



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 March 14, 2022

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday March 14, 2022 at Mt. Nebo. Those Board members in attendance either in person or remotely were: Bill Buckel, Bill Aiken, Larry Tichnell, Ken Fisher, Mike Minnick, Mike Ferguson, Will Williams and Melissa Nash. Also in attendance were Siera Wigfield and John Bambacus.

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

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

The treasurer's report was given as follows.

Forestry Board	\$7,661.80
MUCFC	\$0
NRCC	\$1,620.26
Workshop/Ed	\$543.11
Scholarship	\$1,555.00

Since the last meeting, we sent the MD Forestry Foundation \$250 in support of the Big Tree Program (out of Forestry Board Fund), purchased mushroom supplies in the amount of \$224.65 (out of the Forestry Board Fund), and deposited \$125 in checks/cash received for workshop registration (into the Scholarship Fund). Several other registrations have been received via PayPal. One transfer will move those into the Scholarship Fund once registrations have closed.

The report was accepted following a motion by Ken and 2nd by Will.

Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 7	Mike K – no report	Mike F. - 3
Mike M. – 18	Fred – no report	Derek – No report
Larry – 3	Will – 7	John – 3
Bill B. – 5	Bill A. – 7	

TOTAL 53 hrs

OLD BUSINESS:

Mushroom Workshop

Those who plan to assist with the event include Ken, Mike F., Bill A., Mike M., Will & Melissa. Everyone who is able should bring cordless drills, tarps & sawhorses. We will set up the morning of April 1. We will plan on having coffee and cookies/donuts. We can talk about the Forestry Board in general and have the NRCC banner on display. Ken suggested printing off our last few meeting minutes if anyone wants to look at them. Melissa will send out an email with set-up details once they are confirmed.

LLPRP

No update, but Siera has received some comments from Board members.

Waterwise

A kickoff webinar was held March 8th, but no one at the meeting was able to attend. The booklet has been updated.

Poster Contest

The state winner was from Harford County. We are on the Commissioners' agenda to recognize our local winners at the April 4th meeting and present an Arbor Day proclamation. Melissa will follow up with the teacher at Calvary Christian to see if any of our students are able to attend. We will also present a red spruce seedling for Arbor Day.

Scholarship

We received 2 applications. There were some issues with the information getting out to students this year – some didn't get the information until too late. Mike M. suggested shifting our deadline to April 1 or Arbor Day for next year. That discussion was tabled. Melissa read the applications. Both were well-qualified applicants. Mike F. made a motion, 2nd by Ken, to award 2 scholarships of \$250 each this year. Discussion included that this may not happen every year. The motion passed. Melissa excused herself from voting as she wrote a recommendation letter for one of the students. We will invite them to the Mushroom Workshop to accept their award if they are able to attend. We can also include the award announcement in the library display.

Library

Of the dates the library gave us, we will have to plan on set-up for April 4th. We can include pictures from the mushroom workshop, a log, scholarship, poster contest entries & winners, Arbor Day and the NRCC banner.

Statewide Meeting

Garrett Co Forest Ranger Tim Cole was recognized as the Northeast Regional Tree Farm Inspector of the Year. The Forest Service will be hiring 13 positions to support the 5 Million Tree Initiative. A discussion was held on grant programs – there were limited details in the meeting minutes on many available programs. Not all programs are available in all areas. Melissa has been forwarding applicable program information as

she receives it. Ken suggested we try to research available programs and information for the June meeting. Several landowners in Garrett County have signed up for the Family Forest Carbon program that was highlighted. MUCFC awards were announced. Melissa noted that a Garrett County application was left out of consideration this cycle. She is working with Sky Valley Association to find other funding sources for their project. Mike M. said Joli reached out to him after the meeting about serving as an alternat Big Tree Committee member for Western Region.

Forest Service Staff Changes

The Urban & Community Forestry position has not yet been filled. Shannon Wolfe has been selected as the new Western Region Fire Manager.

NEW BUSINESS:

Big Tree

Melissa measured a new county and state champion big tooth aspen recently. The 100 year anniversary of the Big Tree program is coming up in 2025.

NRCC

There have been 29 students apply statewide so far, but none yet from Garrett County. Mike M. reported having 1 student interested. We will promote the program during the Envirothon. Mike shared a funding request from Baltimore County who has 4 applicants, but is only able to pay for 2. Mike suggested we wait until after the Envirothon to see if we have local applicants before sending money elsewhere. Discussion will be tabled until the May meeting.

Membership

Melissa presented Ken with his reappointment certificate. Larry is due for reappointment.

Civic Club

Their funding luncheon will be held March 29th and each group will have 2 minutes to speak. Melissa will attend on behalf of the Board.

Envirothon

Training will be held April 13th and the Envirothon will be April 28th. All will be at Hickory this year. Times are TBD. We will plan on setting up the 27th. Melissa will take care of ordering tree ID books for the winning forestry team.

Mtn. Loggers

The group is planning a fundraiser side by side ride April 16th for their community outreach fund.

Arbor Day Seedlings

We will plan on packaging the Arbor day trees for the schools on April 4th

Savage River State Forest

Mike M. shared some updates from Savage River advisory committee. They are working on installing a connector trail at St. Johns Rock. All silvicultural proposals were approved by the committee. There will be an increase in informational signs when harvesting occurs along trails. There is a total of 1.5 million bd ft planned for harvest this year. They will be hiring a long term contractual technician in addition to a seasonal.

State Pest Report

Melissa forwarded the state pest report prior to the meeting. The common name of gypsy moth is changing to spongy moth. There are no spray areas planned in the county for 2022. Numbers are rising, but not enough to warrant spray yet.

Woods in Your Backyard

Mike M., Melissa & Derek will be attending the train the trainer workshop later this month.

Greater Cumberland Committee Workshop

Siera shared information on the stakeholder event that will be held April 11-12 at Savage River Lodge (during our next scheduled Board meeting). A focus will be the wood products industry. As some members plan to attend the stakeholder meeting and we have many other events going on in April, Ken made a motion to cancel the regular April meeting. The motion was seconded by Bill A. and passed.

Next Meeting

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

Melissa Nash
Secretary

Upcoming Dates

March 22-23 – Woods in Your Backyard trainer workshop
March 29 – Civic Club funding meeting
April 1 – Mushroom workshop set up @ Discovery Center
April 2 – Mushroom workshop @ Discovery Center
April 4 – Set up library window, package school trees, Commissioner meeting/Arbor Day recognition
April 11-12 – Greater Cumberland Committee Workshop
April 13 – Envirothon training @ Hickory
April 27 – Envirothon set up @ Hickory
April 28 – Envirothon competition @ Hickory
May 9 – next regular meeting