



Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting July 10, 2023

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday July 10, 2023 at Mt. Nebo. Those Board members in attendance were: Mike Minnick, Mike Kozier, Bill Buckel, Will Williams, Fred Eggleston, Siera Wigfield, John Bambacus, Ken Fisher, Larry Tichnell and Melissa Nash.

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

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved following a motion by John and 2nd by Ken.

Bill Buckel read the treasurer's report. We paid the remainder of our NRCC balance, scholarship award and reimbursed Mike M. for expenses from the mushroom workshop. We will have \$550 in deposits to return once all students have successfully attended NRCC (one student sent in \$150 instead of \$100).

Forestry Board	\$5,343.21
MUCFC	\$0
NRCC	\$2,587.26
Scholarship	\$2,494.07

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

Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 5	Mike K – 8	Mike F. – no report
Mike M. – 7	Fred – 3	Derek – 1 (reported by Bill)
Larry – 3	Will – 17	John – 20
Bill B. – 5	Bill A. – no report	Siera - 5

TOTAL 74 hrs

OLD BUSINESS:

Watershed

Siera will post the MOU to the county website.

Siera has a list of the Yough Advisory Board from the last time it was convened in 2014. There were some more recent appointments. The Yough management plan hasn't been updated in 20+ years. John asked who convenes the Board and so far no one has been able to answer if it is the county or the state.

Chestnut Pollination

Mike K. and Melissa checked trees 2 weeks ago. No female flowers were found and catkin development was behind.

NRCC

NRCC is full at 42 students. They are still looking for male and female night staff. At least 5 Board members will be available to serve as landowners.

Envirothon

Will helped with the state event. Garrett County placed 10th. Allegany County placed 2nd overall. There is a possibility MD will put a bid in for the 2027 International event.

Fundraising Raffle

Please have any chainsaw raffle tickets (sold or unsold) turned in by July 28th so we know what we have left to sell during the fair. We have approximately \$110 worth sold so far.

Fair Schedule

Mike M. went over the schedule again and sent around a sign up sheet for the information booth and French fries.

MALPF

Siera said she had a total of 21 easement applications.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mt. Loggers

Will made a motion, 2nd by Fred to sponsor a hole for the Mt. Loggers golf tournament in September. Cost is \$100. The motion passed.

Yough River Bridge

A public meeting will be held this evening at Garrett College to discuss the bridge replacement within the Wild & Scenic River Corridor. John has been keeping up on the process and sharing information with the Board. Melissa shared information on the forest laws that would apply.

Solar Farms

Bill B. said he and other landowners are being approached about leasing their property for solar farms. He is concerned with removal of forest, what will happen with the equipment after the lease is over, restoration cost, and conversion of prime farmland.

He has asked point blank and the leasing companies are reluctant to provide answers to those questions. Many are proposing a 25-30 year lifespan/lease. Other concerns raised include leasing companies changing hands/buyouts and advertising large payments that may not materialize. The county is looking at ways to regulate restoration requirements. Suggestions included requiring a bond up front similar to mining projects.

Thank You Note

Melissa read a thank you note from Annie Martin for the scholarship.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be July 28th at 9am at Hickory Environmental Center.

Melissa Nash
Secretary

Upcoming Dates

July 28 – Meeting at NRCC (9am), Serve as landowners (11am), Set up fair booth (tentatively 1:30)

July 30 – Photo contest judging 1pm

August 1 – Rotary fry booth (approx. 10am-5pm), Man Forestry Board booth (5pm-9pm)

August 3 – Man Forestry Board booth (5pm-9pm)

August 4 – 4-H Awards Ceremony (time TBD), Man Forestry Board booth (5pm-9pm)

August 5 – Man Forestry Board booth (12pm-9pm), Chainsaw raffle drawing

No regular August meeting