



Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting June 13, 2022

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday June 13, 2022 at Mt. Nebo. Those Board members in attendance either in person or remotely were: Mike Minnick, Ken Fisher, Mike Ferguson, John Bambacus, Mike Kozier, Will Williams, Larry Tichnell, Bill Buckel, Fred Eggleston and Melissa Nash. Also in attendance was Siera Wigfield.

The agenda was approved with motion by Fred and 2nd by Mike K.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved following a motion by Larry and 2nd by Fred.

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

There was no change from last month. Two checks from the poster contest remain uncashed. The report was accepted following a motion by Will and 2nd by John.

Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 8	Mike K – 3	Mike F. - 3
Mike M. – 26	Fred – 10	Derek – No report
Larry – 3	Will – 5	John – 30
Bill B. – 12	Bill A. – no report	

TOTAL 100 hrs

OLD BUSINESS:

Watershed Update

Siera announced that the Watershed Foundation will host a Brunch & Learn later this month on progress toward the Deep Creek Lake Watershed Plan. She is working with the Administrative Council on review of the plan. Compost bin workshops are being

planned and will be scheduled as soon as grant money is received and materials can be ordered.

Fair Booth

Melissa received the booth application and will take care of getting it sent in. She has also made contact with the Rotary and is waiting to hear back on confirmation of scheduled day/time for French fries. Mike M. shared copies of the schedule and several board members signed up for time slots. Melissa will order a cardboard cutout Smokey to use at the booth. Other items to include are NRCC, invasive plants, urban forestry, Big Tree, mushroom workshop and waterwise. We will give away at least 8 trees.

A discussion was held on the raffle. A winner will be drawn Saturday night of the fair. We will need to have items by the July meeting in order to get tickets and promote the raffle. Ken will check on maple syrup. Melissa will check on a wood bowl or basket. Mike F. will check with Traders. Mike M. will check with FireFly Farms. Any other suggestions or donations (gift cards or physical items) are welcome.

Big Tree

There may be a new potential Big Tree (paw paw) in Friendsville. Melissa is waiting for the permission form to come back. Ideas to promote the program include a "wanted" type poster and reaching out to the schools.

LPPRP

The Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan will be adopted later this month.

Envirothon

Will assisted Southern High School with another training session in preparation for the state competition on June 22nd in Ellicott City.

Library

Fred is working with the library to get a link to the new website posted to redirect any traffic from the old site.

NEW BUSINESS:

NRCC

We have 1 applicant (Jorja Wilhelm). Mike M. and Melissa will interview and if all goes well she will be accepted.

Yough Wild & Scenic River

John gave the Board some background on the Yough River scenic & wild designations. There was recently \$4.7 million allocated for trail development in the wild section of the river. While there is an old railroad bed existing, it is impassible in many places and development is not permitted in that section according to the wild designation. Local legislators had a similar proposal in 2014, which was denied due to the conflict with COMAR (John shared a copy of a letter from the 2014 DNR Secretary). There has not

yet been any public input on the situation. Discussion included that there was great concern for the conflict between the money allocation and the regulations and that while funding for trails is welcomed, it should be utilized in appropriate locations. In news reports so far, no one has been able to answer how to resolve the conflicting legislation. John made a motion, 2nd by Mike K. to write a letter of concern and send it to DNR Secretary Riccio, Office of Outdoor Recreation Daryl Anthony, Forest Service, Garrett Co Commissioners, Town of Friendsville, Town of Oakland, and the Forestry Board Association. The motion passed. John and Mike M. will draft the letter.

A meeting of the Mountain Watershed Association will be held at Deep Creek Lake State Park Discovery Center on June 14th to discuss the Yough River Conservation Plan. Although this isn't specifically related to the trail funding, many people are expected to attend to voice their concerns.

Mountain Loggers

No June meeting will be held.

Forestry Board Association

A save the date was sent for October 27th for a tentatively blended in person & virtual meeting.

Delmarva Woodland Stewards

Woodland Stewardship seminars will be held in October/November virtually. Registration is \$35 by early July.

MDOT Urban Tree Grant

Grant details and applications are available online. Siera will help share the information with the towns.

UCF Coordinator

Melissa shared that the newly hired Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator for western region is Anita Simmons, formerly a forester for Verso and the City of Cumberland.

Garrett County 150th Celebration

The main event to celebrate the county's sesquicentennial will be Saturday September 17th at the fairgrounds. Will made a motion, 2nd by Mike K. to set up a booth. The motion passed. There is no cost to set up. Ideas included more tree giveaways as well as forest history. Further discussion was tabled.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be July 11th at 9am at Mt. Nebo.

Melissa Nash
Secretary

Upcoming Dates

July 11 – next regular meeting

July 12 – Mountain Loggers

July 24-30 – NRCC

July 29 – meeting at NRCC, board members serve as landowners, fair booth set up

July 31 – photo contest judging

August 2 – French fry booth

August 4 – man Forestry Board booth 2-8pm

August 5 – man Forestry Board booth 2-8pm

August 6 – man Forestry Board booth 12-9pm

August 7 – tear down booth