

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes April 27, 2021

Members Present via teleconference

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

Others Present via teleconference

Kim Fisher, WVCA
Jennifer Kile, WVCA
Lori Cochran, WVCA/UOCD Administrative Specialist
Nick Beaver, NRCS
Julie Bolin, WV Extension
Katie Fitzsimmons, NRCS

Secretary/Treasurer Morgan called the meeting to order. Rush having technical issues.

Cooperating Agency Reports

USDA-NRCS-FSA .

WVCA – Fisher reviewed the written report provided.

Forestry – None

SWA – None

WVU Extension – Finished up an invasive grass research project, the person heading that up in Morgantown hopes to have that published. The goal of the research project is to control these grasses in pastures preemergence. As we get more information, I will share that. Supplied 900 grow kits to Tyler Consolidated Middle School, Boreman Elementary and Sistersville Elementary. They will be used in a Farmers Market bag they will be sending home the beginning of May. Jackson's Mill Outdoor Adventure is scheduled for June 17 – 19 and we are booked. I am going to be offering a Stress Less with Mindfulness Class starting May 20 at the Library. It is five sessions. Restarting the Teen Leader Group in Tyler Co., May 6 is the first meeting at the Tyler Co. Campground from 6:30 to 8:30. There is some new information on our website and Facebook page about the Women in Ag in October.

Chairman Rush joined the meeting and took over the chair.

Previous Meeting Minutes

McKeever made the motion to approve the March 16, 2021 meeting minutes. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial Report

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

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

Funding Request

Morgan made a motion to give a rain barrel to the State FFA officers to auction off to raise funds for a new pavilion at Cedar Lakes. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Supervisor Reports

Cunningham – Participated in the resume meeting and the interviews for the shared employee. Three very good candidates were interviewed. Participated in a call about the Corona Virus Food Assistance Program. If you know anyone that would be eligible, please have them contact FSA. Through WVDA, I sat in on a meeting for the Regional Processing Facility, looks like it is going to be a go. Paperwork has been submitted for grant funding. The regional facility for Pleasants County will actually be sitting in Ritchie County. Waiting to find out about the grant funding for that. I was on a call for the Ohio River Sweep, some restrictions have been lifted, so looks like it will definitely be a go for this year. I will try to coordinate with the three counties in our District. They are wanting to do this year is mini sweeps, so we can get at least one sweep in each county scheduled. Spoke to cooperators about farm pond aeration and several people have called trying to find hay. If you know anyone that has hay for sale, please let me know and I will share with those I have spoken to. I participated in the Grazing Conference Committee Meeting and the Appalachian Grazing Conference for 2022 is going to be March 10, 11 and 12. It will be held at the Waterfront. They are contacting the speakers they had lined up for the 2020 cancellation and most of them have agreed to do it in 2022. No theme has been set yet, and they are hoping to do that at the next meeting so they can get the advertising out. I spoke with Jack and Brenda Smith the Centennial Farmer in Pleasants County. Trying to coordinate with the newspaper in Pleasants County to get to the farm for photos and speak to them about the history of the farm an article can be placed in the paper. I participated in a call for bale grazing. I continue to submit precipitation data.

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McKeever - participated in the RC&D meeting, AgEP meeting, Communications call, Partnership call, Legislative meeting, Shared Employee Interviews. Also participated in the State Sub-committee meeting, Envirothon meeting, Education Committee for Envirothon, State Conservation Committee meeting, the Appalachian Grazing Conference call, Quarterly meeting, and another Envirothon call today. Main thing from Quarterly meeting is the Conservation Farm Contest is on, and if we want to participate we need to get started on that. Foundation is coming along, need to file a couple main papers to file and should good to go. If anything needs to go on our Association webpage you need to get hold of Kelly Wayne at the office. All Districts are welcome to put anything on the page. Ag Day 2022 will be February 1, the plan is to have some kind of dinner meeting the night before if that can be arranged. Working on Association Executive Director, this will be a full-time position. This has been kicked around for some time, but funding was a problem, but John Bordan from NRCS said he could come up with the funds for the position. The Job Description has been approved by the Association, so just processing all the paperwork that needs to go along with that. We are hoping to hire someone in the near future. Agreed to have Area Meetings, the state will be divided into three areas. Eastern, Central and Western areas. UOCD is in the Western Area. We are hoping District Chairs can attend, all Supervisors are welcome, along our partners, NRCS, Conservation Agency, FSA, Extension, Forestry, DNR, Wild Turkey and Farm Bureau. I am adamant these need to be structured, productive meetings. If not, do away with them. Legislative Committee has come on pretty strong. The last meeting Conservation Code updates were discussed. This was written some 80 years ago and code needs to be updated. Autonomy of Districts was also discussed. Legislative changes is not something we can blindly go after, we need a little help with this and so Mike Brown, Director of NASCA, will be helping us. Reason for doing this is Conservation is going to change and has been changing. Established a goal for October, but if we don't meet it, we will keep working. Get signed up if you want to work the State Fair. LWG planning for Conservation Districts, should be up to CD. We should probably have some training in order to do this. We will probably be having that training in July and also at the October meeting. We hope the Districts will take the lead on the LWG and Conservation Planning next year. Completed Virtual Envirothon, everything went well for the most part. The awards will be presented this Friday. Had ten teams and about five alternate teams. Thank you to Chris Ellison for an excellent job helping with the Envirothon. We should be getting meeting notes in the next week and also a newsletter in a few weeks

