

Monocacy Scenic River Advisory Board



January 16, 2008

Board of County Commissioners of Frederick County
12 East Church Street
Frederick, MD 21701

Jan H. Gardner, President
David P. Gray, Vice-President
Kai J. Hagen
Charles A. Jenkins
John L. Thompson, Jr.

RE: Monocacy Scenic River Citizens' Advisory Board Annual Report

Dear Members of the Board of County Commissioners:

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 the county governments on land use, land development proposals, and resource management issues that impact the Monocacy River, serving as an advocate for the river and its varied resources.

Board Members:

FREDERICK COUNTY

Sean McCabe, Vice-Chair

**Jack Lynch
Frank Gladhill
Paul Allen
Will Morrow**

CARROLL COUNTY

Kim Stenley, Chair

**Thomas Robertson, Jr.
Peter Whitford
John Hale
Thomas Devilbiss**

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

Carroll County Staff Liaison: Scott Graf, (410) 386-2145

Website:

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

Brief History of Monocacy Protection:

Resolution #92-11, adopted April 20, 1992, formally established the Monocacy Scenic River Citizens' Advisory Board (River Board), 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.

After the Maryland Scenic and Wild Rivers Act of 1968 was adopted, the first inventory, *Scenic Rivers in Maryland*, was released by the Maryland Department of State Planning. 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 the Maryland scenic river system.

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

2007 Highlights

Since January 2007, the River Board has convened 11 meetings where we discussed a variety of topics and issues and listened to several speakers.

During the past 13 months, the River Board:

Hosted 3 speakers: Kay Schultz, from the Frederick County Public Works Division, spoke about the Monocacy & Catoctin Watershed Alliance, a coalition of individuals, groups and other entities involved in water quality and habitat improvement projects that implement the Upper and Lower Monocacy Watershed Restoration Action Strategies (WRAS).

Anne Bradley, Frederick County Division of Planning briefed the River Board about the County's Agricultural Preservation Program (MALPF, IPP, CF) and the ranking process for evaluating farms applying for entry into the programs.

John Mullican, MD Dept. of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologist, reviewed the state's fish monitoring and sampling program on the Monocacy and discussed the issue of emerging contaminants in our waterways and their impact on fish (intersex fish, lesions). Mr. Mullican described the initial findings of the aggressive, exotic Rusty Crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*) in the Upper Monocacy and its tributaries.

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

Buckeystown Park expansion

Legore Bridge and Reichs Ford Road Bridge upgrade/rehabilitation projects in the county's CIP. County DPW staff will brief River Board in the spring.

Thurmont Region Plan (Planning Commission review)

Farm-lot plat proposing three lots along the river

Three MALPF easement applications for lands adjacent to the river

Eighteen applications for river front farms entering the county's IPP

Proper maintenance of the 26-acre county-owned river front parcel at the Dudrow Business Park

Frederick and Carroll County policies regarding tree/stump removal from the river

Water quality/zoning violations in Keymar, Carroll County

In 2007, the State of Maryland issued formal notices of water quality impairment on the Monocacy River and its watershed. Four draft Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) have been developed by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for the Monocacy River and its watershed:

Fecal Bacteria TMDL for the Upper Monocacy River mainstem
Fecal Bacteria TMDL for the Lower Monocacy River mainstem
Fecal Bacteria TMDL for the Double Pipe Creek Watershed
Sediment TMDL for the Double Pipe Creek Watershed

Three of these draft TMDLs have been sent to the Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) for final approval. The Double Pipe Creek TMDL for sediment has not yet been sent to the EPA.

Further, the MDE states that a TMDL for sediment and nutrients on the Lower Monocacy River mainstem is under development.
(<http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/TMDL/Sumittals/index.asp>)

This TMDL listing indicates that the River fails to meet federal and state water quality standards. The River Board is very concerned with this recent development and will pursue policies and initiatives to address the River's water quality impairment.

2008 Work Plan Highlights

A Saturday retreat is scheduled for February 2008 to complete a year's work on the first state of the river report, which will be designed to convey water quality data and other pertinent watershed information to the general public and decision makers.

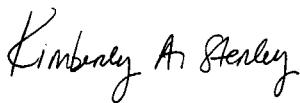
The River Board will formulate comments and submit recommendations on the Thurmont Region Plan to the BOCC early in 2008. We anticipate active involvement with the county as it updates its Countywide Comprehensive Plan, land use plan map and county zoning map over the next two years.

We also will be proposing changes to the easement documents and ranking forms used for the IPP program.

We look forward to continued dialogue and interaction with the Board of Commissioners in 2008.

This letter was approved by unanimous vote at the January 2, 2008 River Board meeting.

Sincerely,



Kim Stenley, Chair



Sean McCabe, Vice-chair

