



Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday November 13, 2023 at Mt. Nebo. Those Board members in attendance were: Mike Minnick, Will Williams, John Bambacus, Bill Aiken, Mike Ferguson, Siera Wigfield, Fred Eggleston, Mike Kozier, Bill Buckel, Ken Fisher and Melissa Nash. Guest in attendance virtually was Dan McCrary.

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

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

Bill B. read the treasurer's report. We received \$1,451 from MUCFC for the Oakland/Bloomington MDOT plantings and \$300 from Oakland Rotary for working in the fry booth (for NRCC). All checks have now cleared the bank.

Forestry Board	\$4,981.30
MUCFC	\$1,451.00
NRCC	\$3,802.26
Scholarship	\$2,494.07

The report was accepted following a motion made by Will and 2nd by Fred.

Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 5	Mike K – 4	Mike F. – 3
Mike M. – 13	Fred – 3	Derek – no report
Larry – no report	Will – 6	John – 7
Bill B. – 19	Bill A. – 3	Siera – 5

TOTAL 68 hrs

Special presentation:

Will gave a presentation on stormwater management practices.

OLD BUSINESS:

Watershed

Siera said 2 applications were received for the watershed coordinator position, but none interviewed. They are back to square one. She will share the posting.

Ken reported that the Deep Creek Lake Watershed Foundation is beginning a study on the several strains of e-coli in the lake. The primary focus is to identify possible water contamination by fecal matter of geese in samples from the water entering Deep Creek Lake from 29 tributaries. Analysis of the water samples for specific DNA of types of e-coli will provide data on possible sources of e-coli from geese, human and other animals such as horses, cattle, deer, etc.

State Big Tree Program Logo

Melissa presented the final round of designs that was offered as a state program logo. Several board members expressed their continued dissatisfaction with the limited variation in the designs. Other comments included that the designs were very “busy” and that they were still married to the old tree instead of some new/fresh options. John made a motion to not cast a vote with the understanding that one of those options will become the state logo. Will 2nd and the motion passed. Further discussion included developing something additional specific to Garrett County. Siera will work with an AI generator to come up with some ideas.

Big Tree Calendar

Melissa was able to get some additional photos for fall. She will bring updated photos to the December meeting.

MDOT

As mentioned in the treasurers report, the MDOT grant money for plantings in Oakland and Bloomington was received, but not in time to order trees and schedule a fall planting. The money does need spent by the end of the year. Melissa and Siera will work on getting the order placed for spring delivery.

Kitzmiller Botanical Garden

Melissa made a sign for the liberty tree that was installed last week. She has also completed the story map and it is live online for public viewing. The story map includes historical information as well as an interactive tour map with photos and GPS locations of each tree. It is accessible to the public here <https://arcg.is/Xe0Wa>.

Some trees will still need measured. Melissa and Mike K will work on coordinating that, possibly including college students again.

Yough River

John shared a letter to the editor he wrote that was in a recent issue of The Republican. The judicial review falls under the circuit court and a decision should be made soon. A law from the 2022 legislative session (HB784) titled the Irreplaceable Natural Areas

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Mt. Loggers

Next regular meeting is November 14th at 6pm at Pine Lodge.

Christmas dinner will be December 12th at 6pm at Pine Lodge. Forestry Board members are invited to attend. Cost is \$20/person and RSVP/payment is required by December 1.

The group has raised over \$200,000 this year from their Log-A-Load auction, golf tournament and elimination dinner. Most funds are donated to needs at the WVU Children's hospital and to local needs within the surrounding area. Mt. Loggers includes members from MD and WV.

Green Space Equality Program

Western MD representation is requested – interested persons will need to submit an application & resume. Siera will send information.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday December 11th at 9am at Perkins.

Melissa Nash
Secretary

Upcoming Dates

November 14 – Mt. Loggers meeting

December 5 – BBD/BLD webinar

December 11 – GCFB breakfast meeting @ Perkins

December 12 – Mt. Loggers Christmas dinner (RSVP required)

Sometime in December – Hickory open house (will share info once announced)