



## Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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### Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting October 6, 2025

#### Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday October 6, 2025 at the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce. Those Board members in attendance either in person or virtually were: John Bambacus, Fred Eggleston, Ken Fisher, Will Williams, Mike Kozier, Mike Ferguson, Bill Aiken & Melissa Nash.

The agenda was approved following a motion by John and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred.

A motion to dispense with reading of the minutes and approve the minutes was made by Mike K. and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred. The motion passed.

Melissa provided the treasurer's report. The CD was actually a 13 month, so maturity date isn't until mid-October. Bill will take care of transferring it out then. We received a donation from Fred.

Forestry Board	\$5,350.15
MUCFC	\$4.06
NRCC	\$3,202.26
Scholarship	\$2,349.08
CD	\$10,468.00 (13 month @ 4.4%, matures Oct 2025)

The report was approved following a motion by John and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred.

#### Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 7	Mike K – 4	Mike F. – 3
Siera – no report	Fred – 3	Derek – no report
Larry – no report	Will – 12	John – 3
Bill B. – no report	Bill A. – 3	Linda – no report
<b>TOTAL 35 hrs</b>		

#### OLD BUSINESS:

##### **Fall Statewide Meeting**

Still scheduled for 10/30. No agenda or other details were available yet.

## **Smokey Sign**

Suggestions were made to look into possibly the visitor center or the EOC – both are county facilities and SHA approval may be required if it would be in the 219 right of way.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Watershed**

Melissa read Siera's county grant update.

Grants applied (decisions expected December 2025):

- Bridge & culvert replacement for Oakland, Kitzmiller & Garrett County
- Garrett Co Transportation & Safety Initiative
- Loch Lynn Arboretum

Grants awarded:

- Meadow Mountain trail enhancements (work start Summer 2026)
- Broadford Park trail enhancements
- Crellin St sidewalk replacement
- Grantsville sidewalk

Grants not awarded:

- Garrett CALM traffic monitoring
- Loch Lynn wetland trail redecking

### **Project Updates**

- Transit development plan underway
- Garrett pathway projects draft plan
- Fork Run intermediate trail – construction spring 2026
- Countywide active & alternative transportation plan, safety analysis & quick build demonstration projects under development
- Thriving communities program site visits in Kitzmiller & Grantsville – Oct 2025
- MDOT capital improvement plan tour – Oct 2025
- Fork Run master trail plan – request for quotes released (due Oct 1)
- Bloomington walking path – paving in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week Oct 2025

Bill asked if there was an update on the proposed e-bike policy changes. No update was available.

Watershed moments – Will & Ken attended and presentations focused on water quality (primarily mercury levels & algae blooms). Next event will be Nov 6<sup>th</sup> at AEL in Frostburg featuring Tom Horton.

Watershed symposium will be Oct 25<sup>th</sup> at the PAC sponsored by the DCL Watershed Foundation. Free registration.

**American Chestnut**

Bill A asked about the GMO status. Melissa updated they are back in the federal approval process.

WV Chestnut Festival is 10/12 in Rowlesburg.

**NRCC**

Gabrielle has notified in writing that she is stepping down. Will is moving into the Director position & working on a candidate for Deputy.

**Mt. Loggers**

Next meeting will be 10/14, Elimination dinner 11/8, Ribbon cutting & tree lighting at WVU Children's 12/10.

**Envirothon Training**

10/29 at Hickory

**Big Tree**

A measuring event will be held with Accident 5<sup>th</sup> grade class on 10/9. They will most likely have some new county champions.

**Transmission Line Update**

John has shared articles as they are published. Groups in surrounding states and their elected officials are opposing the project. There is a federal lawsuit in progress over eminent domain for the Piedmont project. The preferred route has been selected and map is available on the Next Era website. It is unknown how many Forest Stewardship landowners, easements and NRCS/CREP contracts will be affected.

**Spotted Lanternfly**

This pest has become more common in Garrett County this year. MDA is still tracking sightings.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting will be November 10th.

The meeting was adjourned following a motion by Ken and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike K.

**Upcoming Dates**

11/6 – Next regular meeting

11/8 – Mt. Loggers elimination dinner

11/11 – Mt. Loggers meeting 6pm @ Pine Lodge

12/10 – Mt. Loggers ribbon cutting & tree lighting @ WVU Childrens