

Minutes
Allegheny County Forestry Board
June 16, 2022 from 9:00am – 12:00pm
Field-Rocky Gap White Pine Pavilion
To promote the stewardship, conservation and
sustainable use of forest resources in Allegheny County

Call to Order:

Chairman's Signature: _____

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ken Roberts at 9:12 am on June 16, 2022. Attendees included members: **Sherry Frick, Brad Metzger, Francis Zumbun, Steve Resh, Juls Wood, Ken Roberts Dennis Bittinger, Bernie Zlomek and Dan Hedderick**
- Not in attendance: **Marie Miller and Tom Mathews**
- **Note:** Special thank you to **Bernie** for bring pastries.

Goals and Annual Work Plan for the Board to meet for 2022
(Covid-19 may affect outcome):

- **Started** Develop the 2022 Goals and Annual Work Plan
- **Started** Raise funds to support Allegheny County Forestry Board
- **Started** Bring in new members
- **Started** Hold 6 local Forestry Board meetings and 4 special events
- **Completed** Complete all financial disclosure forms
- **Completed** Sign all Volunteer Forms
- **Exceeded with 3 students** Find, interview, approve and financially support 2 students for NRCC
- **Completed** Promote outreach for NRCC
- Support NRCC at camp with volunteers
- **Completed** Facilitate the Forestry portion of the Envirothon
- **Started** Organize, plan and co-sponsor with Allegheny Arts Council the photo contest at the Allegheny County Fair
- **Started** Facilitate 2 PLT Workshops
- **Completed** Facilitate Heritage Legacy Tree Program
- **Started** Support Big Tree Program
- **Started** Support Cumberland Watershed Plan Implementation
- Facilitate both webpage and Facebook links and keep them active and adaptive
- Support 5 Million Tree Initiative
- **Started** Support the Family Forest Carbon Program
- **Completed** Look into new programs with guest speakers to keep members educated on what is new

Note: Goals will be listed for the Forestry Board to track their success and act as a reminder of needed accomplishments for the 2022 Annual Work Plan. The word "accomplished" will be placed in the front of each goal once it has been completed.

Minutes Reviewed:

Dan explained that minutes from March had already been approved and sent in for the public record. We all looked closely at the goals and updated those as to which were completed.

Financial Activities:

Bernie provided a report, and everything lines up nicely.

There was a discussion with **Francis** that he should turn in expenses for the Liberty Tree Project and he said he would consider that in the future.

Dan provided **Bernie** with two Liberty Tree checks.

Cumberland Watershed:

Dan mentioned that the City of Cumberland might need some help with filling the vacant forester's position.

Motion:

Bernie motioned that **Steve Resh** will write a letter to the Mayor of Cumberland expressing the importance of fill the position with a forester. **Juls** seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Liberty Tree:

Francis reported that the yellow poplar seed crop failed, and he will have no seedlings to sell in 2023. The group talked about the potential reasons as to why. A decision was made to support **Francis** in obtaining a bucket truck to collect seed from higher up on the tree hoping for better germination. There was a discussion about asking someone to donate a bucket truck for a few hours.

Big Tree Program:

The Allegany County Forestry Board has discussed the volunteer efforts being made with the Big Tree Program. **Francis** said he will go out and work with **Matt**. **Dennis** said he might help as well.

Membership:

Dan mentioned that **Matt** is no longer a landowner in Allegany County and our consideration of potentially making him a board member unfortunately will not work. Also, **Dan** mentioned that **Tom Mathews** had approached him about **Darrel Williams**, Allegany County landowner and Forester by education, potentially becoming a member. **Dan** was asked by the Board to invite him to the next meeting to investigate if he has any interest in becoming a member.

AES Warrior Run:

AES Warrior Run Electric Generation Power Plant will test firewood chips and possible conversion to wood chips to replace coal by 2025. **Shannon Farrell** is securing chips for the test firing by working with local loggers.

Carbon:

After a discussion about what the carbon committees document, a decision was made to have **Steve** reach out to the different carbon entities to provide them the opportunity to present at our landowner workshop on selling carbon credits. **Dan** followed up and gave **Steve** all the contacts. **Sherry** said she will advertise the event and send out the mailings to invite forest landowners and she will be back from leave to work on this in September. The consensus was that the program would happen at Allegany College in the evening between 5:30pm to 8:30pm around the end of October or beginning of November. This would be handled by the Board in partnership with Extension and others to help promote the program. **Steve Resh** will take it from here.

Past Minutes for the Record on Carbon Credits:

Steve Resh started things off by saying that ecosystem services are a good thing; that landowners should be made aware of the markets that are out there and this is an extension of our mission! We should consider some type of forum or information sharing event for our landowners.

Tom Mathews suggested that we focus on landowners and people that are not yet engaged in resource management. We need to simplify the message so that we do not overwhelm our landowners and talk about climate change!

Shannon Farrell talked about his experience in trying to help **Darrel Williams** investigate different carbon markets and sharing the values that could be potentially made for the landowner and the challenges associated with that.

Anita Simmons talked about what she was engaged in with the Cumberland City Watershed and the potential of a consultant putting carbon credits out for bid from the City's watershed.

Juls Wood talked about working with landowners and assisting them with selling carbon credit with the Family Forest Carbon Project.

Tom Mathews talked about his experience in trying to help a sportsman's club with the potential of selling carbon credits.

Overall, it was decided after a larger discussion to form a committee to figure out how to get partners on board to help share this message at a possible forum/event with our landowners. The committee will be **Tom, Francis** and **Steve**. They will work on a write-up to present to the Board on June 16 at our next meeting. **Tom** told the committee he will draft out his ideas and share it with the committee so they can have it ready for the Board by June 16.

Upcoming Events:

- **July 18, 2022** - Board to judge photos at the Allegany County Fair 9:00am.
- **August 11, 2022** - Forest Board meeting at the Allegany County Art Council 9:00am.
- **August 18, 2022** - Richard A. Johnson Award to be received by Francis Zumbrun at the Evergreen Heritage Center.

Attended Events: (note, members need to attend at least 50% of yearly meetings to be in good standing)

- **January 19, 2022** - Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting via Google Meets: **Dennis Bittinger, Sherry Frick, Tom Mathews, Brad Metzger, Marie Miller, Steve Resh, Ken Roberts, Juls Wood, Bernie Zlomek, Francis Zumbrun** and **Dan Hedderick** (All members attended)
- **February 25, 2022** - PLT Workshop: **Sherry Frick, Bernie Zlomek** and **Francis Zumbrun**
- **March 3, 2022** - Statewide Forestry Board meeting: **Bernie Zlomek, Francis Zumbrun** and **Dan Hedderick**
- **March 16, 2022** - Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting via Google Meets: **Dennis Bittinger, Sherry Frick, Tom Mathews, Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Juls Wood, Bernie Zlomek** and **Dan Hedderick**
- **April 27, 2022** - Envirothon Event: **Tom Mathews, Francis Zumbrun, Julie Conway, Adam Miller**
- **May 20, 2022** - Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting in field: **Sherry Frick, Tom Mathews, Brad Metzger, Steve Resh, Juls Wood, Francis Zumbrun** and **Dan Hedderick**
- **June 16, 2022** - Allegany County Forestry Board Meeting in field: **Sherry Frick, Brad Metzger, Francis Zumbrun, Steve Resh, Juls Wood, Ken Roberts** **Dennis Bittinger, Bernie Zlomek** and **Dan Hedderick**