

Upper Ohio Conservation District Minutes December 15, 2020

Members Present via teleconference

Allen Rush, Chairman
Bill Gellner, Vice-Chair
Patricia Thomas, Supervisor
Audra Cunningham, Supervisor
Holly Morgan, Secretary/Treasurer
Wayne McKeever, Supervisor

Others Present via teleconference

Julia Bolin, WVU Extension
Kim Fisher, WVCA Area Manager
Lori Cochran, WVCA/UOCD District Manager
Nick Beaver, NRCS
Jennifer Kile, WVCA
Katie Fitzsimmons, NRCS

Chairman Rush called the meeting to order.

Cooperating Agency Reports

USDA-NRCS-FSA –Beaver reviewed current NRCS programs activities, Nov. 18 State Con visited UOCD and traveled to Julia and Al Bolin's property to tour the high tunnels and other NRCS practices. Also discussed with Julia on potentially partnering with Extension on some future projects. Recently, a few people have contacted NRCS expressing interest in forestry and wildlife programs as a result of an article published by WVDNR in the local newspaper. Have had an EQUIP contract completed in the last month. This puts us at 20 Equip contracts and 12 CSP's for a total of 32 active contracts. Have also entered all of the applications in the system for consideration of funding for next year. Currently have 27 applications for funding for next year. Fitzsimmons thanked everyone that came to meet with Jon on the 18th. Thank everyone for what we have been able to accomplish this year, look forward to 2021 hopefully being a better situation and be able to have face to face meetings.

WVCA – Fisher updated everyone with WVCA activities. WVCA is still encouraging Supervisors and staff to follow protocol, wear a mask, social distancing as necessary, just as we are doing this evening. Still waiting on the Attorney General Office to provide an opinion on Conservation Projects that involve water quality. Legislature 2021, Brian has added the dates of the session. Reminds you to reach out to your elected delegates and senators and invite them to be a part of the Conservation District and help them to understand what we all do. The State AgEP Committee met on Dec. 4. New practices and new allocation formulas were presented. The next meeting for State AgEP will be in March, the date has not been set yet. That's when it will be decided what to recommend being taken on to the committee for approval. Encourage Districts to review the POW, your District policy manuals, and your District employee manual, and perform your audits.

Forestry – None

SWA – None

WVU Extension – Bolin reported that the Garden Calendars are in, and available for touchless pick up on the porch. Tyler Co. Extension is following WVU and County guidelines so not allowing anyone in unless they have an appointment or if they know on the door and we are available. The door is locked. Hours, someone is typically in the office 9am to 3pm.

Meeting Minutes

McKeever made the motion to approve the November 17, 2020 meeting minutes. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

Morgan made the motion to approve the November 17, 2020 meeting minutes. Gellner seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial Report

Gellner made a motion to file the financial report for audit. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

Gellner made a motion that UOCD bills be paid as funds permit and coordinated by office staff. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

Funding Request

None

Upper Ohio Conservation District Minutes December 15, 2020

Supervisor Reports

Cunningham – Met the State Con on the 18th, signed checks a couple of times. Reporting the weather daily; we are under a winter weather advisory. Tyler and Wetzel are on the drought monitor and some sections of Pleasants are very dry as well. Spoke with several farmers about the drought effects, listened in on a Woodlands Stewardship seminar and plan to listen on another one tomorrow, Women Owning Woodlands is holding a virtual conference on the 17 if anyone is interested, I will send you the link.

Gellner – Sat in State Ag meeting December 4, WVU has now gone to a 2-year lime application period in place of the 3-year application period. WVU has a website that will help calculate your liming requirements. The site also has a map that shows the different PH levels in the state. Deadlines were discussed and continues to be June 30, new practices discussed were spring development for high tunnels, this was brought up Jenn for a cooperator in NPCD, the American Chestnut reestablishment, bees and spraying of herbicides. New allocation was also on the agenda and it is basically the same as what it was last year except if the funding has not been used by a certain time period, a percentage will go back to the pool. The guidelines have not been set up yet, I will be in on a sub-committee that will be meeting January 6 to discuss those options. A base amount was also discussed, so the allocation formula would be calculated above the base amount. AgEP comments for the program are due by January 31. If you have anything, please let Jennifer Skaggs, Jennifer Kile or Bill know prior to the 31. Also sat in on the telecommunications meeting for LK RC&D. The land surrounding the building on Gyan Road is leased to people with gardens and Extension is now going to do something with part of that land also.

