

Somerset County Forestry Board

Meeting Minutes

11/15/2022

Opening: The November 2022 Somerset County Forestry Board meeting was held on November 14, 2022 at 12:00 pm at the Somerset County UMD Cooperative Extension field office.

The regular meeting of the Somerset County forestry board was called to order at 1200hrs on November 14, 2022 in Princess Anne, MD by John Hooven.

Present: Steve Eccleston, W. Hall Coons, Robert Hess, Charles Laird, Luke Marcek and Skip Jones from Parker Forestry Products

New Business

This is the first board meeting where John Hooven is the DNR representative. Introductions were made between all members. The main purpose of this meeting is to review and approve the critical area timber harvest plan for Maryland Forest Service Chesapeake Forest off Fairmount Road.

Critical Area Timber Harvest Review

The board reviewed and unanimously approved one Critical Area Timber Harvest Plan prepared by W. Allen Jones, Jr., of Parker Forestry Services, Inc. for Chesapeake Forest (S44) Tract, stands 1, 3 & 9; Fairmount Rd. Map 39, Parcel 174. Charles Laird made a motion to approve the plan that was seconded by W. Hall Coons.

Maryland Forest Service Leadership Appointments

The board was advised of the appointment of Kenneth Jolly as director of Maryland DNR Forest Service and the appointment of Anne Hairston-Strang, former acting director, as Deputy Director.

5 Million Trees Program

Luke Marcek gave the board an introduction and status update to the state of Maryland's 5 Million Trees program.

Treasurer's Report

The forestry board does not have a bank account and currently has no funds. The forestry board also does not have any expenses. Methods of funding if necessary were discussed. These methods of funding include donations, county funding if and when available as well as matching grants.

County Outreach

Maryland DNR Forest Service was made aware of Phase II of the 413 bike path. Contact information was forwarded to Marian Honeczy, supervisor of urban and community forestry, for Maryland Forest Service, for further coordination and assistance. Construction will progress from Westover to Marion Station.

NRCC

The board was advised of increases in tuition and activity fees for NRCC participants. Discussion turned towards how to make students aware through contacting guidance counselors at area high schools.

Old Business

W. Hall Coons updated the board on his experiencing using NCX for carbon credits. The question was raised whether this would be a viable venture in the future. The consensus was the short-term trading on the carbon market is a plus for forest management activities.

Next Meeting: TBD; sometime in the first quarter of 2023 unless there is an immediate interim need.

Minutes submitted by:

John Hooven