

## Forest Conservation Advisory Committee

### Minutes

March 20, 2012

Prepared by: Doug Sievers

#### ATTENDEES

##### Members

Ginny Barnes  
Mark Buscaino  
Andrew Der  
Ken Ferebee  
Kim Knox (Chair)  
Brett Linkletter (DPWT), ex officio  
Laura Miller (DEP), ex officio  
Katherine Nelson, (M-NCPPC), ex officio  
Michael Norton  
Doug Sievers (WSSC), ex officio  
Jeff Schwartz  
Linda Silversmith  
Dan Snyder  
Clark Wagner

##### Absent members

Caren Madsen  
Dan Landry  
David Kuykendall (DPS), ex officio  
David Plummer (MSCD), ex officio  
Kevin Smith

##### Others attending

None

##### DEP Staff Support

Stan Edwards

#### MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

The minutes from the February 2012 meeting were approved.

##### I. Announcements/Procedural Matters

- a. Tour: May 15<sup>th</sup> 3 pm to 6 pm – Inter County Connector (ICC) Reforestation / Afforestation Areas & Big Tree Tour

\* There will be no 7:00 pm Forest Conservation Advisory Committee (FCAC) meeting in May

- b. Reddy Branch Tree Stewardship Volunteer Opportunity on May 12 from 9 am to noon at the Oakley Cabin American Museum's parking lot, at 3610 Brookeville Road, Oakley, MD; Coordinate through Isaac Walton League and Katherine Nelson of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC).

- c. Quiz: What tree species, that is native to North America, is considered a weed tree in Europe? Ans. American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
- d. Memorandum (dated March 19,2012):
  - From: Office of the County Executive – Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB)
  - To: Montgomery County Advisory Boards, Committees, and Commissions (BCC)
  - CC: Department / Agency Directors
  - Subject: Report due on or before May 6, 2012 containing detailed information in six specified sections justifying FCAC existence (or not) with facts and figures so that CERB will be able to “make recommendations to the County Executive and County Council concerning the function, structure, staff impact, and effectiveness of certain advisory boards, committees, and commissions currently operating.”
  - The FCAC agreed to the following action item assignments:
    - 1. A description of the work the advisory board does, including enabling legislation, the membership and makeup of the committee, and the subcommittees-Kim Knox
    - 2. Justification of why the advisory board should continue-Ginny and Caren (Clark, if you want to create something as well-feel free to do and bring it to our next meeting or work with Ginny and Caren. We will be discussing each of these items at the April meeting and will forward wording approved by the majority attending the meeting.
    - 3. A list of accomplishments over the last two years-Andrew and Clark
    - 4. A statistical review of the committee's work-Kim
    - 5. Provide a two-year work plan-Each committee member is to bring at least one deliverable that they would like to see the FCAC accomplish within the next two years.
    - 6. A description on the amount of government services provided to the committee-Stan

\* The following information and web links were provided by Stan Edwards as follow-up to the meeting:

- 1. Link to the law that established the Committee Evaluation and Review Board.

[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/pdf/bill/2011/20111108\\_32-11A.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/pdf/bill/2011/20111108_32-11A.pdf)

Note: If you are really ambitious and want to see the evolution of this bill through the legislative process, go to

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cs/ltmpl.asp?url=/Content/council/leg/bill/2011.asp> and scroll down the page until you see the information for Bill 32-11. All of the information considered by the County Council for this bill is contained on this website, including the various iterations of the bill.

- 2. Link to the BCC website that provides a brief description of each BCC and the authority under which it was established.

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/opi/bcc/list.asp>

Note: If you click on the link to [Mo. Co. Code Section 22A-31](#) under the FCAC description, this takes you to the American Legal Publishing Corporation website, where you can see the language in the County Code that established the FCAC. Follow the steps below to get to the desired section of the County Code:

- Click on the button entitled “No Frames/Mobile View”
- Click on the folder entitled “Part II. Local Laws, Ordinances, Resolutions, Etc.”
- Click on the folder entitled “Chapter 22A. Forest Conservation - Trees”
- Click on the folder entitled “Article V. County Arborist”

\*\* A follow-up motion, via email, was also made to add action items (see d above) #2 and #5 to the April meeting agenda.

