

Monocacy Scenic River Advisory Board



February 4, 2010

The Honorable Jan H. Gardner, President
Board of Frederick County Commissioners
12 East Church Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701

The Honorable Julia W. Gouge, President
Board of County Commissioners, Carroll County
225 North Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157

RE: Monocacy Scenic River Citizens' Advisory Board Annual Report

Dear Commissioners Gardner and Gouge:

To fulfill official duty No. 6 as stipulated in Frederick County Resolution No. 92-11, the River Board hereby transmits its annual report to the Frederick County and Carroll County Commissioners. The report highlights the major activities and accomplishments of the River Board.

The Monocacy Scenic River Citizens' Advisory Board was created in 1978 and is comprised of ten members, five appointed by the Carroll County Commissioners and five appointed by the Frederick County Commissioners. The Board provides advice and recommendations to both county governments on land use, land development proposals, and resource management issues that impact the Monocacy River corridor and its watershed, serving as an advocate for the River and its varied resources.

Board Members:

FREDERICK COUNTY

Jack Lynch, Vice-Chair

Becky Kile

Harry Harne

Bill Hensley

Glenn Eaves, Sr.

CARROLL COUNTY

Tom Robertson, Jr., Chair

Tom Devilbiss

Kim Stenley

Brian Cronin

Vacant

EX-OFFICIO

City of Frederick, Pam Reppert

Frederick County Staff Liaison: Tim Goodfellow, (301) 600-2508

Carroll County Staff Liaison: Barbara Lilly, (410) 386-2145

Website: <http://www.co.frederick.md.us/planning/BoardsCommissions/MonScenRivAdvisBoard.htm>

Brief History of Monocacy Protection:

Following the adoption of the Maryland Scenic and Wild Rivers Act of 1968, the first inventory, *Scenic Rivers in Maryland*, was released by the Maryland Department of State Planning in 1970. The Monocacy River was identified as a significant state resource, worthy of immediate study, and as a prime candidate for State Scenic River designation. On April 30, 1974, the Monocacy River was added to Maryland's scenic river system. In 1982 the National Park Service determined that the Monocacy's significance further places it among a very select group of rivers throughout the United States eligible for designation as a National Scenic River.

Frederick County Resolution No. 92-11, adopted April 20, 1992, formally established the Monocacy Scenic River Citizens' Advisory Board (River Board), as a body tasked with providing "counsel and advice on the stewardship of the Monocacy River Watershed" to the Commissioners of Frederick County and the State of Maryland.

2009 Overview/Highlights:

The River Board convened 12 meetings during 2009. We discussed a broad variety of issues and topics as well as received several special presentations and briefings.

Hosted four guest speakers:

Bill Limpert, Compliance Manager of MDE's Water Management Administration, discussed water quality issues and inspections relating to the LaFarge quarry and their discharge violations into the Monocacy.

Andrew McGilvray and Robert Shen, Frederick County Department of Public Works, gave a detailed presentation on major rehabilitation and renovations to historic Legore Bridge. The River Board requested a “Scenic Monocacy River” sign be installed as part of the project.

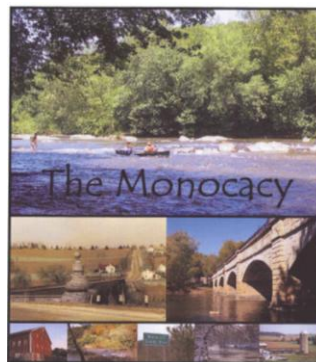
Russ Anderson, State Highway Administration, briefed the River Board jointly with the Frederick County Historic Preservation Commission, on the I-270 Multi-Modal Study, Corridor Cities Transitway, and their impacts to environmental, cultural and historical resources in the transportation corridor.

Dr. Jim Gilford, a founding member of the River Board, concluded the River Board’s 2009 meeting calendar. Dr. Gilford gave an informative and motivational talk to the members about the history of the River Board, the creation of the 1990 River Management Plan, and the group’s mission and charge.

