



Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting October 17, 2022

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday October 17, 2022 at Mt. Nebo. Those Board members in attendance either in person or remotely were: Mike Minnick, Mike Kozier, Mike Ferguson, Bill Aiken, Bill Buckel, Fred Eggleston, Ken Fisher, John Bambacus, Will Williams, and Melissa Nash. Also in attendance was Siera Wigfield.

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

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with a minor correction following a motion by Fred and 2nd by Mike F.

Bill Buckel read the treasurer's report. Expenses included ordering seedlings for 3rd graders for spring, tree & sign for sesquicentennial planting and Forestry Board t-shirts.

Forestry Board	\$5,080.02
MUCFC	\$0
NRCC	\$2,342.26
Workshop/Ed	\$543.11
Scholarship	\$1,763.05

A motion to accept the report was made by Ken & 2nd by Fred.

Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 6	Mike K – 4	Mike F. – 29
Mike M. – 24	Fred – 4	Derek – no report
Larry – no report	Will – 8	John – 15
Bill B. – 11	Bill A. – 3	

TOTAL 104 hrs

OLD BUSINESS:

Watershed/Waterwise

Siera reported the composting workshops went well. Approximately 45 barrels were distributed and they are working on ways to promote & distribute remaining barrels.

There was no update on a possible new watershed coordinator. She is hopeful to have a watershed implementation plan to have specific actions to focus on each year from the larger Deep Creek Watershed plan.

Yough River

Mike M. & John attended the Sept 26th meeting in Friendsville. Yough River Keepers gave a presentation on the area and the old logging railroad where the improved trail has been proposed. Over 1,300 letters were reported to have been sent to DNR in response to the meeting. Currently, DNR is working on an RFP for a pre-engineering study.

Statewide Forestry Board Meeting

Agenda has been sent for the Oct 27th meeting in Montgomery County. No update yet on a virtual option. Mike M. is a new executive committee member representing western region.

150th Celebration

Mike M. thanked everyone involved in the event at the fairgrounds. Total attendance was approximately 2,000 and Mike estimated about 700 visited our booth.

The sesquicentennial tree will be planted at 1pm on Wednesday October 19th at the Friendsville Community park.

NEW BUSINESS:

Membership

Member reappointment forms were received from Mike M, Mike F, Mike K, Fred and Will. Mike M. thanked everyone for their continued contributions to the Board.

Mt. Loggers

The Log-A-Load auction on October 6th raised \$165,000 for WVU Childrens' Hospital. Mt. Loggers has an elimination dinner on Oct 28th. Tickets are \$100 and a few are still available. Some discussion was held on supporting their efforts this fall/winter. Mike M. will check to see what they need coming up for the holidays and we will revisit at our next meeting. The next Mt. Loggers meeting is November 8th.

Darling 58 Chestnut

Melissa spoke with a representative from SUNY-ESF about obtaining pollen from the Darling 58 chestnut. This may be a possibility for the 2024 planting season. The MD nursery is also looking at the possibility of growing seedlings. Mike M. would like to re-evaluate our parent trees and possibly try pollinating with local pollen in 2023.

NRCC

Applications are open for 2023.

<https://marylandforestryfoundation.org/index.cfm?event=nrcc>

Discussion was held on when to start promoting in the schools. We will start now with Envirothon & FFA, but heavily promote after winter break. Bill B. suggested a newspaper article closer to camp.

Fees have increased to a total of \$650/student. Discussion was held on whether we should increase our deposit. We currently ask for \$100 from the student/family (which is what the activity fee was years ago). The activity fee is now \$150. Points made included not wanting to create a hardship for local families with interested students, but also that they need to have some “skin in the game” as we loose the rest if they drop out at the last minute. The family of our 2022 student donated their deposit toward a future student. Discussion on deposit was tabled until November.

Scholarship

Discussion was held on the Forestry Board Scholarship deadline and amount. Many scholarships are not due until May – ours is currently due March 1st. We also gave out 2 awards this year at \$250 each. Bill B. made a motion to raise the amount to \$500 (one award) with a deadline of May 1. Bill A. 2nd and the motion passed. Hopefully this will encourage more applicants. Melissa will update the forms on the website.

Monster Trunk Tally

Melissa shared information on Forestry for the Bay’s Monster Trunk Tally photo contest. Submissions are due by October 24th.

Christmas Breakfast

Mike M. made a reservation at Perkins for our December meeting (9am on Dec 12th). He would like to try to get a group photo at the meeting if everyone can attend.

PGSF Advisory

Mike K. reported he will be attending the upcoming Potomac Garrett State Forest Advisory meeting.

Garrett County Economic Development Strategic Plan

A meeting was held recently focusing on agricultural & natural resources related economic development in the county. Melissa was unable to attend, but had shared some forestry statistics. Mike M. reported that potential wood-fired projects as well as ag composting and the Yough trail were discussed.

Envirothon Training

Fall training will be held on October 25th from 9:30-11:30 at Hickory.

White Oak Initiative

Bill B. collected acorns for the program. The goal is to grow seedlings and complete progeny testing to improve overall white oak genetics.

Soil Conservation District

The Garrett Soil Conservation District has hired a new director – Seth Metheny.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be November 14th at 9am at Mt. Nebo.

Melissa Nash
Secretary

Upcoming Dates

October 19 – Sesquicentennial tree planting

October 25 – Envirothon training

October 27 – Statewide Forestry Board meeting

October 28 – Mt. Loggers Elimination Dinner

November 8 – Mt. Loggers meeting

November 14 – Garrett Co Forestry Board meeting @ Mt. Nebo

December 12 – Garrett Co Forestry Board meeting @ Perkins