

Minutes
Allegheny County Forestry Board
May 20, 2022 from 9:00am – 12:00pm
Field- Darrel Williams Property
To promote the stewardship, conservation and sustainable use of forest resources in Allegheny County

Call to Order:

Chairman's Signature: _____

- The meeting was called to order by Secretary Dan Hedderick at 9:10 am on May 20, 2022. Attendees included all members: **Sherry Frick, Tom Mathews, Brad Metzger, Francis Zumbrun, Steve Resh, Juls Wood, and Dan Hedderick**
- Not in attendance: **Marie Miller, Ken Roberts, Dennis Bittinger and Bernie Zlomek**
- Special Guest: **Darrel Williams** (Landowner) **Shannon Farrell** (Forestry Consultant) **Anita Simmons** (MD DNR Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator)
- **Note:** Special thank you to **Darrel Williams** for hosting us at the property.

Goals and Annual Work Plan for the Board to meet for 2022
(Covid-19 may affect outcome):

- **Started** Develop the 2022 Goals and Annual Work Plan
- **Started** Raise funds to support Allegheny County Forestry Board
- Bring in new members
- **Started** Hold 6 local Forestry Board meetings and 4 special events
- **Started** Complete all financial disclosure forms
- **Started** Sign all Volunteer Forms
- **Started** Find, interview, approve and financially support 2 students for NRCC
- **Started** Promote outreach for NRCC
- Support NRCC at camp with volunteers
- **Completed** Facilitate the Forestry portion of the Envirothon
- **Started** Organize, plan and co-sponsor with Allegheny Arts Council the photo contest at the Allegheny County Fair
- **Started** Facilitate 2 PLT Workshops
- **Started** Facilitate Heritage Legacy Tree Program
- **Started** Support Big Tree Program
- Support Cumberland Watershed Plan Implementation
- Facilitate both webpage and Facebook links and keep them active and adaptive
- Support 5 Million Tree Initiative
- **Started** Support the Family Forest Carbon Program
- **Started** Look into new programs with guest speakers to keep members educated on what is new

Note: *Goals will be listed for the Forestry Board to track their success and act as a reminder of needed accomplishments for the 2022 Annual Work Plan. The word "accomplished" will be placed in the front of each goal once it has been completed.*

Introductions:

Dan introduced our landowner host, our consultant guest, and the new urban Forestry Coordinator. Board members introduced themselves.

Minutes Reviewed:

Dan explained that minutes from March had already been approved and sent in for the public record.

Financial Activities, NRCC & Liberty Tree:

Bernie could not attend but provided a report.

Dan talked about the fact that the Vernon Gauss funds were being spent down by Green Ridge, including seed for wildlife food plots, and the rest of the funding will be spent next year, if not sooner.

Dan also reported that all three students for NRCC have been paid for and accepted into camp!

Also, we thanked **Francis** for having the contacts with LaVale Lions Club obtaining another \$500 for NRCC. The balance for Camp Hickory/NRCC after donations and paying for the three students is \$1,020. This means we are set to send 2 more students to camp for 2023.

Francis reviewed two checks for Liberty Tree, and he said to hold the one check and to place the other one in the account. **Francis** will follow up on the one check we received and talk with the person that sent that check.

Big Tree Program:

Dan told the group that we received a thank you from **Joli McCathran** for the donation we made to the Big Tree Program for the Foundation.

Forest Pest Report:

Both **Dan & Ken** received a report from the Maryland Department of Agriculture Forest Pest Management **Susan Winebrenner**. The report showed the Spongy Moth, formerly known as Gypsy Moth, is not a problem for 2021 -2022.

Certificate of Membership:

Dan handed out certificates of memberships for two people **Brad Metzger** and **Sherry Frick**, and has **Marie Miller's** to give to her.

Photo Contest:

Tom and **Sherry** reported that the photo contest will now be open to groups of trees, not just individual trees.

5 Million Trees:

Dan talked about the 13 positions with the DNR FS that are posted and suppose to start in July. There were a few questions about which trees were being counted and **Dan** provided answers.

AES Warrior Run:

AES Warrior Run Electric Generation Power Plant will test fire wood chips and possible conversion to wood chips to replace coal by 2025. **Shannon Farrell** is securing chips for the test firing by working with local loggers.

Carbon Credits:

Steve Resh started things off by saying that ecosystem services are a good thing; that landowners should be made aware of the markets that are out there and this is an extension of our mission! We should consider some type of forum or information sharing event for our landowners.

Tom Mathews suggested that we focus on landowners and people that are not yet engaged in resource management. We need to simplify the message so that we do not overwhelm our landowners and talk about climate change!

Shannon Farrell talked about his experience in trying to help **Darrel Williams** investigate different carbon markets and sharing the values that could be potentially made for the landowner and the challenges associated with that.

Anita Simmons talked about what she was engaged in with the Cumberland City Watershed and the potential of a consultant putting carbon credits out for bid from the City's watershed.

Juls Wood talked about working with landowners and assisting them with selling carbon credit with the Family Forest Carbon Project.

Tom Mathews talked about his experience in trying to help a sportsman's club with the potential of selling carbon credits.

Overall, it was decided after a larger discussion to form a committee to figure out how to get partners on board to help share this message at a possible forum/event with our landowners. The committee will be **Tom, Francis** and **Steve**. They will work on a write-up to present to the Board on June 16 at our next meeting. **Tom** told the committee he will draft out his ideas and share it with the committee so they can have it ready for the Board by June 16.

Tour of Property:

Landowner, **Darrel Williams**, took us on a tour of his property, and we looked at a clear cut, a warbler shelterwood harvest and multiple wildlife food plots. The harvest was completed by a chipping operation and the product went to Kingsford to be sold via a contract the logger had with that company. This tour helped keep the Board grounded while talking about carbon. See the multiple photos.



Upcoming Events:

- **June 16, 2022** Allegany County Forestry Board meeting. Location to be determined.

Attended Events: (note, members need to attend at least 50% of yearly meetings to be in good standing)

- **January 19, 2022** - Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting via Google Meets: **Dennis Bittinger, Sherry Frick, Tom Mathews, Brad Metzger, Marie Miller, Steve Resh, Ken Roberts, Juls Wood, Bernie Zlomek, Francis Zumbrun** and **Dan Hedderick** (All members attended)
- **February 25, 2022** - PLT Workshop: **Sherry Frick, Bernie Zlomek** and **Francis Zumbrun**
- **March 3, 2022** – Statewide Forestry Board meeting: **Bernie Zlomek, Francis Zumbrun** and **Dan Hedderick**
- **March 16, 2022** - Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting via Google Meets: **Dennis Bittinger, Sherry Frick, Tom Mathews, Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Juls Wood, Bernie Zlomek** and **Dan Hedderick**

- **April 27, 2022** - Envirothon Event: **Tom Mathews, Francis Zumbrun, Julie Conway, Adam Miller**
- **May 20, 2022** - Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting in field: **Sherry Frick, Tom Mathews, Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Juls Wood, Francis Zumbrun and Dan Hedderick**