



*Advocating for the
Monocacy River watershed
since 1978*

March 7, 2014

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

The Honorable David Roush, 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 2013

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

Jim Dertzbaugh, Vice-Chair
Jack Lynch
Bob Whiting
Sam Roop
Bill Hensley

CARROLL COUNTY

Andy Aughenbaugh, Chair
Chris Heyn
Scott Scarfone
George Grillon
Jim Wieprecht

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."

2013 Overview/Highlights:

The River Board convened nine regular meetings plus one joint meeting with the Severn River Commission during 2013 and discussed a broad variety of issues and topics as well as received several special presentations and briefings.

Hosted four guest speakers:

Anne Bradley, Frederick County Land Preservation Administrator, described the proposed Agricultural Density Transfer Program, aka Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program, and also reviewed the various county, state and federal land preservation programs operating in Frederick County.

Joe Adkins, City of Frederick Planning Director, spoke about the City's land use planning, environmental regulations, River-front development and the City's vision for the Monocacy River and its corridor.

Jeff Degitz, Carroll County Director of Parks and Recreation, shared his department's history and interaction with various citizen groups, as well as his involvement with the creation of two official non-profit, recreation-advocacy groups that advise the Carroll County Parks Department. The information was germane to the River Board's discussion about the possible, future creation of a 'Friends of the Monocacy' group.

Shannon Moore, Frederick County Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources, discussed the regulatory and policy issues relating to the water quality improvements and mandates connected to the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), including

the Watershed Implementation Plans and the pending Maryland 'off-set policy,' designed to reduce or off-set Nitrogen and Phosphorus pollution from new development.

Special Initiatives/Projects:

River Identification Signage

Twenty-five (25) bridges span the Monocacy River, with ownership and maintenance responsibilities shared between Frederick County, Carroll County, Frederick City and the Maryland State Highway Administration (MD SHA). Coordinating with both Carroll and Frederick County Public Works staff, the River Board initiated a project to install identification signs and no dumping signs at 11 of 13 County bridges that lacked such signage. All 10 Monocacy River bridges owned by the MD SHA have River identification signs. The River Board continues to work with the City of Frederick to obtain signage on the River's 2 remaining bridges (Monocacy Boulevard and Gas House Pike) that lack identification signs to alert motorists and bikers of the presence of our great, shared resource.



River Clean Up Event

The River Board hosted its fourth annual river clean up day (April 6, 2013) at Rivermist Park in the City of Frederick as part of the 25th 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 sunny 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 hauling services.



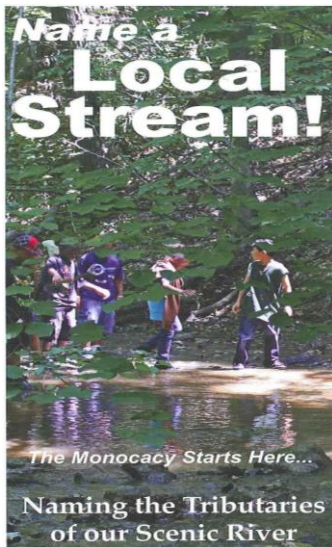
Tire Clean Up

On a hot July day, the River Board partnered with the Water Rescue Team from Junior Fire Company No. 2 on North Market Street to rid the Monocacy of tires and other debris. Approximately 70 tires and other debris were gathered and hauled from the River's channel and banks along a 0.75-mile stretch of the Monocacy. River Board members and several hearty volunteers spent over 6 hours to improve the health and aesthetics of our Scenic River. Special thanks to the City of Frederick Parks Department and the County's Division of Utilities and Solid Waste Management for their assistance in this endeavor.



“The Monocacy Starts Here”

The River Board continued 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 was formed and completed its review and ranking of all submissions. The River Board will submit the winning names to the US Geologic Survey in early 2014 for final decision and ultimate acceptance into the official Geographic Names Inventory.



Also in 2013, the River Board:

- Continued work on the update of the 1990 River Management Plan, collaborating with various local, state and federal partners in revising data and various studies that will inform the creation of a new Plan for the future management of the River and its resources.
- Held a joint meeting in Annapolis with the Severn River Commission, an advisory body for the State-designated Scenic Severn River similar to the Monocacy Scenic River Board in its role, structure and function.
- Continued collaborations with both Frederick County and Carroll County for Development of new public access sites on the River.
- Closely tracked the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) proposal submitted by the Frederick County Farm Bureau, attended the TDR workgroup meetings, and submitted formal comments on the TDR proposal, promoting the protection of the Monocacy River corridor.
- Completed work with the Frederick County Parks and Recreation Division and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources on development of a Monocacy River Water Map.

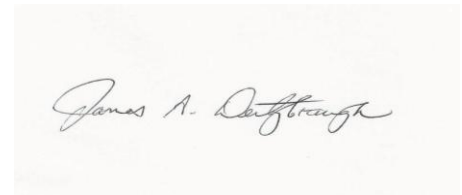
For 2014, the River Board looks forward to continuing our action and service as advocates for the Monocacy Scenic River and its precious resources on behalf of the citizens of Frederick and Carroll Counties. We will pursue our mission via continued input and dialogue with various board and bodies at 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 March 5, 2014 River Board meeting.

Sincerely,



Andy Aughenbaugh, Chair
Monocacy Scenic River Citizens Advisory Board



Jim Dertzbaugh, 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
Kirby Delauter, Board of Frederick County Commissioners
Richard Rothschild Vice President, Board of County Commissioners, Carroll County
Doug Howard, Board of County Commissioners, Carroll County
Robin Bartlett-Frazier, Secretary, Board of County Commissioners, Carroll County
Haven Shoemaker, Jr., Board of County Commissioners, Carroll County
Randy McClement, Mayor, City of Frederick
Gary Hessong, Acting 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