

Monocacy Scenic River Advisory Board



March 5, 2009

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 Carroll County Commissioners
225 North Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157

RE: Monocacy Scenic River Citizens' Advisory Board Annual Report

Dear Commissioners Gardner and Gouge:

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

Sean McCabe, Chair
Frank Gladhill
Jack Lynch
Becky Kile
Vacant

CARROLL COUNTY

Tom Devilbiss, Vice-chair
Thomas Robertson, Jr.
Kim Stenley
Vacant
Vacant

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:

Frederick County Resolution No. 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 No. 92-11, the River Board hereby transmits its annual report to the Frederick County Commissioners. The report highlights the major activities, goals, and accomplishments of the River Board.

2008 Highlights

In 2008, the River Board convened 11 meetings during which we discussed a variety of topics and issues and invited several speakers.

During the past 12 months, the River Board:

Hosted two speakers:

Tim Davis, City of Frederick, spoke about the expansion plans for the Frederick Airport, including various environmental assessments and River impacts from the proposed 115-ft. air traffic control tower.

Jim Gugel, chief of Comprehensive Planning, briefed the River Board on Frederick County's Countywide Comprehensive Plan update and land use designations along the River corridor.

Special Events/Meetings: **Monocacy River Audit.** River Board members were invited to attend the environmental leaders discussion at Pinecliff Park and Hood College as part of Maryland Attorney General Douglas Gansler's "Monocacy River Audit." They also participated in the Attorney General's listening session at Hood College on September 23, 2008.

Monocacy River Report. In February 2008, the River Board convened a day-long weekend worksession with staff from the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin

(ICPRB) to jump-start work on the River Report. The River Report will be an illustrated, newsletter format publication, intended to educate the general public. The Report seeks to increase awareness about the River, while fostering a greater appreciation of our incredible aquatic resources and providing easily implemented actions that citizens can take to protect the Monocacy, its watershed and aquifers.

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board. The River Board met with the Ag. Board on October 27, 2008 to discuss the River Board's proposed changes to the Installment Purchase Program (IPP) easement language, focusing on water quality Best Management Practices, riparian forest management and other agricultural activities, for farms adjacent to the River.

Countywide Comprehensive Plan Public Outreach.

In June the River Board participated in a facilitated meeting with planning staff to contribute information facing Frederick County and provide input on the future land use plan.

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

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

Future development of a Carroll County park along Double Pipe Creek in Detour

Two MALPF easement applications for lands adjacent to the River (Wolfe, Dertzbaugh)

Monocacy Battlefield's Draft Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Resthaven Memorial Gardens expansion proposal on River front property

Mason-Dixon Country Club near Middle Creek and Cattail Branch in Emmitsburg

Proposed expansion of the Frederick Municipal Airport, including the runway extension, air traffic control tower, T-hangers and the Bailes Lane expansion.

We look forward to continuing to serve Frederick and Carroll County citizens and a continued dialogue with the Board of Commissioners in 2009.

This letter was approved by unanimous vote at the March 4, 2009 River Board meeting.

Sincerely,



Sean McCabe, Chair



Tom Devilbiss, Vice-chair

CC: David P. Gray, Vice President, Board of Frederick County Commissioners
Kai J. Hagen, Board of Frederick County Commissioners
Charles A. Jenkins, Board of Frederick County Commissioners
John L. Thompson, Jr., Board of Frederick County Commissioners
Dean L. Minnich, Board of Carroll County Commissioners
Michael D. Zimmer, Board of Carroll County Commissioners
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