



## Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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### Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting February 13, 2023

#### Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday February 13, 2023 at Mt. Nebo. Those Board members in attendance were: Mike Minnick, Mike Kozier, Mike Ferguson, Bill Buckel, Bill Aiken, Ken Fisher, John Bambacus, Will Williams, Siera Wigfield, Larry Tichnell, and Melissa Nash. Also in attendance was Katherine Phillips.

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

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

Bill Buckel read the treasurer’s report. We received \$2,000 in funding from the county.

Forestry Board	\$6,864.27
MUCFC	\$0
NRCC	\$2,642.26
Workshop/Ed	\$543.11
Scholarship	\$1,763.05

A motion to accept the report was made by Larry and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike K.

#### Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 5	Mike K – 12	Mike F. – 3
Mike M. – 15	Fred – no report	Derek – 3
Larry – 3	Will – 3	John – 6
Bill B. – 16	Bill A. – 3	

**TOTAL 69 hrs**

#### **Guest Presentation**

Katherine Phillips, Tree Planting Specialist with MD Forest Service gave a presentation on the 5 Million Tree Program. The goal of the program is to plant 5 million native trees statewide by 2031 through afforestation. All settings including urban/rural, public/private and regardless of watershed are open to the program.

5MT planting funds do come with a required landowner agreement that is recorded as a deed amendment restricting harvesting or removal of the trees for 15 years. Funding

includes site prep, contractor services, trees, shelters, stakes and up to 3 years of follow-up maintenance. Seedling planting sites should be a minimum of 1 acre and desire to plant at least 200 trees per acre. Urban funding is limited to identified underserved communities (Oakland, Mt. Lake Park & Loch Lynn for Garrett County).

Many questions from the board were raised regarding targeted outreach & promotion of 5MT and interaction with existing planting programs. Katherine is working with many partner organizations & agencies and is open to more suggestions. Suggestions were offered on promoting planting through Farm Bureau, Farm Services Agency and Extension.

Katherine will also be collecting seed for the state nursery of traditionally hard to source species including speckled alder, redbud, persimmon and serviceberry.

The 5 Million Trees program information can be found at <https://dnr.maryland.gov/Documents/5MillionTreesPlease.pdf>.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Poster Contest**

We received a total of 36 entries from 4 schools (Accident, Calvary Christian, Crellin & Friendsville). Winners were all from Accident Elementary.

1<sup>st</sup> – Emma Secrist

2<sup>nd</sup> – Codyn Alvarado

3<sup>rd</sup> – Elodie Morel

Melissa will notify their teachers and invite the students to be recognized at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> County Commissioners meeting.

### **NRCC**

We received 1 application from a student at Northern High School. Melissa and Mike M. will work on setting up an interview. Larry may know of another interested student.

### **Watershed**

Siera reported most items to be in a holding pattern. She advised that Julie Bortz has left DNR Resource Assessment Service.

Loch Lynn's draft comprehensive plan is complete. Friendsville is starting the process. Town comprehensive plans will recommend updating town tree inventories as most are 15-20 years old.

### **Yough River**

John received a response from the DNR Acting Secretary Kurtz thanking him for his information on the Yough River situation. In his letter back to John he mentioned visiting Garrett County. Official confirmation to the Secretary position is expected soon.

## **Ethics Filing**

Everyone should have received an email about ethics filing. Please complete by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Mushroom Workshop**

Date and location (Tamarack Pavilion at DCLSP) has been confirmed for 9am on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Melissa shared the flier and we are ready to begin accepting registrations. Mike M. is working with a couple loggers on the possibility of appropriate size white oak logs from tops. If that doesn't work out, we will cut our own again in mid-March. Melissa will share the flier with Extension, Discovery Center, Deep Creek Times and our website & Facebook page.

We will need drills, hammers, a rake, putty knife, table covers, rulers/hole template, condiment cups, bags for plugs and knives/spoons for dividing wax.

Final prep/drop off of logs at the park will be on April 21 (time TBD).

## **Pens/Giveaways**

Will made a motion to purchase 1,000 pens and 500 yard sticks as giveaway items at a total cost of approximately \$1,000. John 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion passed. Melissa will place the order.

## **Forestry Day in Annapolis**

Bill B. attended along with Melissa. An interesting presentation from InventWood on innovative wood products for building, insulation, etc was given.

## **Big Tree**

Mike K., Derek & Melissa measured the new State Champion eastern hemlock in Swallow Falls State Park. An article featuring the tree was in The Republican. The former county champion was also re-measured that day.

Mike K. & Melissa measured the new County Champion Norway spruce as well as 2 white oaks & 1 red oak that did not qualify as new champions.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Association Meeting**

The state Forestry Board Association meeting will be March 9<sup>th</sup> at Tawes in Annapolis. Melissa will attend in person if anyone would like a ride. A Google Meet option will also be available.

### **Legislative Updates**

The biomass bill from last year has come back as HB718/SB590. A hearing will be held 2/28. MFA is again asking for our support on a letter opposing the bill. The Board agreed to again support MFA's letter as well as draft a similar letter.

Environmental compliance on the long eared bat could restrict timber harvesting near known roost sites.

The MD Forest Education Fund bill amendment would guarantee funding for forestry educational efforts.

Proposed changes to the Licensed Tree Expert law would increase penalties for violations, but would also increase stipulations on working under another person's license and require someone to be an employee of a company to work under the license.

### **Mt. Loggers**

The February meeting is cancelled. The next meeting will be March 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Spotted Lanternfly**

An informational webinar will be hosted by Extension on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon. Details were previously sent.

### **Native Plant Festival**

The event will be May 13<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm at New Germany State Park. Last year we had an unmanned display due to short notice and lack of someone available to be there in person. This year we will plan on having a manned display. This will be a good opportunity to promote NRCC, tree planting & stewardship.

### **Envirothon**

Training will be April 12<sup>th</sup> and the county competition will be April 26 (both at Hickory). The state Envirothon will be June 15-16 at the 4-H Center. Melissa will take care of ordering books for the winning county team again. Estimated cost is approx. \$150.

### **Pest Update**

The annual pest update at New Germany will be February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Information and agenda has been sent.

### **ACM Woodsmen Meet**

Allegany College will host the Mid-Atlantic Woodsmen Meet April 14-15. They will need help with timekeeping for events & food. More information will be coming.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Monday March 13<sup>th</sup> at the old Kitzmiller School. Following the meeting we will plan on measuring trees in the Botanical Garden weather permitting.

Melissa Nash  
Secretary

**Upcoming Dates**

February 22 – Pest Update at New Germany

March 9 – Statewide Forestry Board meeting

March 13 – Garrett Co Forestry Board meeting @ Kitzmiller

March 14 – Mt. Loggers Meeting

March 22 – Spotted lanternfly webinar

April 12 – Envirothon training

April 14-15 – ACM Woodsmen Meet

April 26 – County Envirothon Competition