

WORCESTER COUNTY FORESTRY BOARD

Meeting Minutes January 19, 2023

Opening: The January 2023 Worcester County Forestry Board meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2023, at 12:00 pm at the Worcester County NRCS/FSA Office – 304 Commerce St, Snow Hill, MD 21863.

The regular meeting of the Worcester County forestry board was called to order at 12:15 pm on January 18, 2023, in Snow Hill, MD by Stacey Esham.

Present: Bill Bruning, Tony DiPaolo, Stacey Esham, Hunter Pusey, Luke Marcek

New Business

Treasurer's Report

Prior to this meeting, the PNC bank account was \$1,591.63.

MFS Updates

The board has received several emails regarding MFS updates. Luke explained the promotions and movements of employees in the senior leadership team. The 5 Million Tree program was also discussed and board members were brought up to date on any additional programs. The board also discussed the recent nomination of Josh Kurtz to DNR Secretary with the new administration.

NLEB

The board discussed the recent change of the Northern Long Eared Bat from threatened to endangered on the Endangered Species Act List. This may have large impacts on the forestry industry throughout the state and region and will be watched closely by board members. Updates will be made available to the board as soon as anything is heard.

HFFIV Sale

The board discussed the recent sale of all remaining HFFIV properties to Anew Climate, LLC. Anew acquired 1.7 million acres of timberland that were formerly managed by The Forestland Group. "Anew is transitioning the newly acquired lands into sustainably managed forestland for climate mitigation."

Worcester County Critical Area policy update

Several questions have been raised regarding Worcester Counties Critical Area Law and regulations. Worcester County has a more restrictive law than the state Critical Area Law. The county has proposed an updated Critical Area Law that has not yet been adopted by the State Critical Area Commission.

Critical Area Timber Harvest Plan - Carey

The board reviewed a Critical Area Timber Harvest Plan that was submitted by Tony DiPaolo for Millville Lumber. After questions and review the board unanimously approved (3-0) the plan.

Next Meeting: TBD – as new business arises.

Minutes submitted by:

Luke Marcek