Special Initiatives/Projects:

Release of “*The Monocacy*” the inaugural Monocacy River Report publication

The River Board completed work on the first River Report with the official release of “*The Monocacy*” in April. This capped an effort begun in 2008 to develop the first comprehensive outreach document aimed at a broad audience to raise awareness about the River, its watershed and opportunities for citizen stewardship. The report was distributed to several libraries and profiled by the local media. A wider circulation is planned utilizing web-based distribution and limited print copies in the coming year as resources become available.



Great Frederick Fair

The River Board sponsored a day at the fair as a participant in the Frederick County Department of Public Works’ Monocacy-Catoctin

Watershed Alliance booth. River Board members and staff provided a wide range of materials and information to citizens about the River, its place in their lives and its significance to both Frederick and Carroll Counties.

City of Frederick

As a result of the River Board's active participation and ongoing dialog with various entities within the City of Frederick, the River Board extended an invitation to the City to participate as a designated ex-officio member. Currently, Planner Pam Reppert attends on behalf of the City.

The River Board continued its review of various plans, projects and initiatives that impact the Monocacy River and its watershed. We discussed, addressed, commented on, or provided public testimony on the following issues:

Proposed Waste-to-Energy Facility adjacent to the River on Metropolitan Court

Resthaven Memorial Gardens revised expansion plans on River front property

MDE's public process for the NPDES permit renewal for Lehigh Cement's Union Bridge facility

The City of Frederick's Viewshed Study for the Proposed Air Traffic Control Tower at the Frederick Municipal Airport and subsequent Environmental Assessment Report.

Submitted four (4) separate letters to the City of Frederick Planning Commission and Board of Aldermen addressing the impacts to the River corridor from the annexation and development of the Thatcher property and the Landmark (Gladhill) property

Participated in a Federal Section 106 Review and Determination of National Register Eligibility (DOE) for the State Highway Administration's (SHA) MD Route 140 Monocacy River bridge project near Taneytown resulting in a positive DOE for a Carroll County site and improved project design standards

Contacted the State delegation in Annapolis about the reduction in State Program Open Space funding to the counties and the impact to future open space and recreation opportunities for citizens

Received briefings on the updates to both Carroll County's and Frederick County's Comprehensive Land Use Plans

Drafted and adopted the River Board's first By-laws and Rules of Procedures

Contacted the following entities in response to citizen inquiries:

- DNR's Wildlife Heritage Service about duck habitat along the River;
- SHA about debris jams at the MD Route 28 bridge;
- National Park Service concerning debris jams at the Monocacy Aqueduct

Received briefings on the Agricultural Preservation programs and proposed easements in Carroll County and Frederick County; provided letters of support for three proposed easement properties:

- The James Ryan Farm in Carroll County
- The Jenkins Farm in Frederick County
- The Renehan Farm in Frederick County

For 2010, we look forward to continuing our service as advocates for the Monocacy River and its precious resources on behalf of the citizens of Frederick and Carroll Counties. We will pursue our mission via continued input and dialogue with various board and bodies at municipal, county, state and federal levels as charged by the Boards of Commissioners providing comments and recommendations to help ensure protection of the Monocacy.

This report was approved by unanimous vote at the February 3, 2010 River Board meeting.

Sincerely,



Tom Robertson, Chair
Monocacy Scenic River Citizen's Advisory Board

CC: David P. Gray, Vice President, Board of Frederick County Commissioners
Kai J. Hagen, Board of Frederick County Commissioners
John L. Thompson, Jr., Board of Frederick County Commissioners
Dean L. Minnich, Vice President, Board of County Commissioners, Carroll County
Michael D. Zimmer, Secretary, Board of County Commissioners, Carroll County
Randy McClement, Mayor, City of Frederick
Eric Soter, Frederick County Planning Director
Steve Horn, Director, Carroll County Department of Planning
Monocacy Scenic River Board Members
Tim Goodfellow, Frederick County Staff to the Monocacy Scenic River Board
Barbara Lilly, Carroll County Staff to the Monocacy Scenic River Board