- e. Announcement (from Feb. meeting): Movie – *Taking Root* is being shown on April 22, 2012 at the American Dance Institute.
- II. Presentation: Inter County Connector Reforestation - A link to the presentation by Greg O’Hare will be put on the FCAC webpage at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dectmpl.asp?url=/Content/dep/climatechange/treefca.c.asp>.
- a. Greg O’Hare from the ICC gave a PowerPoint presentation on reforestation efforts to have the State Highway construction comply with MD Reforestation Act and the Montgomery County Forest Conservation Law.
  - b. MD Reforestation Law requires 1:1 mitigation by area for forest area impacted by State funded highway projects.
  - c. ICC project goals include the planting of 47 thousand trees. Contracts A through C included reforestation plantings of 74.6 acres, 79.4 acres, and 52.2 acres respectively. Contract D/E will include 28.9 acres of reforestation.
  - d. 2-year warranty that includes maintenance and monitoring is in place for larger size planting stock and includes watering, invasive weed control, and replacement trees.
  - e. Species planted chosen based on native species criteria, commercial availability, and to mimic ecotone of area. Bi-annual inspections with 90% survival after 1 year; 80% after 2 years; and 75% after 5 years.
  - f. Plantings for roadside screening and landscaping done in addition to conservation requirements. Off-site reforestation areas typically planted with either 350 seedlings per acre with tubes for deer protection or 5’ ht. container grown stock at 200 per acre plus 20 larger 2.5” caliper trees/ac.

- g. Brief mention of a dozen or more reforestation sites was made that ranged in location from Boyds in Montgomery County to the City of Bowie in Prince George's County. Sites include several drainage areas and special protection areas (SPA's).
- h. Question/Answer session included following:
  - i. FCAC – What methods are used for control of invasive vegetation?  
Greg O'Hare (GO) –Round-up & Garlon.
  - ii. FCAC – Have you heard report of Round-up killing microorganisms?  
GO – No, but the two are used very selectively with Garlon 3A and Round-up chosen for reputed minimal ecological impacts to and impacts to non-target species. Direct application made on plant by plant basis.
  - iii. FCAC – Who is contact with questions regarding plantings?  
GO – Contact Public Outreach folks – ie. Question concerning planting under bridges
  - iv. FCAC – Planting is according to State Law vs. County Law?  
GO – Yes, but ICC has partnered with local authorities and has close working relationship.
  - v. FCAC – What, if any, differences in treatment of SPA's?  
GO – ICC hired tree expert to inspect and assess edge of alignment for purposes of avoidance and minimization. 5-yr monitoring in place and sediment control/stormwater management redundant measures.
  - vi. FCAC – Why 220 plant/acre size mix?  
GO – Result of negotiations considering cost factors, species selection, transplant shock minimization
  - vii. FCAC – What is long term protection for right of way?  
GO – ROW falls under MD-DNR Roadside Tree Law which may replaces trees removed on 1:1 basis.
  - viii. FCAC – What are maintenance costs of ICC?  
GO – Don't know.
  - ix. FCAC – What amount of watering do plantings receive?  
GO – A lot – actual frequencies/quantities are specified in contract; last summer's heat made watering required huge.

- x. FCAC – How many jobs created by ICC?  
GO – did not have specific number, but hundreds of jobs.
- xi. FCAC – Seedling site in Bowie – Bowie did study and found 1” cal. Plants most efficient way to go  
GO - container grown seedlings actually pretty close to 1” cal. Size
- xii. FCAC – What differences from MD 100 regarding plantings?  
GO – Comparisons were made with Woodrow Wilson Bridge project.
- xiii. FCAC – Has your experience in ICC reforestation process made you more tuned into trees?  
GO - Yes, proud to be associated with efforts and believe it to have been a very rewarding and worthwhile part of my life.
- xiv. FCAC – What source(s) for planting material were used?  
GO - Ruppert Nursery provided much of planting stock and many smaller nurseries were tapped out to supply planting needs.

i. Public Comment: No public in attendance

### III. New Business

Summarized:

- a. “grading ourselves” assignments for April meeting;
- b. May tour date/times (May 15<sup>th</sup> at 3PM); and
- c. voted to forego May 15<sup>th</sup> 7 PM meeting.

### IV. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm