



Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday March 13, 2023 at the old Kitzmiller School. Those Board members in attendance were: Ken Fisher, Mike Minnick, Larry Tichnell, Bill Buckel, Mike Kozier, Fred Eggleston, Will Williams, Bill Aiken, Mike Ferguson, Derek Buckel, John Bambacus, Siera Wigfield, and Melissa Nash. 100% attendance was noted.

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

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

Bill Buckel read the treasurer’s report. We ordered and have received the pens and yard sticks (cost of \$967.02). Checks totaling \$150 have also been written for our poster contest winners. Those will be distributed at the Commissioners meeting.

Forestry Board	\$5,747.25
MUCFC	\$0
NRCC	\$2,642.26
Workshop/Ed	\$543.11
Scholarship	\$1,763.05

A motion to accept the report was made by Ken and 2nd by Derek.

Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 3	Mike K – 4	Mike F. – 3
Mike M. – 23	Fred – 3	Derek – 15
Larry – 3	Will – 3	John – 15
Bill B. – 11	Bill A. – 3	Siera - 3

TOTAL 89 hrs

OLD BUSINESS:

Watershed/Waterwise

Siera reported the new MOU should be finalized in the next month

Yough River

Secretary Kurtz is visiting western MD and meeting with DNR staff.

John reported that there is some debate now over what will happen with the allocated trail money. The County Commissioners and the Town of Friendsville wrote letters expressing their opposition for the trail in the Yough Canyon part of the corridor. Siera is looking into the possibility of more trail planning funding for the county.

Poster Contest

County level winners were:

1st – Emma Secrist

2nd – Codyn Alvarado

3rd – Elodie Morel

Emma also won 3rd in the state contest. Melissa is working with Accident Elementary to schedule planting of Emma's 5 trees for late April. Our 3 county winners will be recognized at the April 3rd Commissioners meeting at 4pm. We will have an Arbor Day proclamation and hand out sugar maple seedlings to those in attendance.

NRCC

Mike M, Mike K, and Melissa interviewed Jacob from Northern High School. He has been accepted and we received his deposit. We also have an applicant from Southern High School. The state association is looking to increase sponsorships for NRCC. The Garrett Board has been asked to serve as landowners again on the Friday of camp.

Mushroom Workshop

There have been 13 people sign up so far. Mike M. spoke with Eric Glotfelty about getting white oak logs. He also talked to one of last year's participants who is starting to get some mushrooms.

Promotional Items

Melissa reported the pens and yard sticks have arrived. Mike M. suggested giving one of each to our poster winners. Melissa also advised that the company (4Imprint) offers grants to non-profit organizations for promotional items. We can apply through the Foundation.

Association Meeting

Ken Fisher was recognized with a Mel Noland Award during the recent Association meeting.

Melissa attended in person. Mike M. attended virtually. An overview of the Forest Service staffing and budget was given. The Forest Service Annual Report will be coming out soon with a page focused on the Forestry Boards. Jim Bardsley gave a presentation on using Big Tree scores to estimate carbon sequestration. That paper can be downloaded here

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/342500894_Carbon_Sequestration_Assessm

[ent of Selected Campus Champion Trees](#). MUCFC funding has been increased to \$20,000 (up from \$10,000). MDOT grants may be used within 1 mile of a state numbered road or SHA facility. Up to \$5,000 is available per project and up to 5% of the total awarded can be used for signage. The program has January and July deadlines. A possible Urban Forestry Camp is still being discussed for 2024. The next Association meeting is tentatively planned for November 2nd.

NEW BUSINESS:

Library Display

Melissa will contact the Library to schedule set up. We will display or poster contest winners. As space allows, we can also focus on the mushroom workshop and Big Tree.

Civic Club Funding

The Civic Club funding meeting will be March 28th and a representative will need to attend in order for the Forestry Board to be eligible. Melissa or Siera will attend.

Biomass & Legislative Update

There is support for a biomass boiler project in western MD if there is interest locally.

Derek spoke on the proposed changes to the Licensed Tree Expert law. Although changes would increase fines for offenders, it would also make it extremely difficult for subcontractors to work under a license, which is a common industry practice, and also require sole proprietors to carry workers comp insurance, which is not normal. He spoke with the legislators who sponsored the bill and expressed his concerns. They acknowledged the information he provided and said they would consider it.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday April 10th at Mt. Nebo. Following the meeting members measured several trees in the Kitzmiller Botanical Garden.

Melissa Nash
Secretary

Upcoming Dates

March 22 – Spotted lanternfly webinar
Late March – package seedlings for schools
April 3 – Commissioners meeting/Arbor Day proclamation/Poster winners @4pm
April 11 – Mt. Loggers meeting
April 12 – Envirothon training
April 14-15 – ACM Woodsmen Meet
April 21 – set up for Mushroom workshop
April 22 – Mushroom workshop
April 26 – County Envirothon Competition