

# Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes January 24, 2022

## Members Present

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

\*Attended via teleconference

## Others Present

\*Shaun Kuhn, Forestry  
\*Logan Marino, NRCS  
Jennifer Kile, WVCA  
\* Kim Fisher, WVCA  
\*Cindy Shreve, WVCA  
\*Katie Fitzsimmons  
Nick Beaver, NRCS  
\*Lori Cochran, WVCA  
\*Julie Bolin, WV Extension  
\*Heather Duncan

Vice Chairman Gellner called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

## Cooperating Agency Reports

USDA-NRCS-FSA - Marino reported he had visited Camp Arora in Hancock County looking at a stream crossing, attended an NRCS all employees meeting, had training on watering systems, took some time off around the holidays, and have taken some Woodland Steward training. At the end of the deadline last month, we called people for reapplications for EQIP, had training on a Friday for Forage Livestock and Soil Fertility Workshop, and as always working on Ag Learn trying to as many certificates as I can. I am down to just a few in person ones to get my Planning Certificate. I cleaned out the high tunnel and removed the shade cloth. They are planning to get some planting done next month. (Rush joined the meeting) Fitzsimmons reviewed the written report. The change since the report was written is that all NRCS offices in WV are at 25% capacity. No visitors are allowed in the office but can meet them at the door and farm visits if needed. Everyone has been diligently working on completing assessments for EQIP applications. Had about 40 applications between the two offices, everyone has been really good about divvying those up and working together. At the end of December, Lauren and Katie received their renewals for being certified planners. They are considered Legacy Planners because they went through all the steps quite a few years ago. David, Nick, and Logan are working on that and should have that done this year most likely. We hate to see Logan go, but we do wish him well. Beaver reported he has been looking over applications, getting those assessed for the Feb. 4 deadline.

WVCA – Fisher provided a written report. Lots of dates on the report; District Personnel Plan is due March 1, so that needs to be a February agenda item. Ag Administrative review is currently being done by the Administrative Specialists.

Forestry – Kuhn reported he is picking up more work in the Upper Ohio District writing a couple of management plans for some individuals that the plans have expired over the years. Working with one on Invasive Species, not a cost share program, doing it on his own. The good news is timber prices are starting to come up; walnut, white oak and poplar are doing pretty good, Cherry and Red Oak are still a little low.

WVU Extension – Ag Dinner meetings for February are not dinner meetings, but virtual webinars. The post is on the FB page, please share on UOCD FB page. WVU is having them do their Plan-of-work. Every August is stakeholder meetings, but I am going to do stakeholder interviews and then do a group meeting with my Extension Service Committee in February. I will be getting feedback on what Tyler County needs and my Plan-of-work will be based on those needs. Also working on Energy Express, 4-H Camp, Progressive Agricultural Safety Day which is going to be held May 6 and will be looking for volunteers for that.

WVACD –

## Previous Meeting Minutes

**Gellner made the motion to approve the December meeting minutes. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.**

## Financial Report

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

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**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** – Exigency Program review; have had three meetings so far and plan to have more to go over the practices and define them.

**Cunningham** – Still turning in precipitation data daily. State fair meeting on the sixth. More or less a discussion of the pluses and minuses of the fair. I am giving this report from what I was told, I was not on the actual call. I didn't receive the meeting information. I listened in on the Watershed meeting, most of that does not apply to us. I was on the Grazing Conference call and the was on the Appalachian Grazing Conference is a go. It will be held the 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> at the Waterfront Hotel in Morgantown. They are in the process of securing all of the breakout session speakers and topics. Watch their website for more information. I was on the Grazing Lands Steering Committee meeting. They mainly discussed the soils contest during the Beef Expo. Trying to get feedback from the schools that participate in that; good chance it will be offered virtually. I traveled to Stonewall for the Quarterly meeting. The training day was a really good training. There was a lot of collaboration on the LWG meetings. Lots of discussion on what we need to be producing from those; some good ideas came out of that. I sat in on the communications call. I talked to some cooperators about the Century Farm Program. Wood County does a Farmers Short Course Series every year, it is in the Fort Boreman Room of the Judge Black Annex there at the Wood County Courthouse. Those sessions are every Thursday and they started Jan 20 and last one is March 31.

