

Upper Ohio Conservation District Draft Minutes October 13, 2020

Members Present via teleconference

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

Others Present via teleconference

David Shipman, NRCS
Lori Cochran, WVCA/UOCD District Manager
Kim Fisher, WVCA Area Manager
Jennifer Kile, WVCA
Sean Kuhn, Forestry
Katie Fitzsimmons, NRCS

Chairman Rush called the meeting to order.

Cooperating Agency Reports

USDA-NRCS-FSA –Fitzsimmons reviewed current NRCS programs activities. NRCS fiscal calendar has changed to FY21 on October 1. Have anyone interested in programs give them a call. Nick will be giving reports at the board meeting for the field office report. Still in phase 2 for office opening. Shipman has nothing to report. Rush wished Shipman luck in his new position with NRCS.

WVCA – Fisher provided the written WVCA report.

Forestry – Geho completed practice in Wetzel County. The office is not turning visitors away, even though the doors are locked.

SWA – Has stopped accepting plastic. There is no market for it. They have been getting up to 4 ton of cardboard in a week.

WVU Extension – None.

Meeting Minutes

Morgan made the motion to approve the September 15, 2020 meeting minutes. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial Report

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

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

Funding Request

None

Supervisor Reports

Gellner –Nothing to report for the District. Did report that he is feeling better and did get his high tunnel up.

Cunningham – Grassland Conference call and Communications call, could not be heard on the Communications call. Picked up a basket and items for the Scholarship Auction. Talked to someone at the PC Park for possible site for Chestnut tree planting. Spoke to producers about FSA programs. Calf sale in Harrisville. Pleasant County producers both purchased and sold at the sale. Listened to conference call on Ag Lime quality and applications. Soil sample questions and referred to the office. Producer ask about high tunnel assistance and referred to NRCS. Sesquicentennial farm question. Had already applied for centennial farm. Farmers about hay and lack of rain in the area and difference in cuttings. Talked to someone in Parkersburg about dividers for front office and what was our options. Will be meeting at the office later. Weather reporting daily.

McKeever - Sept. 18 listened in on the Steering Committee. On the 28th Envirothon Teachers workshop. Ended up videoing the workshop and it will be on the website and Facebook page in the near future. On the 25th picked up the chestnut trees in Parkersburg. On the 30th participated in the communications call. On Oct. 1 participated in a partnership call with NRCS John Borden, Roger Dahmer, and Brian Farkas. Oct. 6 had an Awards Council meeting and a State Conservation Program sub-committee meeting. Oct. 7 had an Envirothon

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meeting in Sutton at WVACD office. Still planning to have the Envirothon Contest. Need to make a decision if it will be virtual or not within the next month to make sure. Oct. 10, planted the American Chestnut trees at the Tyler Consolidated High School. Patricia was there along with, Jon Wilson from Forestry, Lori Franks and Joe Griffith with AP Biology Class, and several kids from FFA helped with the planting. Planted nine trees behind the school and the AP Biology class will monitor them, take readings two or three times a year and take care of the trees. Had the State Conservation Committee meeting today. We may have to open code again, to clarify State Conservation Committee, Conservation Agency and Districts can engage in conservation practice where water quality is a direct benefit. This particularly relates to 319 projects. Current code refers to soil erosion, but nothing is specific about water quality. The Attorney General may decide there is enough wording in code as it is now to take care of it, but as of today he hasn't decided. Working on a new classification system and the District Manager title may be changed to District Operations Coordinator. (after a meeting with the DM's it was changed to Administrative Specialist) In 2012 they reduced job classifications from 47 to 14, but this year they are increasing it from 14 to 22 establish salaries and pay increases as needed based on the work that is done. Did hear there are a couple new meat processors, one is in Bell and one is in Roane County. Also worked on the WV teachers conference for the Envirothon, sending in the information, worked on the WVCA meeting next week, worked on Envirothon, had a couple Executive meetings, and other things as needed.

