



## Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

1728 Kings Run Road, Oakland, MD 21550 • 301-334-3296

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### Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting October 2, 2023

#### Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday October 2, 2023 at the Kitzmiller Botanical Garden. Those Board members in attendance were: Mike Minnick, Will Williams, John Bambacus, Bill Aiken, Mike Ferguson, Larry Tichnell, Siera Wigfield, Fred Eggleston and Melissa Nash.

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

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

Melissa read the treasurer's report. We have issued deposit refunds to 4 of our 5 NRCC students. She will remind the 5<sup>th</sup> student to get his letter in ASAP. She will also follow up with the poster contest winner who has not cashed their check yet.

Forestry Board	\$4,981.30
MUCFC	\$0
NRCC	\$3,502.26
Scholarship	\$2,494.07

The report was accepted following a motion made by Will and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred.

#### Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – no report	Mike K – no report	Mike F. – 3
Mike M. – 10	Fred – 3	Derek – no report
Larry – 3	Will – 3	John – 7
Bill B. – 11 (via email)	Bill A. – 3	Siera – 4

**TOTAL 47 hrs**

#### OLD BUSINESS:

##### **American Chestnut**

John, Melissa and Mike K. met with the owners of a new (to us) tree in Friendsville. The tree measures 15.4 inches DBH and is in excellent condition. It is approximately 100 ft off of a driveway and not directly accessible by bucket truck. There may be a possibility

of getting a man lift to it for pollination. Like many of our other trees, few of this year's burrs were present, which means it did not have many female flowers this year.

Melissa gave an overview of the Chestnut Chat Darling 58 update. The regulation process has been delayed. The D58 chestnuts will have varying degrees of resistance, but unlike Chinese x American crosses, will contain 100% American genetics. Crossing D58 on our local stock will result in 50% of offspring with some degree of blight resistance.

### **Mt. Loggers**

We received a thank you letter for sponsoring a hole for their golf tournament. Log A Load auction will be Oct 5 in Elkins and their elimination dinner is Oct 21. Next meeting is Oct 10.

### **Envirothon Training**

Will be held at Hickory on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Forestry will be in the afternoon. More details will be sent when they are available.

### **Yough River**

A judicial review has been filed against the Secretary of DNR over the exception.

### **Watershed**

Siera reported that Dan is working on a sediment control plan surrounding the Arrowhead Cove dredging project. The county will be scheduling interviews for a watershed coordinator soon.

Will has a presentation on stormwater practices he will plan to present at the November meeting.

### **Big Tree**

We have good summer calendar photos now and will continue to work on fall photos. Discussion was held on whether to feature 1 tree per month along with some information or use 2 trees per month. Siera suggested trying to have a draft in January/February and have calendars in hand by late March so they can be distributed for Arbor Day. Other suggestions for filling margins/extra space were to include poster and/or photo contest winners & information.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Statewide Forestry Board Meeting**

The agenda has been sent out. A discussion was held on whether the meeting could rotate location so the same Boards weren't having to travel all the time to attend in person. John made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Will to pursue hosting the spring meeting in the western region. Mike M. and Melissa will work on possible locations and draft a letter to the state committee.

## **MUCFC**

Siera reported that the county received an award letter for the MDOT grant request she submitted for projects in Oakland & Bloomington (10-12 trees). Funding is supposed to be sent to the Forestry Board, but funds have not been released yet and may not be in time for a fall planting.

Other suggestions for future projects included revitalizing the Accident arboretum & trail and Deer Park street trees.

John asked which towns participate in Tree City USA. They are Oakland, Loch Lynn and Friendsville.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be November 13<sup>th</sup> at 9am at Mt. Nebo.

Melissa Nash  
Secretary

## **Upcoming Dates**

October 5 – Mt. Loggers Log A Load auction  
October 8 – WV Chestnut Festival  
October 10 – Mt. Loggers meeting @ Pine Lodge  
October 17 – Envirothon training (PM – more details to come)  
October 21 – Mt. Loggers elimination dinner  
November 2 – Statewide Forestry Board meeting  
November 13 – Next regular meeting