



Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting September 12, 2022

Call To Order:

The Garrett County Forestry Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday September 12, 2022 at Mt. Nebo. Those Board members in attendance either in person or remotely were: Mike Minnick, Bill Aiken, Fred Eggleston, Ken Fisher, John Bambacus, Will Williams, and Melissa Nash. Also in attendance was Siera Wigfield.

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

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with minor corrections following a motion by Fred and 2nd by Will.

Melissa read the treasurer's report. We made \$857 on the basket raffle and sold out of tickets.

Forestry Board	\$6,270.10
MUCFC	\$0
NRCC	\$2,342.26
Workshop/Ed	\$543.11
Scholarship	\$1,763.05

Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 23	Mike K – no report	Mike F. – no report
Mike M. – 52	Fred – 20	Derek – no report
Larry – no report	Will – 25	John – 25
Bill B. – no report	Bill A. – 3	

TOTAL 148 hrs

OLD BUSINESS:

Fair

Mike M. thanked everyone who helped with the booth, raffle tickets and French fries. We had at least 879 visitors to the booth (based on tree drawing entries). Melissa said it was difficult to try to get ahold of tree drawing winners. Many had voicemails that were not set up or full and she was unable to leave a message. Melissa read a thank you

letter from Luke Ashby (winner of the tree photo contest). Winning pictures are posted on the website and were shared on Facebook.

Watershed Update

Siera said the county has 8 ag districts up for possible approval that total over 1,000 acres. This is a pre-vetting process for easements. They have made 2 offers for MALPF recently from past year's grant funding. MALPF requires a Forest Stewardship Plan if the property has 25+ contiguous forested acres. Siera gave a brief overview of how the program works. There is a scoring rubric to determine easement offers. For MALPF, properties can be located anywhere in the county, but there are some soil & acreage requirements and the landowner must also have their mineral rights. For Rural Legacy, easements are limited to the Bear Creek Watershed. She is working on updating the questionnaire for landowners interested in an easement as well as mapping tools to make the process easier.

Waterwise

There will be composting workshops scheduled both virtually and at libraries. The county is working on hiring a watershed coordinator.

150th Celebration

Will and Mike M. plan to help with the booth. Display will include forest history information, plinko for Smokey prizes, coloring books, an antique brush truck and a Smokey Bear appearance.

Sesquicentennial Tree

Mike M. read an article from the 1980 Glades Star when sugar maple was designated as the county tree by a vote of school students. At a previous meeting we touched on the idea of possibly purchasing a sesquicentennial tree. Melissa shared price quotes for a potted tree and sign. A motion was made by Will and seconded by John to purchase the tree and sign. Some discussion was held on planting location. Friendsville was suggested as it is the oldest settlement still in use in the county. The motion passed. Melissa will check with the Town.

Yough River Meeting

Approximately 70 people attended the August 8th Town Hall meeting at the College, with most opposed to a developed trail. There were discussions of a preliminary engineering study to determine what construction would be needed to even consider installing a developed trail. There are digitized approximations of the corridor, but the legal map remains as the printed map in COMAR.

Another meeting will be held September 26th at Water Street Café in Friendsville.

NRCC

Melissa read a thank you note from Jorja Wilhelm. Brenda Ruggerio put together an excellent article in The Republican.

Shirts

Melissa will get the order placed once she has everyone's sizes.

NEW BUSINESS:

October Meeting

Due to the state holiday on our regular meeting day, the October meeting will be October 17th.

Autumn Glory

We received the information to sign up for a booth during the event. Since we have been so busy with other events, it was decided to not set up this year. The Forest Service will have a truck and Smokey Bear in the Firemen's Parade on October 13th.

Fall/Winter Fundraising

Fundraising will hold off until spring. Tentative plans may be for another mushroom workshop due to volume of interest.

Christmas Breakfast

Mike M. will look into options for a breakfast meeting in December.

Statewide Meeting

Save the date for the statewide Forestry Board meeting October 27th. No further information available yet.

Tree Request

Mike M. reported that Northern High School is looking for 4-5 white pine. Melissa will follow up.

Big Tree

A new county champion Norway spruce was recently measured and The Republican featured an article on the tree. It was the subject of Luke Ashby's winning photo contest entry.

Trees for Schools

A discussion was held on species and number of trees to order for 3rd graders for Arbor Day. Melissa reported there are 241 3rd grade students in public schools. We added extra last year for home school students and will try again to connect with them. Any leftover can be distributed by Hickory. Bill A. made a motion, seconded by Will to order 500 sugar maple from Mussers. Discussion included that sugar maple are not available from the state nursery and would be nice to hand out since they are our county tree. The motion passed. Melissa will place the order.

White Oak Initiative

Melissa shared information on collection of white oak acorns. They are trying to obtain genetic material from different parts of the country. If you have a good producing tree

and would like to send a sample, email Dr. Laura DeWald at Laura.DeWald@uky.edu who can send the instructions and answer any specific questions.

Chestnuts

Mike M. reported that 2 of our parent trees are not doing well. SUNY-ESF is close to being able to release Darling 58 (GMO chestnuts) outside of research settings and is hopeful to do that in 2023. We should think about developing an evaluation form for the school trees.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be October 17th at 9am at Mt. Nebo.

Melissa Nash
Secretary

Upcoming Dates

September 17 – Sesquicentennial Celebration
September 26 – Yough Trail meeting
October 11 – Mountain Loggers
October 12-16 – Autumn Glory Festival
October 17 – Next regular meeting
October 27 – Statewide Forestry Board meeting