Thomas – I was on the hiring committee call on March 18, worked with TC teachers for the Envirothon, making sure they had what was necessary. We had a full team and some extras that we hope will complete next year. Advisors said they really enjoyed the competition.

Morgan - Participated in the resume call, the communications call, talked to John Smith about Envirothon, doing some kind of media to encourage others, promoted the Shitake Mushroom event that Extension did in Wetzel Co., promoting some other classes as well.

Rush - One thing Mike Brown stressed was the powers of a Conservation District and the responsibilities that should be included in that District. He touched on the LWG meetings and Forestry should be involved in all of this. He also said cooperator agreements are still being used all across the country. We need to rewrite the specs for Lime AgEP to 2 tons per acre. The first Area Directors meeting will July 9 at LKCD, an agenda will be provided. Went to the Quarterly meeting, sat in on the hiring of the shared employee. FSA is hiring 15 new employees in WV this year and last year they hired 22. State RC&D meets in June. They are having a good year. Chestnut tree sales are going well in Districts. We have to get rid of tires we stored at the State Road facility in Alma. DEP is requesting them removed. I have talked to someone with a log truck willing to haul them to Mannington where someone is cutting them and selling them for troughs. The pile has grown to more than our tires but proving what belongs to who could be a problem. DEP has a program to help with getting rid of them. SWA in Tyler county has a new appointee by the DEP, Bobbin Pardine from Friendly. June 24 is the next LK RC&D meeting.

Unfinished Business

AgEP

McKeever made a motion to approve payments for Marsha Weese, WS \$2200 and Larry Hadley, PD Fence \$2500. Thomas second the motion; motion passed.

McKeever made a motion to set the AgEP sign-up period from May 24th to June 11, 2021. Thomas second the motion; motion passed. Ranking will be from June 14 to July 14 and presented for approval at the July 27 board meeting.

Grant Needs

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Spring Development Supply Update

Need to buy a new pipe for spring boxes, purchase more float valves, and copper pipe needs to be drilled.

Equipment Rental Update

Sod Seeder went out 1 time and lime spreader went out 9 times.

Equipment Repairs Updates and Needs

New lime spreader needs a new drive shaft or rebuild the old one. Danny had one on hand that works for now but need to replace it.

Seed Program Up-Date

Seed packages are ready to mail. There are extra seeds. I ordered envelopes to package them and then anyone can pick them up, or supervisors can hand out to anyone requesting them.

Education Programs

- Barrel order update – No luck yet on finding a new supplier.
- Composting workshop update – David is trying to figure out how to do a video and needs a barrel.
- Bluebird Box Video – Jenn has made arrangements to make a video Sunday.
- Other ideas

Conservation Farm Award

Need a farm from each county to honor.

New Business

LWG Meeting

Beaver will check on venue date tentatively set for May 24 at 6:00 hopefully at the Tyler Co. Fair Shelter.

CDO Budget

Thomas made a motion to approve the CDO Budget presented at the March meeting. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

Poster Contest

Morgan made a motion to extend the poster contest deadline to June 1st. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Photo Contest

Morgan made a motion to extend the photo contest deadline to June 1st. Thomas seconded the motion; motion passed.

Scholarship

No applications were received.

Mowing by Bowie

Cunningham made a motion to continue using John Bowie Lawn Care for mowing office, shop and around the sign on North Street. Thomas seconded the motion; motion passed.

Shop Upgrades

Cunningham made a motion to reconnect to water at the shop annually from April to October. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Morgan made a motion to spend up to \$700 on a gasoline pressure washer for maintenance of rental equipment. Motion died for lack of a second.

Cunningham made a motion to table pressure washer to May meeting with more information available. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

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Mowing of shop acreage

Table to next meeting.

COVID updates

Talk to Cindy to see about a possible station.

LOR's

McKeever made a motion to submit the following LOR's:

District Support \$33082.00

District Support \$16692.00

District Support \$16691.00

District Support \$12668.00

FY21 Audit \$2150.00

Thomas seconded the motion; motion passed.

Correspondence

None

McKeever made a motion to hold the May meeting in office for those who choose not to call in. Thomas seconded the motion. Vote was tied, Chairman Rush voted in favor of the motion; motion passed.

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting will be teleconference May18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

The July meeting date has been changed to July 27, 2021.

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist

Signature of Chairman

Signature of Secretary

Date

Date