



Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting April 14, 2025

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday April 14, 2025 at the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce. Those Board members in attendance either in person or virtually were: Will Williams, John Bambacus, Mike Kozier, Siera Wigfield, Larry Tichnell, Bill Buckel, Ken Fisher, Fred Eggleston, Bill Aiken and Melissa Nash.

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

A motion to dispense with reading of the minutes and approve following correcting the location of the meeting was made by Bill B. and 2nd by John. The motion passed.

Bill Buckel read the treasurer's report. A total of \$2,475 was received for multiple MUCFC grants. \$1,716 was turned over to the Mt. Laurel Garden Club for their MUCFC projects. Expenses included purchasing Envirothon books, wire and trees for the Deer Park MUCFC projects, ordering tree guides for the Big Tree tour, Civic Club luncheon for Melissa and reimbursing Siera for library window supplies.

Forestry Board	\$5,838.15
MUCFC	\$268.76
NRCC	\$3,217.26
Scholarship	\$2,849.08
CD	\$10,252.00 (12 month @ 4.4%, matures Sept 2025)

The report was approved following a motion by Mike K. and 2nd by Fred.

Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 6	Mike K – 7	Mike F. – no report
Siera – 6	Fred – 6	Derek – no report
Larry – 3	Will – 20	John – 9
Bill B. – 9	Bill A. – 3	Linda – 3

TOTAL 72 hrs

OLD BUSINESS:

Trails/Watershed

The next steering committee meeting is scheduled for May 2nd. Siera hopes to have a work plan available in May. A public open house about the trails projects was held April 1st. She is still working on design & engineering grant funding and getting cost estimates from consultants. The county is working on negotiating access with 2 private property owners.

Transmission Line

The legislation to allow an exemption for the transmission line to cross wildlands passed and will go to the Governor. Will, John and Bill B attended the open house at Savage Highlands State Park (formerly SR Lodge). There were rooms for various resource concerns. Attendance was well over 100 people and comments were accepted but no answers were provided to questions. Additional discussion followed about the process, overall lack of transparency and lack of position by DNR and the County Commissioners on the issue.

Deep Creek Lecture Series

These were held throughout March and most recordings are available

1 – Chance Friend, Wildlife and Habitats on Deep Creek Lake (slides only)

<https://dcl100.com/wp-content/uploads/An-Overview-of-Wildlife-and-Habitats-Of-Deep-Creek-Lake.pdf>

2 – Eric Null, Fishing on Deep Creek Lake

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TjFFtPKrPug>

3 – Brookfield Renewable, Operation of Deep Creek Dam and Hydroplant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JvxSZt6Xgk>

4 – Karen Myers, History of Lakefront Lots at Deep Creek Lake

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfzTA5-Mb2c>

Big Tree

Melissa gave an update that the Big Tree Bandwango tour should be live soon. We have received positive feedback on the library window display. An article on the Kitzmiller Botanical Garden should appear in the newspaper's home and garden special section. The Garrett Arts Passport this year features a Big Tree stamp in Kitzmiller.

Hats

Canvas/tan hats are \$21 each and the trucker style are \$20 each. Seira made a motion to purchase one hat for each member and those who would like a 2nd hat can purchase one. Mike K 2nd and the motion passed. A sign up list was passed around. Will will take care of the order once we know what those not present prefer.

NRCC

There are 31 applicants and 18 have been accepted so far. ACM has 7 students as counselors. Staff assistants and junior counselors have been set.

NEW BUSINESS:

TFOY/TFIOY

The MD Tree Farmer of the Year for 2025 is Rock Lodge Trust. The MD Tree Farm Inspector of the Year for 2025 is Melissa Nash. Both were recently recognized in the Senate and House for their accomplishments.

Garrett College Planting

Planting will be April 30th at noon near the Performing Arts Center.

Garrett College Water Quality Class

Board members are invited to hear presentations from the NRWT program's Water Quality Assessment class on May 6th at 4:30pm in the Performing Arts Center. Two groups of students will each talk about the results of sampling in the Casselman River and Sang Run.

Native Plant Festival

Our table will focus on Big Tree and Melissa should have seedlings to hand out. The event runs from 10am-3pm on May 10th. We will be able to get in early to set up.

Envirothon

Training is April 15th and competition April 29th at Hickory.

Mt. Loggers

Next meeting is May 13th at Pine Lodge.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be May 5th at 9am at the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting was adjourned following a motion by Mike K and 2nd by Fred.

Upcoming Dates

4/15/25 – Envirothon training @ Hickory

4/29/25 – Envirothon competition @ Hickory

5/5/25 – May Forestry Board @ Chamber of Commerce

5/6/25 – Garrett College NRWT water quality presentations @ 4:30pm in PAC

5/10/25 – Native Plant Festival 10am-3pm @ New Germany

5/13/25 – Mt Loggers @ Pine Lodge 6pm