



*Advocating for the
Monocacy River watershed
since 1978*

April 4, 2013

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 2012

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, Chair

Jack Lynch

Bob Whiting

Sam Roop

Jim Dertzbaugh
(appointed February 2013)

CARROLL COUNTY

Andy Aughenbaugh, Vice-Chair

Brian Cronin

Scott Scarfone

George Grillon

Tom Robertson, Jr.
(resigned January 2013)

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 resources, 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."

2012 Overview/Highlights:

The River Board convened seven meetings during 2012 and discussed a broad variety of issues and topics as well as received several special presentations and briefings.

Hosted four guest speakers:

Andrew Banasik, Natural Resource Manager with the National Park Service at the Monocacy National Battlefield, hosted the River Board at the historic Thomas House on the grounds of the park. Andrew spoke about the creation of the park, the Civil War battles that occurred on the properties, as well as the on-going environmental management and restoration activities the Park Service conducts.



Adam McClain, Watershed Specialist with the Adams County, Pennsylvania Conservation District, spoke about the Conservation District's work in reducing soil erosion and aquatic pollution, and other community engagement and outreach activities.

Friends of Frederick County discussed the new mobile phone and web-based application for citizens to use in documenting and reporting suspected water quality problems.

The River Board hosted a special summer dinner meeting, held in conjunction with the Frederick County Historic Preservation Commission, on the banks of the Monocacy River at the Ceresville Mansion. This meeting was the official launch of “The Monocacy Starts Here” stream naming contest. John L. Thompson, Jr., former Walkersville Burgess and Frederick County Commissioner, addressed the gathering that included 15 invited guests, including some former River Board members.

Special Initiatives/Projects:

“The Monocacy Starts Here”

The River Board unveiled its formal public engagement project to solicit names for six un-named tributaries that drain into the Monocacy River. Over 30 entries were submitted for the un-named streams that were selected by the River Board from dozens of un-named streams in Carroll and Frederick Counties. An evaluation committee will submit the winning names to the US Geologic Survey for final decision and ultimate acceptance into the official Geographic Names Inventory in 2013.



River Clean Up Event

The River Board hosted its third annual river clean up day (April 14, 2012) at Rivermist Park in the City of Frederick as part of the 24th annual Potomac River Watershed Clean Up sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation. Forty 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 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 update to its 2010 Comprehensive Plan with particular attention to the rezoning of sensitive River-front land

The National Park Service's *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan*, supporting opportunities for greater public access to and enjoyment of the Watershed's aquatic resources

Frederick County's application to secure funding from the Governor's Stream Restoration Challenge and opportunities for future environmental restoration activities

Also in 2012, the River Board:

- Continued preliminary discussions and collaborations on development of new public access sites on the River.
- Organized a large multi-agency, inter-governmental effort to rid a portion of the River of a significant number of discarded tires. Implementation rescheduled for 2013.
- Initiated the update of the 1990 River Management Plan, with planned collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources
- Hosted an 11-mile River paddle from Pinecliff Park to Park Mills Road on a sunny day in June



For 2013, 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 April 3, 2013 River Board meeting.

Sincerely,



Bill Hensley, Chair

and

Andy Aughenbaugh, Vice-Chair

Monocacy Scenic River Citizens Advisory Board

CC: Paul Smith, Vice President, Board of Frederick County Commissioners
Billy Shreve, Board of Frederick County Commissioners
David Gray, Board of Frederick County Commissioners
Kirby Delauter, 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