, Bill Buckel, Ken Fisher, Mike Kozier, Will Williams, Siera Wigfield, Linda Harris and Melissa Nash.

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

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

Bill B. read the treasurer's report. Activity included expenses of lights and decorations for the Kitzmiller Christmas tree and refunding NRCC deposits for the 2 students who completed camp. Deposits included calendar sales, scholarship donations, and NRCC donations from Oakland Rotary for working the fry booth at the fair and from the Mt. Laurel Garden Club.

Forestry Board	\$7,999.46
MUCFC	\$0
NRCC	\$3,217.26
Scholarship	\$1,824.08
CD	\$10,000.00

Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 7	Mike K – 5	Mike F. – 3
Siera – 10	Fred – 3	Derek – no report
Larry – 3	Will – 12	John – 3
Bill B. – 5	Bill A. – no report	Linda – 3

TOTAL 54 hrs

OLD BUSINESS:

2024 in Review

A list of accomplishments form 2024 was shared with the meeting agenda. Will thanked everyone for all of their hard work and commitment in a challenging year.

Watershed Update

Will, Ken, Siera and Melissa attended the watershed meeting that Molly organized. There were approximately 50 total in attendance. All agreed it was a good start to getting back on track. The next steps are working on capturing what has been implemented from the plan so far and what priority action items should be for the next couple of years. Molly sent a follow up email asking for feedback, which Melissa will forward. There was limited discussion in the plan on addressing invasive species.

Linda will be helping Deep Creek Lake State Park with additional stormwater management at the pavilion parking lots.

Workshops

A lengthy discussion was held on possible workshops for 2025. Ideas included partnering with the Garden Club to combine seminars on stormwater management with a hands on project they already have planned (likely timing April/May on a weekday). Other ideas included holding a couple forestry education tours. One session could be forest management/portable sawmill (at Bill B's Tree Farm) and another could be tree pruning and Big trees (at Kitzmiller). Suggested length for each session was 2-3 hours each. Melissa will contact Kitzmiller to check on pavilion availability for late may or in June.

Calendars

There are still approximately 30 calendars left.

NEW BUSINESS:

Biomass

Melissa shared an email from Cheryl DeBerry with the county. They are planning to apply for a grant to design a wood energy facility that would be able to service Northern High School and the adjacent County Roads Garage in Accident. If they are successful in obtaining this grant they would have a completed design and would be able to apply for additional grants for implementation. Siera made a motion, 2nd by Mike K to write a letter of support. The motion passed. Further discussion followed on biomass systems and forest products use since the paper mill closure.

Poster Contest

Deadline to submit posters locally is March 3rd at noon. Melissa will send the information to the schools. There was some discussion on the theme, which was expected to highlight Big Trees, however this year's theme is "Trees are Terrific and Forests Are Too". The Garrett Board will again provide monetary prizes of \$75, \$50 and \$25 to the local 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Statewide winners will receive tree plantings at their school.

Library

Melissa will contact the library to schedule a window display for 2025.

Hickory Open House

Hickory will hold an open house, including a light show in the planetarium on December 18th from 5-7pm.

Mt. Loggers

Will shared updates from the group. They are looking at additional naming rights at WVU Children's and had some of the staff from the hospital attend their last meeting to discuss opportunities. They recently set up and decorated a Christmas tree at the entrance to the hospital and provided toys for the children. The elimination dinner in November was another successful fundraiser for their community outreach fund, which has supported Project Learning Tree workshops.

GCFB Swag

Will suggested purchasing fleece jackets or vests since many of our activities are done in cooler weather. We may also need to look at another shirt and hat order as it has now been a few years. Will will check on prices.

Melissa advised we will also need to purchase more handouts for events. We still have a limited supply of pens, but have given out all but a few of the yard sticks. Suggestions included bookmarks, field journals, origami kits, bandanas and additional pens.

Carbon Sequestration

Siera reported that TNC has approximately \$50 million for carbon sequestration projects in Maryland.

State Forest Advisory

Mike K will be attending the PGSF advisory board meeting. Will said he can fill the Forestry Board vacancy on the SRSF Board. Melissa will connect him with Sean Nolan, SRSF manager.

WV Woodlands Seminar

Melissa shared information on an upcoming WV woodlands seminar that Molly had forwarded.

2025 Meetings

Meetings will continue to be held the 2nd Monday of each month with the exceptions of June (will be June 2nd) and October (will be October 6th).

The meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming Dates

Daily through Christmas – Kitzmiller light up the park display
12/18/24 – Hickory open house 5-7pm