



## Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board

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### Minutes of the Garrett County Forest Conservancy District Board Meeting November 14, 2022

#### Call To Order:

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

The agenda was approved with motion by Mike K. and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Will.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with a minor correction that the Garrett County Economic Development meeting was specifically for the strategic plan. Corrected minutes were approved following a motion by John and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken.

Bill Buckel read the treasurer's report. Balances remained the same as last month.

Forestry Board	\$5,080.02
MUCFC	\$0
NRCC	\$2,342.26
Workshop/Ed	\$543.11
Scholarship	\$1,763.05

A motion to accept the report was made by Ken & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike K.

#### Volunteer Hours:

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

Ken – 5	Mike K – 6	Mike F. – no report
Mike M. – 15	Fred – no report	Derek – no report
Larry – 3	Will – 8	John – 15
Bill B. – 5	Bill A. – no report	

**TOTAL 57 hrs**

#### OLD BUSINESS:

##### **Watershed/Waterwise**

Siera reported the Administrative Council is working on developing a strategic plan. They will be applying for a Chesapeake Conservation Corp member to support

watershed planning and programs and asked the Board for a letter of support. Ken made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Will, to write a support letter. The motion passed.

Ken asked about participation in waterwise and suggested providing the information to high school ecology and environmental science teachers.

Siera was recently featured in The Republican in an article on the county's comprehensive plan. She hopes to have the Commissioners' approval on the plan soon.

### **Yough River**

John has shared additional news articles since the last meeting (these have already been forwarded to the Board). DNR is responding to a Freedom of Information Act request from news outlets.

### **150<sup>th</sup> Tree Planting**

After a delay due to inclement weather, the sesquicentennial tree was planted at the Friendsville Community Park on November 1<sup>st</sup>. All students took part in planting the tree by putting a small shovel of soil back into the hole. The event was well attended including Friendsville Mayor & Town Council, all 3 Garrett County Commissioners, Senator George Edwards, Garrett Project Forest Service Staff, Regional Forester George Eberling and Forest Service Deputy Director Anne Hairston Strang.

### **Mt. Loggers**

Mike M. reported their elimination dinner fundraiser to be a success. Their Christmas dinner meeting will be December 13<sup>th</sup> at Pine Lodge. RSVP's and money are due by December 1<sup>st</sup>. John asked about having a logger representative on the Board. Mike said there have been some in the past and we would certainly be open to a logger joining again.

### **NRCC Recruiting**

John asked about fees for the camp. Mike M. explained our process of requiring a deposit from the student, which is returned after successful completion of the camp. Ken made a motion to keep our deposit at \$100 to avoid creating hardship for local families. Mike K. 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion passed.

### **American Chestnut**

Mike M. reported that 2 of the Accident trees were not looking good. John reported that his neighbor has a large tree believed to be American. Melissa will try to take a look at it in the spring. The Beitzel and Lake Shore trees are declining. Mike K. reported there may be some true American trees at Wisp.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **DNR Leadership Changes**

Kenneth Jolly has been named the new State Forester and Anne Hairston Strang has been named Deputy Director of Programs & Advisory Commissions. Melissa shared a

recent Forest Service leadership organizational chart. The Associate Director of Policy & External Programs and Associate Director of Field Operations positions are currently vacant. Forestry Boards fall under Anne's duties.

### **County Budget**

Melissa will work on a draft. We should highlight increases in costs for NRCC, fair booth and other expenses.

### **State Forest Advisory Boards**

Mike K. advised that the PGSF advisory meeting was not held. Mike M. will attend the SRSF advisory meeting December 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Garrett College Fundraiser**

The Garrett College Wildlife Club will be holding a trivia night & fundraiser at The Public House in Friendsville.

### **Webinars**

Melissa shared a list of upcoming webinars including Spotted Lanternfly's Impact on the Maple Syrup Industry, Harry Hughes Center Update on the MD Forest Technical Study as well as an Oak webinar series from the White Oak Initiative.

### **New Garrett County Commissioner**

Larry shared that Ryan Savage has been elected to fill the vacant county commissioner seat.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be our Christmas meeting December 12<sup>th</sup> at 9am at Perkins. Please try to attend so we can get a group photo.

Melissa Nash  
Secretary

### **Upcoming Dates**

November 16 – Spotted Lanternfly & Forest Technical Study webinars

December 6 – SRSF advisory meeting

December 7 – Insects & diseases of oaks webinar

December 12 – Garrett Co Forestry Board meeting @ Perkins