

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes December 20, 2022

Members Present

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

Others Present

*Heather Duncan, WVACD Executive Director
Lauren Hobbs, NRCS SCT
Lori Cochran, AS
*Davin White, WVCA Communications Specialist

Wayne McKeever, Supervisor
Patricia Thomas, Supervisor
*Attended via teleconference

Chairman Rush called the meeting to order.

Cooperating Agency Reports

USDA-NRCS-FSA Hobbs reviewed the written report provided. They have been busy getting applications and eligibility paperwork completed. Katie will be off until the first of the year and Lauren will be off for a long weekend. WVACD- Heather reported Association news. Conservation Day is coming up Sunday at 6 at the Harding's Restaurant. Just a get together meeting for WVCA to go over the budget and some key words to say to legislators. Dinner is on your own. District displays can be loaded that night, trying to load as many on one vehicle as possible. Pop up banners will be set up for the reception from 4 – 6 at the training center building, so these can be loaded as well. These will not be available for the display, just to be clear. Bring any display items, brochures, handouts, etc. Set up meetings with your legislatures; an invitation is available, or you can create your own. Registration will start about 3:30 for the Meet and Greet which is from 4 – 6. Agency shuttles (2 cars) will be running all day from 7:30am until the reception is done. I will be creating that packet that has all that information, map of the capitol, it will also have the shuttle drivers phone numbers. So that way if you miss a shuttle, you can call them that way, you don't get left. Tuesday is going to be the quarterly meeting at West Virginia State University in Building 1. As I get more information with that, we get a schedule nailed down, I will send that out to everybody tentatively. The quarterly meeting itself will start at 10. With the State Fair Committee meeting beginning at 9. If for some reason the meeting gets pushed earlier, say the quarterly meeting will start at 9, then the State Fair Committee meeting will start at 8. Capital is, I'm hoping that they'll be able to provide lunch for everybody again, that's still in tentative form, so I am asking for RSVP prior to January 9th and includes spouses as well. Make sure you get those to me. Hotels are on your own. I think everybody's kind of spread out a little bit. Some are staying closer to downtown; some are staying at that Sleep Inn at the Mink Shoals. The NRCS grant that is due on Friday to both myself and Kelly Wayne, and I think you guys were. NACD registration is open. Tomorrow is the last day for public comment on for NRCS and their IRA spending. The association is submitting a comment tonight. I encourage supervisors to submit their comments as well. You know these comments are going to be read very thoroughly and taken into consideration. If you know of anybody that would like a booth for conservation day there in the upper Rotunda, let me or Wayne know because it looks like we'll have enough space to for everybody to have a booth that would like one. I did send out all that information and a big e-mail today too.

WVCA - Davin White - Let me say been a lot of work the last few weeks, we've been working with Heather and building communication since November working on this; she's been really good to work with; so, thank you. I did want to talk to you all about conservation day, but in the form of the annual report, the agency annual report. Each of the districts will have their own page in our WVCA annual report. We haven't printed that in the last five or six years. We are going to print it this year. WE are going to have good information about our programs, some things we've had going on this year, but we really want to highlight the districts too. So Upper Ohio's going to have their own page in the report, and the report will be available for you all at Conservation Day. It'll also be available for all the legislators, Senate Finance Committee, House Finance Committee. We're going to have enough printed that anybody who wants a copy can get one. What is needed from UOCD is what you want to focus on to promote your district. Conservation Farm of the Year tour, AgEP completions and spending, our Biochar Pilot Program, we appropriated \$1000 to

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes December 20, 2022

purchase biochar. We have six producers in the three-county area participating in it to see how much biochar reacts with the plants, whether it be in high tunnels or pasture fields. Of course, we won't see results until spring or summer next year. Want to highlight the Soil Tunnel Trailer also, will get the numbers for approximately how many kids were reached through this in our district. Training on Invasive Species Management and a High Tunnel Workshop. Local Work Group Meeting, Forestry Contest, Land Judging Contest, RC&D Grant received for Chestnut Tree Project. Cooperating Agencies we work with, Extension, Forestry, NRCS, County Commissions, City of New Martinsville, Wetzel, Tyler and Pleasants County Schools, local fair boards. New things working on for next year are to add biochar as a AgEP practice and working on getting a grant for Community Gardens in New Martinsville.

WVCA - a written report was provided by Kim Fisher. She is unable to be here; wants everyone have a Merry Christmas.

