

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes September 21, 2021

Members Present

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

Others Present

Nick Beaver, NRCS
*Lori Cochran, WVCA/UOCD Administrative Specialist
*Jennifer Kile, WVCA
* Kim Fisher, WVCA
*Katie Fitzsimmons, NRCS
*Julie Bolin, WVU Extension
*Sean Kuhn, Forestry
*Heather Duncan, WVACD Executive Director

*Attended via teleconference

Vice-Chairman Gellner called the meeting to order.

Cooperating Agency Reports

USDA-NRCS-FSA - Beaver reported now back to reduced staffing. All NRCS offices are at 25% capacity and are meeting participants outside of USDA or NRCS work area. Past few weeks we have attended some trainings, attended a forestry training Lewis County, online Covid update and some discussion about conservation planning certification. Katie and Nick will be the certified planners within the two Districts. Just completed our contracting period for the year so we will start getting out to properties for planning visits for new participants and revised conservation planning for existing participants. Update for 2021 contracting season, we had a total of 30 contracts, of those 13 were in UOCD and total obligation dollars was \$730000. Logan is not on the call because he is on annual leave. Touched base with FSA today and they are taking applications for their Pandemic Assistance Timber Harvester and Haulers Program that will provide financial relief to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses that experienced losses in 2020 due to COVID-19. Fitzsimmons stated she is really pleased with the amount of funding that the two Districts ended up with. It came in late for them but in the end, they ended up looking good on contracts. She feels that really good contracts were written, and participants are going to be really happy.

WVCA – Fisher reviewed the written report. This time of year, we are pushing to get audits completed. Keep me up to date on that status. Return to work in the office has been pushed back to maybe December depending on the Covid status at that time. Quarterly meeting is on my report. It will be the 18 – 20th and will be virtual. Davin White is working on a new Supervisor Directory. Some sad news, Gyan Supervisor Ronnie Purdue passed away on September 9, please keep his family in your thoughts as they go through this.

Forestry – Sean Kuhn reported he has been concentrating on insect/disease complaints and getting a lot of request for timber sale assistance now that timber prices are doing well, so he has been visiting landowners assisting with timber sale advice and is booked up around seven months with marking timber.

WVU Extension – Bolin reported they have information on fall army worms and winter crops for high tunnels. Julie is going to be working on an FSA field day for in 2022. Watch for more information about that. Believe it's going to be grant funding for female farmers. WIA is going to be virtual. Been seeing soil samples come in and a few insects here and there but nothing spectacular. A story was shared on FB where a 4-H'er in Kansas City had caught one of the spotted lantern flies. It alerted the federal authorities that it was there. It was not realized that it was out that far.

WVACD – Heather reported the lantern fly has been found in 3 WV counties, Winchester VA has the swarms. This is quite concerning since this is where most of the nursery stock comes from for our area. Going to try to make meetings as I can. I will not be able to be at every meeting, but I will try to send a written report every month. As far as the survey I sent out, you can fill out as an individual or as collective group as your board, but please do fill them out just to let us know where you would like the Association to go in the future. I have copies of the PowerPoint slides and the website link for the NACD marketing toolkit that was put out, if anyone is interested, I can send that to you. The Quarterly Meeting is going to be virtual and will be a 2-day event on Monday and Tuesday, October 18 and 19th. A quick reminder Envirothon training for teachers is Monday September 27 at Holly Gray Park. Anyone interested can RSVP to me. Please look at the proposed legislative code changes. UOCD Area meeting is going to be October 7th, Bob is still working on location and time.

Rush took the chair at this time.

Previous Meeting Minutes

Thomas made the motion to approve the August 17 and August 30, 2021 meeting minutes. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes September 21, 2021

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. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Supervisor Reports

Gellner – Attended the last RC&D meeting at Mountwood Park. Funding is available and they have been getting quite a bit of materials in at the warehouse.

Cunningham – Since the last meeting, I have attended the State Fair to work the booth; the WV Building had a lot of nice displays and vendors selling WV grown products. It is time for producers in the area that are BQA trained to get their updated certification. It was decided to hold training for new certifications also for this region on October 19 from 6-8 at the Ritchey County 4-H Grounds. This will be a hands-on training with live cattle and will work those through a livestock handling facility there. I was on a listen and learn session for the Farm Service Agency for pandemic assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers Program. Was on the District teleconference on the 30th. I sat in on a town hall meeting with Ag Secretary about program updates for farmers. I picked up the mulch layer and signed checks and took the bed layer to the Pleasants County Fair. Margie Mayfield was the winner of the rain barrel. I had a phone call from a producer wanting to implement rotational grazing on his farm. Greg Judy will be the keynote speaker for the 2022 Grazing Conference.

McKeever – On the 19th and 20th I worked at the State Fair. On the 24th was on the communications call. 26th we had a meeting on Conservation Code. On the 28th attended and spoke at the Little Kanawha CD Banquet. 31st meeting with Heather. September 1 Envirothon Meeting. 2nd Partnership call. 13 and 14th Association Calls. 15th Board of Directors Meeting. 16th Another meeting on Code. 17th NACD meeting 20th Worked on quarterly meetings, talked to NACD, and other calls. We will have a virtual quarterly meeting. On the 19th we will have the awards presentations presented virtually along with the award for the Conservation Farm Winner. We will have the Envirothon workshop this coming Monday. Training for Conservation Planning is now going to be in January. Working on partnerships and conservation code. The draft should be ready at the next meeting to review the changes. We are not having an auction this year. It was suggested the Conservation Districts would give money to the Association and that money would be used for scholarships.

Thomas - I attended the virtual call for the expenditure report. I signed checks. Discussed a water system with Lauren. Wayne sent me an article on Roy and sent it to the local papers. Will be in the 29th issue.

Morgan - Filled out paperwork for the Carol Green award and sent to Belinda. I have updated the Facebook pages. Up 306 views from last month with five new likes.

Rush - Attended the RC and D meeting with Bill. Picked up the spring box lids. Talked to people about AEP. Signed checks and paperwork.

Funding Request

WVU Extension WIA

McKeever made a motion to donate \$115 to WVU Extension WIA. Thomas seconded the motion; motion passed.

Unfinished Business

AgEP –

A brief discussion was held on the AgEP approval process. This was tabled to another time.

Grant Needs

Nothing new.

Spring Development Supply Update

Covered in Supervisor reports

Equipment Rental Update

Lime spreader rented one time and sod seeder twice.

Pressure washer

Nothing new

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes September 21, 2021

Equipment Repairs Updates and Needs

Man Door at Shop

McKeever made a motion to purchase a new steel door for the shop. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

Education Programs

- Barrel order update – covered in Supervisor Reports
- Composting workshop update – Video is being edited and will then be released for posting on FB and web pages.
- Bluebird Box Video – Video is being edited and will then be released for posting on FB and web pages.
- Other ideas – Davin and Holly are getting together to put together a video.

Cooperator Agreements – Nancy Seckman and Kara Garrett, Tyler County

Thomas made a motion to approve Agreements for Nancy Seckman and Kara Garrett. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

Banquet

It was decided to cancel the Recognition/Christmas Banquet due to the current COVID situation.

Software

Cochran is researching what is available.

New Business

WVACD Survey

Supervisors, please submit your individual response to the survey to Heather Duncan.

Correspondence

Nothing new.

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist

Signature of Chairman

Signature of Secretary

Date

Date