



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 February 14, 2022

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday February 14, 2022 at Mt. Nebo. Those Board members in attendance either in person or remotely were: Derek Buckel, Bill Aiken, Larry Tichnell, Ken Fisher, Mike Minnick, and Melissa Nash. Also in attendance were Siera Wigfield and John Bambacus. Due to unknown technical difficulties, some members were unable to join the meeting virtually.

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

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

The treasurer's report was given as follows.

Forestry Board	\$8,136.45
MUCFC	\$0
NRCC	\$1,620.26
Workshop/Ed	\$543.11
Scholarship	\$1,430.00

The Town of Oakland submitted receipts for the mulch purchased through their MUCFC grant. A check was written to them in the amount of \$180 to close out that grant.

Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 9	Mike K – no report	Mike F. – no report
Mike M – 12	Fred – no report	Derek B. – 5
Larry – 3	Will – no report	John - 3
Bill B. – no report	Bill A. – 3	

TOTAL: 35 hrs.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mushroom Workshop

We will plan on setting up/dropping off materials the Thursday or Friday before. As of the meeting, there were 8 signed up (either from previously or new). We should plan to have water/coffee/cookies in the morning. Melissa & Bill A will meet up in the next couple weeks to get supplies ordered. We will be able to use the drill bits for future

workshops or could loan them out to schools/groups wanting to do an activity on their own. Melissa will send the flier to Hickory, the newspaper, Deep Creek Times and the Weekender. We should designate someone to take photos/video the day of the event.

Poster Contest

We received a total of 11 entries from Crellin and Calvary Christian. 10 of those met the criteria to be judged. Board members voted and the results for county level winners were:

1st place – Ryaa Brenneman (Calvary Christian)

2nd place – Elizabeth Maust (Calvary Christian)

3rd place – Emma Wass (Calvary Christian)

State level judging will take place Friday February 18th. Melissa will take care of sending Ryaa's poster.

We are on the Commissioners meeting agenda for April 4th at 4pm to present the awards and recognize Arbor Day. Melissa will request an Arbor Day proclamation.

Scholarships

The deadline for our scholarship is March 1st. Application is posted on our website. Other opportunities available for students include the Mountain Loggers Scholarship, Soil Conservation District Scholarship and the MD Forestry Foundation Scholarship.

Waterwise

No update.

LPPRP

Siera shared a draft of the LPPRP. It is going to DNR for comments and will go out for public comment in the spring. If any Board members have suggestions, please let her know by the March meeting. There is not a publicly available link yet, but a copy of the plan has been sent to all Board members.

NEW BUSINESS:

Big Tree Fund Request

Mike M. read a letter from the State Big Tree Committee asking for funds to support the program on the state level. Reasons for the funds having been depleted include mileage & toll reimbursement for those measuring trees, mailing permission forms, website hosting & occasional measuring equipment. Discussion included that Garrett Board members have traditionally measured trees without asking for any reimbursement and we have emailed or mailed permission forms locally so we are not utilizing funds from the committee in that aspect. It was noted that the committee does maintain the database and website which includes our historic records. Mike M. made a motion, seconded by Melissa, to donate \$250. The motion passed.

Library Window

Melissa has scheduled the window display for April. She will find out when we can set up the display at the end of March. Discussion on what to promote included Big Tree, poster contest winners, Arbor Day, LPPRP, Waterwise and Woods in Your Backyard.

Woods in Your Backyard

Mike M, Melissa and Derek have signed up for the train-the-trainer workshop in March.

State Forest Work Plans

State Forest annual work plans are open for public comment through March 4th. You can view the plans and submit comments here:

[https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2022/02/01/public-comment-sought-for-2023-maryland-state-forest-work-plans/?fbclid=IwAR0DCbLTKsljaHF73Ib3CWybUHvkOVT8K5HrI\\$Blowuyu_tOc4YwU5vZk9A4](https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2022/02/01/public-comment-sought-for-2023-maryland-state-forest-work-plans/?fbclid=IwAR0DCbLTKsljaHF73Ib3CWybUHvkOVT8K5HrI$Blowuyu_tOc4YwU5vZk9A4)

Pest Update

The annual pest update will now be virtual on February 23. A link will be sent to all Board members.

Smokey Bear

Mike M. talked about possibilities for more promotion of Smokey Bear since many kids at the fair last year were unfamiliar with him. Ideas included during the fair, at Hickory/during NRCC, etc. Melissa suggested that Board members could attend the VIP (Volunteers In Prevention) training to be able to put on Smokey programs using the suit. Ken suggested a Smokey Bear photo-op type display.

MUCFC

Melissa reported that Oakland submitted their receipts for mulch totaling more than their grant amount. She has asked Bill B. for a check to them for their \$180. That will close out that grant.

Sky Valley Association has submitted a new application for tree planting in their common area.

Mike M. shared information on the new MDOT Urban Tree Grant program.

NRCC

Only 6 students have applied statewide so far. This is well behind where we normally stand with applications. Mike M. will look into promoting the program in schools with Envirothon & FFA.

Verso

The Verso company as a whole has been bought out. It is unknown how/if that will affect the status of the Luke property.

Tree-Mendous

Spring orders are now open for trees to be planted on public properties. Tree delivery will be in early April.

Mountain Loggers

No one from the Board was able to attend the last meeting and no report was available.

Forestry Board Association Meeting

Save the date for a virtual meeting March 3rd. More details will be sent when they are available.

Legislative Updates

Melissa has been forwarding weekly legislative updates.

Mike M. reported that MFA is opposing HB11. This is a renewable energy bill that removes “wood” from being included as a biomass. A hearing will be held March 4th. They are asking Forestry Boards to sign on to a letter they have drafted. Ken made a motion, seconded by Mike M. for the Garrett Board to be included. Melissa will let MFA know.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be March 14th at 9am at Mt. Nebo.

Melissa Nash
Secretary

Upcoming Dates

February 23 – Pest update (now virtual)

March 1 – Scholarship deadline

March 3 – Statewide virtual meeting

March 8 – Mountain Loggers

March 14 – Regular meeting

April 2 – Mushroom workshop @ Discovery Center