Thomas – Sent Audra information about where VanCamp had rented his equipment from. Dropped off items for the Auction Basket. Quizzed Ed Rayburn about lime and liming training to see if it could be videoed for those who could not attend at the time scheduled. Set up a time for the Foresters to meet with the teachers to find the best location for the Chestnut tree planting and helped select multiple spots for the trees to be planted so if one didn't work out, a place would still be available. Organized the tree planting held Saturday. I am so proud of our students, seven high school and one middle school student arrived to help and worked very hard. Wayne agreed he was amazed at how hard they worked. The planting went really well. Signed checks and paperwork at the office. Checked out the downspouts and the new door, and it was nice to see everything looking so nice. Talked to David Clough checked out the progress he has made on his AgEP practice. It is coming along nicely. He has all of his post in and had the super tall heavy-duty woven plastic that he is getting ready to put around that. Stopped at the post office to get information on the flat rate boxes and a weight chart and fees that apply versus meter from Pitney Bowes. Haven't had a chance to research more.

Morgan – signed up for the lime workshop. Contacted the person about the grant workshop but have not heard back from him. Contacted the Mayor of Hundred to see about placing American Chestnut trees on their walking trail. Talked to County Commission to see about placing some at the 4-H ground. They were supposed to get back but have not yet. On Facebook we reached 300 this month with 3 new likes. Posted the information about the American Chestnut tree planting today and sent it in to the newspapers. Called in to the communications meeting but was at work and had to hang up.

Rush – Signed checks and paperwork as usual.

Cooperator Agreement

No new agreements

AgEP

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

Name	Practice	Amount	Cost Share
Henry Barnhart	Lime	30.24	\$756.00
Robert VanCamp	Ex. Fence	1563'	\$2500.00
Donnie Seckman	PD Fence	1563'	\$2500.00
Allen Seckman	PD Fence	1563'	\$2500.00

Total payments = \$8256.00

Morgan made a motion to approve the following round three AgEP applications. Gellner seconded the motion; motion passed.

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Name	Practice	Amount	Cost Share	Ranking
Doretta Morrison	HUA	1500 sq. ft.	\$1000.00	82
Edith Smith	Lime	17.22 Acres/51.66 tons	\$1291.50	93
Anthony McDuffitt	PD Fence	1563'	\$2500.00	93
Marsha Weese	IS	40 Acres	\$300.00	90
Marsh Weese	Watering System	1 system	\$2200.00	100
Wayne Goddard	Urban Ag	Fence/Charger	\$1000.00	40
Tim McDuffitt	Lime	11 Acres/31.2 tons	\$780.00	91.8
Kara Garrett	Lime	6 Acres/14.7 tons	\$367.50	84
Gary Hamilton	Lime	50 Acres/100 tons	\$2500	65

CD at Bayer Heritage

Rush will take care of the paperwork.

Soil Sample Mailings

Continue as we have been until the committee consisting of Gellner, Morgan and Thomas research other District's procedures and best mailing options.

PEIA

Gellner made a motion have the shared employee pay \$262.50 of the premium charged for PEIA from March to the end of June. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Equipment Usage Update

Lime spreader continues to go out. The Sod Seeder is currently out and will return tomorrow.

NRCS Grant Position

Discuss with NPCD to see if we have a need to fill the shared employee position.

Pay Raise

Tabled,

American Chestnut Planting

Need to get places to plant soon. Trees need to be planted. Hundred will take at least 5.

Terry Collins – Flatwoods expenses

Thomas made a motion to cover the meals and mileage using current Supervisor rates for Terry and his family to attend the awards ceremony in Flatwoods. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Video Award Presentation

Photos of award winners will be submitted to local newspapers and placed on UOCD Facebook page.

Gardening Class

Start planning a Gardening class for spring. Talk to Extension to see if they would like to participate. May be able to do an online class if needed. Reach out to see what we can come up with.

Tree Sale

NPCD has a tree sale on odd years. Maybe we could hold ours on even years.

Grant Needs

Think of needs within the District we could submit request for grant funds.

Cost Share American Chestnut Tree

TVCD is trying to start a cost share program for American Chestnut Trees. They are planting trees from RC&D.

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Correspondence

Email from DEP.

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting will be on November 17, at 6:00 p.m. Meeting style is yet to be determined.

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, District Manager

Signature of Chairman

Date

Signature of Secretary

Date