McKeever -Tygart's Valley CD presented the idea of reestablishing the American Chestnut tree to the AgEP Committee and is currently working on a plan to incorporate the practice in the AgEP Program. November 18 Partnership call with Brian and Jon; talked about the Local Workgroup meeting, met with Jon at the office, 12/1 communications call, 12/2 Association meeting establishing a Foundation separate from the Association that is basically set up for donations, and the main purpose would be used for education related along with some other things, but we were working on the by-laws that day. 12/3 Pasture Program meeting WVU Extension, more to follow in the near future. This is starting as a pilot program. 12/4 AgEP call, 12/7 Envirothon calls and worked on Association work, 12/8 Envirothon call, didn't have an Envirothon meeting this month, but did have an Envirothon Executive meeting because things needed set up prior to the January meeting. Registration fee for Envirothon was set at \$50 per team this year. It is a virtual Envirothon this year. It is a lot of work, setting up the test, and still not sure what the process is going to be. We will probably not know until March exactly how it will be handled in April due to COVID. Test may be individual or hopefully be able to complete as a team. 12/10 RC&D meeting, as well as signing checks and taking many calls.

Thomas – Signed checks, read emails and discussed Envirothon team with Mrs. Franks.

Morgan – Communications call, Facebook page, if you see a post on our page, please share. Our posts are not getting out there, only reached about 400 people last month. Plan to apply for a Specialty Block grant, deadline is January 18.

Rush – Met with the State Conservationist, signed checks, etc. Plan to deliver 5 Century Farm applications in Wetzel Co. SWA has hired a litter officer to enforce litter laws.

Unfinished Business

Cooperator Agreement

None

AgEP

McKeever made a motion to approve the following payments. Thomas seconded the motion; motion passed.

Name	Practice	Amount	Cost Share
Steven Long	Heavy Use	1876 Sq. Feet	\$1980.00

Equipment Usage Update

No equipment has been rented since the last meeting.

Grant Needs

Covered in Supervisor report

Upper Ohio Conservation District Minutes December 15, 2020

Vacant NRCS/UOCD 60/40 Position Expectations

Set up a meeting with NPCD Supervisors to discuss expectations.

Update on Shipman

Cochran informed that the raise adjustment has been paid and PEIA share has been paid.

Education Programs

- Rain barrel workshop update –
- Composting workshop update – Fitzsimmons reported that Shipman is willing to do video workshop for Rain Barrels and Composting.
- Mushroom workshop – WVU will have a workshop calendar in January. May be a Mushroom Workshop scheduled.
- Gardening workshop update – NPCD has a Program Assistant doing extensive work with gardening and high tunnels. Cunningham believes she is willing to do video workshops with UOCD.
- Other ideas on new programs and how to proceed – none
- Food desert update – Nothing new.

Century, etc. Farms Update

Mailed application to J. Smith in Pleasants Co. Cunningham to touch base with him. Rush to deliver 5 applications. Expect to get at least 3 completed applications back.

New Business

Watering System Supplies

Rush reported we need to restock all supplies for watering systems. Cost could be in excess of \$1000.

Thomas made a motion to restock needed supplies. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

January Meeting Date

The date has been changed to January 26 to accommodate those attending the Quarterly Meeting on January 19.

Correspondence

Received a letter from Martin Marietta stating a price increase of 4 – 6% on their products effective January 1.

Adjournment

Morgan made a motion to adjourn. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

The next regular meeting will be teleconference January 26, at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, District Manager

Signature of Chairman

Date

Signature of Secretary

Date