



Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

1728 Kings Run Road, Oakland, MD 21550 • 301-334-3296

<https://gcforestryboard.wixsite.com/gcfb>

www.facebook.com/garrettcountyforestryboard

Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting October 18, 2021

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday October 18, 2021 at Mt. Nebo. Those Board members in attendance either in person or remotely were: Bill Aiken, Bill Buckel, Ken Fisher, Mike Kozier, Larry Tichnell, Will Williams, Fred Eggleston, Mike Minnick, and Melissa Nash. Siera Wigfield, Senior Planner for Garrett County, also attended.

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

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved following a motion by Larry and 2nd by Will.

Bill B. gave the treasurer's report.

Forestry Board	\$6,126.45
MUCFC	\$180.00
NRCC	\$1,720.26
Workshop/Ed	\$543.11
Scholarship	\$1,430.00

We returned John Carr's NRCC deposit of \$100 and deposited into the NRCC account \$300 from Oakland Rotary.

Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 5	Mike K – 8
Mike M – 6	Fred – 3
Larry – 3	Will – 3
Bill B. – 12	Bill A. – 3
Mike F. – no report	Derek B. – 2 (via Bill)

TOTAL: 45 hrs.

OLD BUSINESS:

Seedlings

Melissa ordered the 500 white oak seedlings and they should arrive in late March. Mike

M. has been in touch with staff at the new Calvary Christian Academy (they have 48 total students), and Ken has touched base with a home school group.

NEW BUSINESS:

Garrett County Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan (LPPRP)

Ken sent comments to Siera prior to the meeting and advised her that the EAC had drafted a report a couple years ago highlighting accomplishments toward the Deep Creek Watershed goals. He did not think the document had been finalized/published. Siera will look for the report to include information from it in the new plan. Many of the Deep Creek goals can be applied to the other watersheds in the county. Siera said that it doesn't look like the goals of the natural resource section of the LPPRP have changed much if at all in about 25 years. They can be updated and we can show where progress has been made.

Mike M. went over forest resource acres (forest land, DNR land, etc) for the county. He said he would like to see more emphasis on urban forestry and street trees as a land and park resource. Some communities already have walking trails and/or arboretums, but goals could be set to improve them or establish new ones where they don't exist. Will suggested promoting communities to participate in TreeCity USA (Oakland, Loch Lynn and Friendsville already do) and to encourage more natural resource programs in schools. Melissa reported that some of the towns have street tree inventories, but most were initially done 15-20 years ago. Some towns have kept them more up to date than others. This could be an opportunity to partner with Allegany College or Garrett College natural resource programs for GIS mapping projects.

Mike M. added that active maintenance and/or management plans for parks and large forest areas should be a goal. Melissa said that the county has Forest Stewardship plans on the Fork Run property and the county roads property surrounding the Oakland Garage.

Ken suggested including numbers on how many properties and acres are enrolled in a Forest Stewardship Plan (either written by DNR or a consultant) and those enrolled in FCMA's. Melissa will work on getting some numbers together

Mike M. suggested a goal of establishing a natural resource recycling center for chips, stumps, leaves, etc. Bill A. said Montgomery county has a facility that composts natural waste and then sells the product.

Melissa will try to get some numbers on licensed Forest Product Operators in the county and wood production.

Mike M. also suggested including information on wood energy assistance programs.

A discussion was held on climate change information. Climate change could affect forest composition long term and certain industries important to the county such as

maple syrup. Invasive species are also a growing concern. There may also be opportunities for expanding carbon sequestration markets.

Siera will work on a draft of the natural resource section based on input and plans to have something by the November meeting.

Mountain Loggers

Their Log-A-Load Auction raised over \$150,000 for WVU Children's Hospital this year. The elimination dinner will be held October 23rd and tickets are still available. Their next meeting will be November 9th. Member Ann Glotfelty passed away recently.

Envirothon

Melissa led a training session for Northern High School's team last week. They had 8 team members in attendance, all of which were new to the competition this year. Will will facilitate the session for Southern High School October 28th.

MUCFC Newsletter

Mike M. shared the MUCFC newsletter. All board members should have received it.

MD Forest Service Personnel Changes

Anne Hairston Strang is currently serving as acting state forester. Becky Wilson, Western Region Urban & Community Forester will be retiring November 1st. Randy Kamp, Regional Fire Manager will be retiring January 1. Mike Kay, Frederick County Forester will also be retiring. Anne Gilbert is now the Central Region Urban & Community Forester, but is still handling statewide Forestry Board duties for now.

Big Trees

Mike K. asked about big tree remeasurement status. No new permission forms have been received (after multiple contact attempts), so at this point it is assumed that current owners of remaining trees from 2020/2021 do not give permission for re-measurement. We will likely get a new list for 2022.

Potomac-Garrett State Forest Work Plan

Mike K. said he has received a draft copy of the PGSF work plan and the advisory committee will have a meeting soon. No word on a plan for Savage River State Forest yet.

Mtn. Lake Garden Club

Mike K. led a tour of the Hickory arboretum for the Mt. Lake Garden Club recently. They expressed interest in a natural resource workshop for seniors. Mike will contact the seniors program at Garrett College to see what we may be able to plan.

Mushroom Workshop

Bill A. would like to try to have the mushroom workshop this spring now that things are getting back to normal. Melissa will check on availability of the Discovery Center for the first or second Saturday of April.

Waterwise

Siera said a kickoff for the program will be held in March. They are trying to do some trial runs before actual site visits start.

Chestnuts

Mike M. reported that the Beitzel tree appears to be dying and the Lakeshore tree may also be in decline. Bill B. & Derek found some chestnuts along the Meadow Mtn Trail off of Maynardier Ridge Road with fertile nuts. Ken said he thinks there may be several trees of nut-bearing size in that area. It would be possible to get a bucket truck to them if we would like to try to pollinate.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be November 8th at 9am at Mt. Nebo.

Melissa Nash
Secretary

Upcoming Dates

October 23rd – Mountain Loggers elimination dinner

November 4th – Statewide virtual Forestry Board meeting

November 8th – Next regular meeting