



## Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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### Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting May 9, 2022

#### Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday May 9, 2022 at Mt. Nebo. Those Board members in attendance either in person or remotely were: Bill Buckel, Larry Tichnell, Ken Fisher, Mike Minnick, Mike Ferguson, Mike Kozier, Fred Eggleston, Will Williams, John Bambacus and Melissa Nash. Also in attendance was Siera Wigfield.

The agenda was approved with motion by Ken and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike K.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved following a motion by Fred and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Will.

The treasurer's report was given as follows.

Forestry Board	\$6,853.08
MUCFC	\$0
NRCC	\$1,960.26
Workshop/Ed	\$543.11
Scholarship	\$1,763.05

Since the last meeting in March, expenses included checks to the poster contest winners, scholarship recipients and expenses related to the mushroom workshop and library display. Income included deposits from mushroom workshop registration and a donation from the Oakland Civic Club for NRCC.

The report was accepted following a motion by Larry and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike K.

#### Special Recognition

Mike M. recognized John Bambacus as the 2022 Garrett County Tree Farmer of the Year for his work on Rock Creek Forest Tree Farm. An article was recently published in The Republican.

### **Volunteer Hours:**

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

Ken – 23	Mike K – 10	Mike F. - 3
Mike M. – 73	Fred – 8	Derek – No report
Larry – 3	Will – 24	John – 4
Bill B. – 11	Bill A. – no report	

**TOTAL 159 hrs**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Mushroom Workshop**

The event was highly successful. Members shared ideas for improving for a possible workshop for next year. Suggestions included offering 2 sessions with 25 or 30 participants each as the room was maxed out on space and continuing to have participants begin the log drilling process as they arrive. The event raised approximately \$800 for the scholarship fund. Mike M. thanked everyone for their help with the event.

Another suggestion included possibly holding a make your own wreath workshop between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

#### **Arbor Day**

Mike M., Melissa and Siera attended the April Commissioners meeting for the Arbor Day proclamation and presentation of poster contest awards.

A total of 500 white oak seedlings were distributed to students. Approximately 300 went to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, some were handed out at the Commissioner's meeting and the rest were distributed by Hickory.

#### **Library Display**

Several members assisted with set-up of the display which included NRCC, all poster contest entries, Arbor Day information and pictures from the mushroom workshop.

#### **Envirothon**

Training and the competition went well. The Southern Salamanders team won the forestry section and overall. Each member of the winning team was presented with a copy of Princeton Field Guide to Trees from the Board.

Will announced that he will help the Southern team with another training session on May 19<sup>th</sup> to prep for the state competition.

#### **Civic Club**

Melissa attended the funding luncheon on behalf of the Board. The club awarded us \$340 toward NRCC.

## **NRCC**

There are currently 37 students signed up. Mike M. has had 3 students express interest but we have not yet received their applications.

## **Woods in Your Backyard**

Mike M., Melissa, Derek and Bill B. attended the WIYB train the trainer workshop in March. They learned about programming for small woodland owners and received books related to the program.

## **Waterwise Workshop**

Siera reported that the online kickoff workshop wasn't well attended. They have a grant to conduct composting workshops and may try to promote Waterwise to that audience. There have also been no landowners sign up for the program so far. Discussion included that the checklist format online may seem overwhelming. Suggestions included reaching out to HOA's specifically to try to kick-start the program.

## **ESG Meeting**

Mike M. attended. He and Siera explained that ESG stands for Environmental Social Governance. This is typically used by large corporations to show that they're following good environmental practices. Discussion included that it's hard to develop a program for an area with a limited market and that while there were good points brought up at the meeting, there seemed to be limited solid results.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Scholarship**

Mike M. read a thank you letter from Chance Friend. Former recipient Ben Burris is in the process of applying for NRP.

### **MFA**

The most recent newsletter contains final updates from this legislative session. Melissa will forward it to the Board.

### **Fair**

The fair will run July 30-August 6. Tentative plans are to set up on July 29, judge the photo contest July 31, serve fries August 2, present photo awards August 5, and tear down August 7. There are several things that will need updated in our contest listing in the fair book, but that will have to be taken care of for next year as books have already been printed.

Ken made a motion to increase the awards to \$100 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$75 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and \$50 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place starting this year. Will 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion passed.

A discussion was held on manning of a booth. Last year the booth was only manned Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Drawings for free trees occurred on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Mike K. made a motion, seconded by Fred, to raffle off

a basket of local items to be drawn at the conclusion of the fair. The motion passed. Melissa said she still has the quilt she made. We had some items donated in the past before COVID but some have had expiration dates. Other suggestions included a wooden cutting board, maple syrup and buckwheat.

Other discussion about the fair was to develop handouts on the “hot topics” from past years of invasive plants, pruning, and a directory of who to contact for various types of forestry help in the county. A Smokey Bear cutout for photo ops was also suggested.

### **Autumn Glory**

Dates for the festival will be October 12-16.

### **Mountain Loggers**

The next meeting is May 10. Danny Sines was recently appointed to the MFA Board of Directors. The ATV ride the group had previously scheduled was cancelled due to insurance reasons.

### **Diversity on the Forestry Board**

Mike M. reported that the Association has been discussing diversity and encouraging it on local boards and has discussed providing training on recruiting a diverse board. Discussion included that the Garrett Board is welcoming of any volunteers who have a genuine interest in forestry. We have a Board with a diverse background in many aspects from age to gender to profession to past experiences. Ken suggested inviting a student member from Garrett College.

### **Tree Planting**

Melissa gave an update on tree plantings completed as a result of MD Forest Service projects this spring. A total of 99.68 acres of seedlings were planted across 10 project sites in all areas of the county. Of those acres, 42.77 acres were buffer (2.72 linear miles). A total of 65 urban trees were planted across 4 sites. These included 2 trees at the Oakland Library, 3 trees at the Oakland Armory, 13 trees establishing an arboretum at Accident Elementary School and 47 trees in the Sky Valley HOA community.

### **LEAD Maryland**

Bill B. and Melissa will host a tour of Bill’s Rocky Resolve Tree Farm for the LEAD Maryland group on May 10.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be June 13<sup>th</sup> at 9am at Mt. Nebo.

Melissa Nash  
Secretary

**Upcoming Dates**

May 10 – LEAD Maryland Tour

May 10 – Mountain Loggers

May 19 – Southern High School Envirothon practice (time TBD)

June 13 – Next meeting

June 14 – Mountain Loggers