



*Advocating for the
Monocacy River watershed
since 1978*

February 2, 2012

The Honorable Blaine Young, President
Board of County Commissioners of Frederick County
12 East Church Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701

The Honorable Doug Howard, President
Board of County Commissioners of Carroll County
225 North Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157

RE: Monocacy Scenic River Citizens' Advisory Board Annual Report for 2011

Dear Commissioners Young and Howard:

To fulfill official duty No. 6 as stipulated in Frederick County Resolution No. 92-11, the Monocacy Scenic River Citizens Advisory Board (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 River 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 appropriate jurisdictions on land use, land development proposals, and resource management issues that impact the Monocacy Scenic River corridor and its watershed, serving as an advocate for the River and its varied resources.

Board Members:

FREDERICK COUNTY

Bill Hensley, Vice-Chair
Jack Lynch
Becky Kile
Bob Whiting
Glenn Eaves, Sr.
(resigned 12/1/2011)

CARROLL COUNTY

Brian Cronin, Chair
Tom Devilbiss
Tom Robertson, Jr.
Andy Aughenbaugh
Scott Scarfone

EX-OFFICIO

City of Frederick, Pam Reppert

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

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

Websites: <http://www.co.frederick.md.us/planning/BoardsCommissions/MonScenRivAdvisBoard.htm>
<http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/compplan/msr/default.asp>

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 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 the five percent of the nation's rivers eligible for designation as a National Scenic River.

In 1990, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the River Board produced a River Management Plan, which addresses natural and cultural resource, water quality, ecology, and land uses with numerous issues, objectives and recommendations. The Management Plan was approved by Carroll and Frederick Counties, as well as the Maryland General Assembly, and guides the actions of the River Board.

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

2011 Overview/Highlights:

The River Board convened ten meetings during 2011 and discussed a broad variety of issues and topics as well as received several special presentations and briefings.

Hosted five guest speakers:

Joseph Hoffman, Executive Director, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) discussed Potomac River management issues and scientific studies the ICPRB conducts regarding water supply, water quality and living resources of the Potomac River. The ICPRB was created by the US Congress in 1940 and is established as a compact between the states of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia.

Scott Williamson of the Pennsylvania (PA) Dept. of Environmental Protection spoke about the water allocation permit process and other PA resource requirements for the Mason-Dixon development that straddles the state line and has facilities in both Frederick County and Freedom Township and Adams County, PA

John Mullican, DNR Biologist in the Inland Fisheries Program, discussed the state's fish sampling program in the Monocacy River and a study on the reproductive health and inter-sex condition of small mouth bass on the Monocacy River and Conocheague Creek.

Russell Anderson, Maryland State Highway Administration, spoke to a joint meeting of the River Board and Frederick County Historic Preservation Commission about the state's plans for the US 15/Monocacy Boulevard interchange, its innovative stormwater management and restoration of adjacent Tuscarora Creek.

Potomac Riverkeeper Ed Merrifield shared information concerning his organization's advocacy, programs and activities targeted towards protecting the health of the Potomac River and its watershed, including the Monocacy.

Special Initiatives/Projects:

River Clean Up Event

The River Board hosted its second river clean up day (April 9, 2011) at Riverside Park in the City of Frederick as part of the 23rd annual Potomac River Watershed Clean Up sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation. Forty-five volunteers cleared debris along more than 1-mile of River bank and associated floodplain on a cool and cloudy spring day, collecting over 75 bags of trash. Partnerships were again made with Wal-Mart, Giant Food, and Waste Management Waste to secure food and drinks for the volunteers in addition to a trash dumpster and hauling services.



“The Monocacy Starts Here” stream naming project

The River Board began organizing a 2012 public outreach program seeking to engage Carroll County and Frederick County citizens in naming previously un-named streams within the Monocacy's drainage area. Following prescribed geographic naming guidelines established by the US Geologic Survey, this event will raise awareness of the streams throughout our shared watershed.

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:

Frederick County's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update, including recommending connection opportunities to regional recreation resources

A subdivision addition plat combining Kline's Ranch/Phylpres/Brown Property to create one 66-acre parcel along the River near Rocky Ridge Road

State Highway Administration's project to replace and relocate the current MD RT 140 Bridge crossing the Monocacy west of Taneytown. Advocacy and comments included dialogue supporting implementing context sensitive solutions for design and access, heritage tourism and eco-tourism efforts

The creation of a new Monocacy River Water Trail Map in conjunction with the MD Department of Natural Resources and the Frederick County Parks and Recreation Division and in consultation with the Carroll County Bureau of Parks and Recreation

Frederick County's Comprehensive Plan and zoning update

The site development plan and NPDES discharge permit for the proposed Waste-to-Energy facility along the River

Also in 2011, the River Board:

- Met with the Adams County (PA) Watershed Alliance to establish a partnership and discuss shared watershed resource issues regarding the quality and quantity of water in the Monocacy River (the confluence of Marsh Creek and Rock Creek in Adams County form the Monocacy)
- Hosted a group of University of Baltimore students who attended a River Board meeting for a course in civic participation and community activism.
- Addressed numerous reports of trash and debris dumping along the River with various local and state agencies
- Assisted with outreach to private landowners to reduce trespass, recreational misuse and abuse of private riverfront lands
- Briefed the Frederick County Board of Commissioners on the River Board's activities and history.

For 2012, the River Board looks forward to continuing our action and service as advocates for the Monocacy Scenic 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 1, 2012 River Board meeting.

Sincerely,



Brian Cronin, Chair
Monocacy Scenic River Citizens Advisory Board



Bill Hensley, Vice-Chair

CC: Paul Smith, Vice President, Board of Frederick County Commissioners
Billy Shreve, Board of Frederick County Commissioners
David Gray, Board of Frederick County Commissioners
Richard Rothschild Vice President, Board of County Commissioners, Carroll County
David Roush, Secretary, Board of County Commissioners, Carroll County
Robin Bartlett-Frazier, Board of County Commissioners, Carroll County
Haven Shoemaker, Jr., Board of County Commissioners, Carroll County
Randy McClement, Mayor, City of Frederick
Eric Soter, Director, Frederick County Division of Community Development
Phillip Hager, Director, Carroll County Department of Land Use, Planning and Development
Tim Goodfellow, Frederick County Staff to the Monocacy Scenic River Citizens Advisory Board
Barbara Kearney, Carroll County Staff to the Monocacy Scenic River Citizens Advisory Board
Monocacy Scenic River Citizens Advisory Board Members