



Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting June 2, 2025

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday June 2, 2025 at the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce. Those Board members in attendance either in person or virtually were: Linda Harris, Bill Buckel, John Bambacus, Siera Wigfield, Fred Eggleston, Bill Aiken, Will Williams & Melissa Nash.

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

A motion to dispense with reading of the minutes and was made by Bill B. and 2nd by Bill A.. The motion passed.

The scholarship award was presented to Ariella Malfaro. She briefly highlighted her experience so far in the NRWT program at Garrett College.

Bill Buckel read the treasurer's report. Expenses included supplies for MUCFC plantings, hats and sponsorship of a hole for the Mt Loggers golf tournament, which was approved via e-mail vote prior to the meeting. Melissa advised the remainder of the MUCFC money should be spent soon.

Forestry Board	\$5,260.15
MUCFC	\$132.96
NRCC	\$3,852.26
Scholarship	\$2,849.08
CD	\$10,324.00 (12 month @ 4.4%, matures Sept 2025)

The report was approved following a motion by Fred and 2nd by Bill A.

Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – no report	Mike K – no report	Mike F. – no report
Siera – 3	Fred – 3	Derek – (2)
Larry – no report	Will – 10	John – 4
Bill B. – 5	Bill A. – 3	Linda – 11

TOTAL 41 hrs

OLD BUSINESS:

Watershed

Siera advised the county is trying to focus on transparency of projects and keeping everyone informed. She would like to work on some trainings for groups or volunteers to help with trail projects.

The Oakland/Herrington Manor and Oakland/135 final reports should be available soon. She highlighted challenges with federal funding.

Washington Elm

Several folks met to assess the current state of the elm, collect cuttings and measure it for inclusion in the Big Tree Program. It will be the Garrett County champion and will be added to the Big Tree Tour. Melissa advised that some cuttings did not take, but it looks like a few may survive.

Native Plant Festival

We were able to reuse some elements from the Library display and gave out approximately 200 tree seedlings. It was a very well attended event. Will reported that Fred Besley's great grandson visited the table.

NRCC

The camp is very close to full. We are down to 1 Garrett County student.

Smokey Sign

Melissa will ask about possible placement at the Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Center. Some discussion was held on whether we specifically wanted a Smokey sign or a more generic fire danger sign. Further discussion was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

State Envirothon

Will shared the schedule for the upcoming event in Garrett County.

Fire Academy

Melissa gave an overview of the event. They are expecting approximately 220 students plus 50 instructors/staff.

Fall Forestry Board Meeting

Save the date was sent for October 30, but no further details are available.

Garden Tours

This year's event is centered in Pleasant Valley this year with 4 stops. A possible 2026 tree themed tour was discussed and Hickory may be a potential stop. Other private properties were mentioned, but willingness of landowners to participate was not

immediately known. Will made a motion to support the forestry theme. John 2nd and the motion passed.

Fair Booth

Will made a motion to spend \$275 on the booth space again. Linda 2nd and the motion passed. We will focus on the Big Tree Program and the Bandwango Tour.

Board Members

John suggested trying to recruit previous scholarship recipients as potential new Board members.

Mt. Loggers

Next meeting is June 10th at Pine Lodge.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be July 25th at Hickory. Board members willing to serve as landowners for students should arrive at 9am. We will hold a meeting afterwards (meeting start time approx. 10am).

The meeting was adjourned following a motion by Fred and 2nd by Bill A.

Upcoming Dates

7/25 – Serve as landowners for NRCC @ Hickory 9am, Fair booth set up (PM TBD) @ Fairgrounds

7/27 – Photo contest judging 1pm @ Fairgrounds 4-H building

7/29 – Rotary fry booth 11am-5pm @ Fairgrounds, staff FB booth

7/31 – Staff FB booth @ Fairgrounds 3pm-9pm

8/1 – Staff FB booth @ Fairgrounds 3pm-9pm

8/2 – Staff FB booth @ Fairgrounds 12pm-9pm

8/3 – Remove FB booth 11am

No August Meeting

9/8 – Next regular meeting