



Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting (Virtual Meeting) March 8, 2021

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday March 8th, 2021 via Google Meet. Those Board members in attendance were: Fred Eggleston, Bill Buckel, Mike Minnick, Bill Aiken, and Larry Tichnell. Gary Aronhalt also attended.

The agenda was approved following a few additions and a motion by Fred and 2nd by Bill A.

Minutes of the previous virtual meeting were approved with corrected meeting date following a motion by Fred and 2nd by Bill A.

The treasurer's report was given by Bill B.

Forestry Board	\$6,992.65
MUCFC	\$0
NRCC	\$2,255.26
Workshop/Ed	\$543.11
Scholarship	\$1,680.00

The only change since the last meeting was the poster contest awards totaling \$125. The treasurer's report was approved following a motion by Larry and second by Bill A.

Volunteer Hours:

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

Wayne – no report	Ken – no report
Glenn – no report	Mike K – no report
Derek F. – no report	Mike M – 15
Fred – 3	Larry – 3
Will – no report	Bill B. – 5
Bill A. – 3	Derek B. - 6
Mike F. – no report	

TOTAL: 35 hrs.

OLD BUSINESS:

NRCC

There have been 13 applicants statewide so far. Melissa has not heard back from either of our last year's applicants, so they may not be interested this year. Mike M. said he has a couple students who may be interested.

Library Display

The library did not have us on the schedule as previously thought, so our display will now be in April. The display will highlight Arbor Day, tree planting and big tree.

Membership

Bill A. reappointment has been sent in.

Brian decided not to rejoin. He just doesn't have the time anymore with his new job.

Mike M. thanked all the Board members for everything they do.

Pest Update

There are no major outbreaks of gypsy moth expected this year, but numbers are on the rise. Beech bark disease is reported to have been found in Finzel. Cicada Brood X will emerge this year.

Ethics Reporting

Last call – ethics reporting for all board members is due April 1. Use the link in the email you received or call 410-260-7770.

Chestnuts

Mike M. would still like to do some clean up/maintenance on plantings this spring.

Big Tree

Melissa has received additional permission forms back and all but 2 trees can be remeasured. One was reported as dead. She will re-send permission forms for the ones we haven't heard back from yet.

MUCFC

The Hickory arboretum project will be funded through Gift of Trees, rather than MUCFC. Trees have been ordered and will arrive in early April.

Deep Creek Lake Watershed Foundation

The foundation may be interested in helping expand Backyard Buffers, rain barrels, promoting the planting of edible landscapes and recognition programs for participating homeowners.

Legislative Update

Anne Gilbert included a legislative update summary with the statewide meeting info.

Mike M. will schedule a meeting with the commissioners to talk about local programs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Watershed Update

Gary reported that the new MOU has been signed. The aquatic invasive species website and social media information is still being worked on.

Scholarship

We only received 1 application this year. Ben Burris from Swanton is attending Allegany College. His major is criminal justice, but he outlines a desire to pursue a career with Natural Resources Police. There was some discussion on whether to accept this as a related natural resources field. Since there were few Board members present and we say in our paperwork a decision will be made by April 15th, a decision was tabled until the next meeting. Melissa will send a copy of the application along with the minutes for Board members to review. Please be prepared to discuss your thoughts during the April meeting.

June Meeting

Melissa will be in the fire academy on the regular date of the June meeting and cannot facilitate. Fred made a motion, second by Mike M. to move that meeting to June 7th. The motion passed.

Mountain Loggers

Mtn. Loggers next meeting is March 9th at Pine Lodge Steakhouse at 6pm.

Statewide Meeting

Meeting will be March 9th. Link should be sent by Anne G.

Grants

Mike M. reported that there have been Rural MD grants awarded for mapping and promoting forestry industry and funding for Frostburg Grows to produce trees & shrubs.

Fair Booth/Autumn Glory

Larry said as of now plans are moving forward to have the fair. Dates are July 31 - August 7. Melissa advised she will be on vacation and will be unable to assist. It is still unknown what restrictions Forestry Boards may have on in-person activities at that time.

Autumn Glory will be held and the Town of Oakland will be managing the parade this year. Again, it is unknown what restrictions may be in place at that time.

We may not pursue a raffle again this year unless we are able to sell tickets at the fair and Autumn Glory.

Envirothon

The state competition will be virtual this year. There are still 3 teams from Garrett County interested in participating.

Garrett Co Government Reopening

Larry announced that the Courthouse and offices will reopen to the public March 8th. Scheduling appointments are still preferred and masks are still required in the building. The next Commissioners meeting on March 16th will be open to the public in-person with very limited attendance (less than 15 total). Meetings will continue to be live streamed online.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be April 12th at 9am. Plan on a virtual meeting again.

Melissa Nash
Secretary

Upcoming Dates

April 7th – Maryland Arbor Day
April 12th – Next meeting
April 30th – National Arbor Day
July 25-31 – NRCC
July 31-Aug 7 – Garrett County Fair