

**WASHINGTON COUNTY FORESTRY BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 14, 2024**

Present: Don Grove, Linda Grove, Greg Bartles, Mary Jo Bartles, Kate Bucco, Doug Inkley, Judy Niedzielski, and Aaron Cook.

**Collaborative Workshop Follow-Up** – The board netted \$243.96 as income for a future NRCC student from the recent meeting. The meeting was well attended, and was advertised through various partner groups (ACWA, UMD extension, Facebook, 5MT volunteer lists, etc.). Participants represented private landowners, HOA, local government, federal government, and NGO. Doug did an excellent job as emcee. The Frederick Board would like to partner again for a future event, we will return to the idea bucket and look to see if we can find a good location and date for another event. Thanks to everyone for their support.

**Statewide Meeting** – No one from the board attended the recent statewide forestry board meeting, Aaron brought up that the secretaries were not notified in the announcement, and that it was held during a particularly busy time with fire response and the MFS internal statewide meeting. Aaron gave a brief overview of the HQ updates from the internal statewide meeting, the biggest news being that in our area both contractual employees were converted to permanent status.

**Big Tree** – Doug, Don, and Linda have a plan to measure the outstanding trees, Doug is organizing it so that these trees can be done logically from location to location. Aaron offered assistance with MFS staff, if needed to make it easier.

**Other Business** – Doug provided a very detailed account of saw-whet owl banding locally. He also offered the opportunity for board members to assist, if interested. The banding will continue for only a few more weeks. Let Doug know if you are interested, and wear warm clothing as there will be no warming fires during the statewide burn ban (sorry Doug).

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

**The next business meeting will be 2PM, January 8, 2024.**