



## Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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### Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting February 12, 2024

#### Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday February 12, 2024 at Mt. Nebo. Those Board members in attendance either in person or virtually were: Mike Minnick, Mike Kozier, Mike Ferguson, Will Williams, Larry Tichnell, Ken Fisher, Bill Aiken, Bill Buckel, Derek Buckel, Siera Wigfield and Melissa Nash.

The agenda was approved with motion by Mike K and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Siera.

Guests in attendance were introduced. Don Sebold is the chair of the Youghiogheny River Advisory Board. Ryan Mayenschein is the TreeMendous program coordinator. Adam Miller is the secretary of the Allegany County Forestry Board.

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

Bill B. read the treasurer's report. There were no changes from the last meeting. Balances were as follows:

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Forestry Board | \$3,722.37 |
| MUCFC          | \$821.00   |
| NRCC           | \$3,702.26 |
| Scholarship    | \$2,494.07 |

The report was accepted following a motion made by Siera and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike K.

#### Volunteer Hours:

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

|              |                  |                      |
|--------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Ken – 4      | Mike K – 10      | Mike F. – 3          |
| Mike M. – 12 | Fred – no report | Derek – 3            |
| Larry – 3    | Will – 3         | John – 9 (via email) |
| Bill B. – 4  | Bill A. – 3      | Siera – 12           |

**TOTAL 66 hrs**

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Watershed**

Siera reported the Arrowhead Cove dredging project has been completed. A total of 11,529 cubic yards of sediment were removed and taken to the landfill. Ken asked about a recent news article on the project that referenced the removed sediment being monitored and asked what that meant. No immediate answer was available.

Two good candidates have applied for the watershed coordinator position. Siera is working on setting up interviews.

Siera invited Sarah Llewellyn with UMD Extension to come to our meetings and possibly coordinate on projects.

### **Big Tree Calendar**

Target date to order is March 1. A few edits were made during the meeting. Please have any additional edits to Siera soon.

(Following the meeting, Derek noted that the champion aspen that is included in the calendar has severely declined and he will be removing it for the homeowner soon. We will replace that month with a different tree.)

### **Poster Contest**

A statewide contest was made possible for this year. Deadline to submit entries is March 1. We will likely need to do an electronic vote for county winners. This year's theme is "Trees are Terrific...In All Shapes and Sizes".

Ryan requested all entries from counties be sent to Annapolis if possible to help fill space in the judging room and allow more students work to be displayed. Since we will be focusing on the Smokey Bear reading challenge for this year's window display we will not need to hold the posters locally.

Bill A suggested providing poster paper in future years to help encourage participation. He used to work with Westvaco to provide paper for some Farm Bureau projects. Although this would no longer be an option, we will try to reach out to art teachers before next year to see if providing paper would be of help.

### **Yough River**

John was unable to attend, but forwarded several emails and articles prior to the meeting.

Don shared that the proposed bridge width has now increased to 36 ft 8 inches. The old size was 28 ft. There are 8 old growth hemlocks proposed for removal as well as 5 trees proposed for root pruning. The motion to dismiss the judicial review was denied. The hearing will start April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The advisory board will tentatively meet on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Don also provided information on the background of the corridor, management plan and the advisory board. Mike M. invited Don to become a member of the Forestry Board.

### **MUCFC**

Prior to the meeting, Melissa sent out 3 new MUCFC applications that had been received for projects at Friendsville Elementary, Yough Glades Elementary and Garrett College. All 3 are being coordinated by Linda Harris of the Mt. Laurel Garden Club. We will know later this month if any or all have been funded. If funded, Melissa suggested adding separate columns on our financial report for each project to better keep track of funds.

The MUCFC grant we already have on the books for 3 locations (Oakland train station, Rotary Park and Bloomington Park) will tentatively be planted May 1<sup>st</sup>. Trees have been ordered and the remaining supplies for those projects will be purchased soon.

### **Smokey Bear Reading Challenge**

Melissa met with the Library and they are excited about partnering on the challenge. They will collect the forms at each branch and each participant can receive an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday pin or patch. She shared a suggested list of overall drawing prize packages for the established age groups the library typically uses (including books, hand lenses, write in rain notebooks, and adventure kits). We can also include Forestry Board tumblers, pens and rulers. Will made a motion to spend up to \$250 total on prizes. Mike F. 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion passed. Melissa will order the materials.