Forestry – None

WVU Extension – Julie was unable to attend, but would like to highlight the Agritourism Initiative 2023 Online Course

Supervisor Reports

Gellner – Got a couple meetings attended, one was the RC and D meeting. The only thing of significance there was the committee down there backed up the mini grant application time to January 3rd rather than March the 1st and at the time of the meeting there was only three mini grant applications on file. The other meeting was the State AgEP Committee meeting. It was to go over proposed changes for FY2024 which will start this July. Big item was possible liquid lime. And there was a question; What liquid lime actually is? There was a flyer from over around Petersburg, it is really just lime, which is being ground really fine and agitated in in the sprayer and sprayed that way. And my understanding is that there's other liquid line that you know already in suspension and does not settle out. They're needing information on it. There's a dinner meeting January 19 in Mineral Wells on that. The other proposal there was to advance the timeline on AgEP so the State Committee would make a ruling on that in January versus April, but that would not go into effect until next year. The other thing is the document submission deadline is January 31st. Next meeting will be in March.

Cunningham –I was at the dinner. I picked up items and helped set up for that. I continue to do precipitation reporting. I talked to two people about Century Farm applications. One of them was really interested in completing it.

Morgan – I attended the New Martinsville Planning Commission meeting about the WVACD/NRCS grant for community garden. This was welcomed with open arms. Had a couple grant meetings with Wayne and Bill. Sat in on the Communication call on the 30, executive meeting, dinner, not able to attend the area meeting. Filled out the paperwork for the grants we applied for. Worked up a slide show for the recognition dinner, not able to get it to play, but we can build on it for next year.

McKeever –I attended communication, meeting November 30th, executive meeting on December 5th, Envirothon meeting on December 7th, NE NACD meeting on December the 5th. I went to LK Awards/Legislative meeting on the 7th and then attended the area meeting on December 15th and then I had a lot of phone calls in between. I did a lot of calling to the legislators and committee people today and gave them updates. Heather went over most of the information on Conservation Day. Unofficially, Extension wrote up a Climate Smart application for the Climate Smart programs and got approved for \$4.7 million. In the original part Conservation Districts were not listed as a partner, but the Conservation District may be asked to administer the program for them. Remind you to contact our legislative to make sure they're coming to Conservation Day. I have contacted Kelly and Trenton so far.

Thomas –I encouraged some cooperators to attend our Awards and Christmas dinner. I sent some photos to Lori and Holly for the slide show. I sent my letter for Julie Bolen on ways she works with the District. I talked to the curriculum director of the school and talked about programs the District can share with the school. I will touch base with her after the holidays with more information. Tyler Consolidated has hired a new Ag teacher, Devann Fox and I was able to meet with her. She is working on planning new classes with the heavy equipment simulator the school has recently received. I went to the workshop on Beef Genetics/Invasive Weeds Workshop, November 16. Kevin Schaefer, livestock production specialist, was the speaker on the and EP's 101 was the presentation. he had two he offered and that's the one the crowd decided on, which was a good choice and then hopefully he'll come back and do the other one

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes December 20, 2022

later. Then Rakesh Shahrin did the Invasive Weed Presentation. Julie will have a copy of the Power Point she is going to share with us. I shared the online application for the WV Conservation Scholarship with the guidance counselors and Tyler Consolidated FFA Advisor Annie Erwin, so the seniors know they need to fill out applications. Received comments that the lime spreader (new spreader) has been adjusted to spread fertilizer.

Rush – Attended the dinner meeting and went to the area meeting. Main topic was the LKCD Informational Dinner Meeting on liquid fertilizer and lime program. Ask about fence prices for security if we do decide to build a building for the rental equipment. Rest is normal business, answering questions and

Previous Meeting Minutes

Thomas made the motion to approve the November 15 meeting minutes with the following corrections: Hobbs was in attendance, Vice-Chairman Gellner presided over the meeting; Allen, Jenn, and Kim teleconferenced. 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. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

Funding Request - LKCD Informational Dinner Meeting

McKeever made a motion to sponsor the Informational Dinner with \$200; Gellner seconded the motion; motion carried. State AgEP recommends attendance.

Unfinished Business

Cooperator Agreements –

AgEP –

McKeever made a motion to approve payment for Stevie Young HUA practice for \$2500.00. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion carried.

McKeever made a motion to accept the cancelations of Delbert Elder Invasive Species \$500.00, Wayne Goddard, PD fence \$1024.00, for a total cancelation of \$1524.00. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

Grant Needs

Copy of Grant paperwork must be submitted to **both** Heather and Kelly.

Thomas made a motion to submit Grant applications as submitted. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Education Programs – Soil trailer 4/11 – 4/14. Training for the trailer early April. Spoke with Justin King about Bee Courses in February at the Jim Spence Center. Beginner Bees for three evenings. There is a cost associated with the course.

Supervisor Travel and Per Diem Guidelines

New Building

New Business

Conservation Day

January 16, 2022. Please contact legislatures.

Correspondence

Adjournment

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes December 20, 2022

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

The next regular meeting will be January 24, 2023.

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist

Signature of Chairman

Signature of Secretary

Date

Date