**Thomas** – Read all of the correspondence received from Lori and Heather. Signed District checks at the office.

**McKeever** – Legislative meeting Dec 27, Communications call Dec 28, monthly call with Executive Director on Jan 3, State Programs Committee meeting Jan 4, Envirothon meeting Jan 5, Partnership call, met with Tyler County Delegate David Kelly, and Area meeting Jan 6, NRCS and Conservation Agency call Jan 7, Awards Council State Conservation Committee Jan 11, Water Resource Meeting and Grazing Conference call Jan 13, Executive Committee meeting Jan 14, Quarterly Meeting 17 – 20, and today went to Charleston and met with the Natural Resource Committee concerning our bill. WVCA Foundation met and by laws are going to be sent out for review and will be voted on at the April meeting. State Fair Committee meeting decided what we are going to hand out; sign-ups are available to work that. We need to get started as soon as we can on the LWG meeting, lots of work we need to do for that. Need to get the word out to the public that we are seeking local comments on this and working on what the conservation problems are and how we are going to solve them. There are five training modules that Bob Buchanan and Davin White and a few others have been working on. Those should be available really soon. Maybe we could get that worked in at our next meeting. Century Farm applications due by February 1. Scholarships are due to WVACD by March 7. Check with local schools. Poster, Photo, Education District of the Year Contest are all on the website. Appalachian Grazing Conference Audra reported on, one of the things they do need some help from Supervisors and also asking for \$1000 donation and maybe sending someone to the Conference. Forestry Camp is no longer being run. Jr. Conservation Camp is June 20 – 24 at Cedar Lakes and Sr. Conservation Camp is June 13 – 17 at Camp Caesar. Legislative Committee our changes in the code have been issued as a bill in the Senate, Senate Bill #264, and the House it has seven or eight sponsors it is 4302. Extra funds may be available for AgEP, couldn't put it in the budget for this year, but it still may be available. We need to speak with our Legislatures for this and for the extra two million.

**Morgan** – Sat in on the communications call, Legislative meeting, Envirothon meeting, Watershed meeting, Quarterly meeting for 2 days, sat in on District Operations, made an invite to email to legislators, I just emailed that out to you all. FB has reached 917 people last month and we got 9 new likes. Listened in on a lot of meetings.

**Rush** – Legislature meeting on Dec 27. Communications call on Dec 28. Sat in on the Western Area meeting Jan 6. Solid Waste meeting on Jan 12. The Litter Control Officer in Wetzel County seems to be doing some good. Big tires at the state road building have been taken care of. There was 11.8 tons and it cost around \$7500 to dispose of them. I was finally able to get in touch with the barrel supplier. He should have barrels around March, but no way to haul them. We would have to rent a truck to pick them up. Signed checks. Had a few Century Farm conversations. I couldn't go to the Quarterly meeting because I ended up with COVID.

## Funding Request

Appalachian Grazing Conference \$1000.

**Cunningham made a motion to pay the \$200 conference registration for up to two people from each county in the Upper Ohio District. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.**

**Gellner made a motion to donate \$500 to the Appalachian Grazing Conference. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.**

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## Unfinished Business

### Cooperator Agreements

None

### AgEP –

**Cunningham made a motion to approve payments AgEP for pending proper paperwork is received:**

Chauncey Archer – Lime - \$2474.00

Robert Pyles – Lime - \$1903.00

Steve Long – HUA- \$1980.00

Total \$6357.00

**McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.**

### Grant Needs

Nothing new.

### Spring Development Supply Update

Covered in Supervisor reports.

### Shop Man Door at Shop

Door has been purchased but not yet installed.

### Education Programs

- Barrel order update –
- Other ideas –
- Big tire disposal – **Cunningham made a motion to send a thank you to Kelly Cook, DEP. Thomas seconded the motion; motion passed.**
- UOCD promotional video update – Holly has talked with Davin to get pricing
- RC & D Grant update – Allen spoke with Royal King to find out when they would be getting the Dunstan Chestnut in. He spoke with 4-H that would like to have some and Reader Park would like to have some to replace trees they are having to take down.
- Practice Envirothon - **McKeever made a motion to hold a practice Envirothon with dates to be determined. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.**

### New Business

#### Century Farm Applications

Applications are due to our District Office by February 1.

#### Legislative Meeting February 7 & 8

Send out letter contacting local representatives.

#### District Legislative Meeting

Need to meet with our Legislature. Maybe should wait until after the election is over.

#### Support for Envirothon Teams

**Morgan made a motion to cover expenses for teams from UOCD. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.**

#### Local Work Group

**Rush appointed Katie Fitzsimmons, Nick Beaver, Holly Morgan, and Audra Cunningham to a LWG committee.**

#### Urban Ag Funding

Possibly use the lease funds to promote Urban Ag in the District, possibly with the schools. Checking to see what is available.

#### New Building

#### Policy and Travel Manual

**Gellner made a motion to approve the policy manual as presented. Thomas seconded the motion; motion passed.**

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## Area Conservation Scholarship Applications

### LOR Exigency Funds \$10,000

**Thomas made a motion to submit and LOR for Exigency funds in the amount of \$9554.94. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.**

## Correspondence

### AgEP

#### FY22 Eligibility Ranking Review

FY22 Application Review – need more information

#### AgEP Administration Agreement Review -

Tabled to special meeting Feb 28 at 6pm.

### Adjournment

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

**The next regular meeting will be Monday, January 24 at 6:00 p.m.**

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Chairman

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Signature of Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date