She is also working on planning 2 wildfire presentations/Smokey appearances in late March or early April for the Oakland and Grantsville branches. Bill A. suggested including the prize packages as part of our window display in April, possibly on a tree-shaped shelf if we can get or make one by then.

### **Commissioners Funding**

Melissa submitted the budget request for \$2,500 and we received a check for \$2,000. She will deposit it this week. Mike M. thanked Larry for the support. Melissa will send a thank you.

### **School Seedlings**

Trees will arrive in March. A packaging day will be set once arrival is known.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Ethics Filing**

This needs to be completed by April, sooner if possible. Any Board members who did not receive an email link or would rather complete over the phone may call Young Smith at 410-260-6174.

## **Scholarship**

John suggested via email prior to the meeting to increase the scholarship award amount to \$1,000. The scholarship is entirely supported by fundraising. Other suggestions included offering a 2<sup>nd</sup> scholarship in a smaller amount or a lesser increase. Melissa has already distributed the information to the schools for this year. Discussion was tabled and will be revisited in the fall.

## **NRCC**

Applications are open, but none have been received for Garrett County yet. Melissa has also sent this information to the schools. Gabrielle will be retiring from the camp director position this year. Mike M. suggested we get her a gift to thank her for supporting the camp for many years. Siera made a motion and Will 2<sup>nd</sup> to spend up to \$200. We will try to get some items donated, but suggestions included local consumables such as maple syrup, buckwheat mix, honey and gift cards. The motion passed.

## **Envirothon**

Save the dates for Envirothon training April 16<sup>th</sup> and for the competition April 30<sup>th</sup>. Melissa will order prize books.

## **Mt. Loggers**

Next meeting will be February 13<sup>th</sup> at Pine Lodge.

Mt. Loggers scholarship applications are open. They are offering \$1,500 to a student sponsored by a Mt. Loggers member. Deadline is March 5<sup>th</sup>.

<https://ycfwv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Mountain-Loggers-Group-Inc.-3.pdf>

## **Native Plant Festival**

We received an invitation to participate again this year. There is no cost for a non-profit organization. The event will be held at New Germany State Park May 11 from 10am-3pm. Will made a motion to participate, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Siera. We can decide on what to display later, but should have the calendars available to sell. The motion passed.

## **Pest Update**

Melissa sent out the agenda prior to the meeting. Date is February 28<sup>th</sup> at New Germany State Park. No RSVP is required for the meeting, but if you want to order with the group lunch, please follow the instructions in the email.

## **Paul Shogren**

Paul Shogren, past member of the Forestry Board, passed away in January. He previously wrote the "Barks and Bites" column in the local newspaper and was a member for 10+ years from about 2004 to 2015. Melissa asked if Gift of Trees money would be available to purchase a memorial tree. Ryan said there is. Suggested planting locations were his church, Hickory or Kitzmiller. Melissa will order a tree and look into locations.

### **Garrett College Foundation Letter**

At the January meeting, a thank you letter from the Garrett College Wildlife Club was read. Shortly after the meeting, a letter from the Garrett College Foundation was received also thanking us for the donation towards the students' Costa Rica trip. Melissa scanned and sent out the letter prior to the meeting.

### **Garrett County Trail Plan**

Siera will be requesting letters of support for developing a master trail/walk/bike plan for the county.

### **Legislative Updates**

Mike M. asked Ryan about legislative updates this year. Ryan said this is one of his new duties and he hopes to get something out soon.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Monday March 11<sup>th</sup> at 9am at Mt. Nebo.

Melissa Nash  
Secretary

### **Upcoming Dates**

February 13 – Mt. Loggers

February 28 – Pest Update

March 1 – Poster contest entry deadline

March 5 – Mt Loggers scholarship deadline

March 11 – Next regular meeting

Late March/early April – package seedlings for schools

April 1 – Commissioners meeting/Arbor Day proclamation

April 1 – Smokey Bear Reading Challenge Begins

April 16 – Envirothon training

April 30 – Envirothon competition