

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes September 20, 2022

Members Present

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

Others Present

Lori Cochran
Mael Glennon, Financial Advisor with Edward Jones

Chairman Rush called the meeting to order.

Glennon discussed options of Edward Jones certificates of deposit with the Supervisors. Minimum of \$1000 to deposit and only in increments of \$1000. No fees associated with the CD. Accrued interest at certificate maturity. Maximum deposit of \$250000. No penalty for early withdraw.

Cooperating Agency Reports

USDA-NRCS-FSA A written report is provided.

WVCA - a written report was provided by Kim Fisher.

Forestry – None

WVU Extension –

WVACD-

Previous Meeting Minutes

Thomas made the motion to approve the May 17 and August 22 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.

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

Supervisor Reports

Gellner – Attended the Forestry Contest. It went well; kids were good; location was good. Everyone appreciated Tyler Rod and Gun Club letting us use their facility.

Morgan – Meeting in Wileyville about the stream blockage. It is not eligible. Was on the communications call and Envirothon Meeting. Talked to school about the soil trailer arrangements. Posted on Facebook page; we had 786 views and 1 new like. Brought the “Continuing the Legacy of Conservation in West Virginia” books here; one for each Supervisor and an office copy.

McKeever – Sat in on the Communications Call on Aug. 23; 23-25 was on the State Conservation Farm Tours, toured Green Haven Turf Farm and Jason Meadows near Ripley; 28-31 NENACD Meeting in MD. Sept. 2 Met with Extension Agent; 5 Monthly call with Heather; executive Comm. Meeting; 6 picked up Chestnut trees; 7 Envirothon Meeting; 10 Jim Bowen Farm; 15 NCF Envirothon call; 16 Jim Bowen Farm; 19 Envirothon Teacher’s Workshop. The NENACD meeting in Cambridge Md went great and was a good time for State association in the Northeast to get together. It’s always good to come together to share ideas and experiences. The session opened with a welcome from **Denise Savageau**, Northeast Region Chair. **Emily Fife**, Acting Regional Conservationist MD NRCS spoke on several topics. It’s important to partner with local people to make conservation effective. Diversity and inclusion are a key priority for NRCS and have several initiatives to give access to all people. Climate Smart Ag is in the forefront and increasing assistance for that. Urban Ag is trying to support more. Looking for new and innovative ways to get conservation on the ground. With the passing of the bipartisan infrastructure law last fall it brought a great number of resources to fund community watershed improvement projects. The Inflation Reduction Act will offer 20 million dollars to invest in USDA programs to help producers climate smart ag for healthy forest and conservation and other addition resources. National conservation planning partnership is an important process. Investing an additional 22.5 million in Chesapeake Bay. **Jeremy Peters**, CEO NACD says NACD’s mission is to promote responsible management and conservation of natural resources on all lands by representing locally led conservation districts and their states and

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territories, associations through grass roots advocacy, education partnerships. Passage of the inflation reduction act was very important. NACD impressed upon congressional leaders the need for technical assistance at the local level. Climate impacts are important. Advocated for over \$1 billion annually for technical assistance. We over the next several years, are going to get over \$20 billion in assistance. Do a lot of work at the national level for educational programs and activities. Looking forward to next year's theme which will focus on water. "One Water" as a resource is a worthwhile education effort. Talked about how important the Envirothon is. **Emily Zobel**, University of MD Extension spoke about managing stress on the farm. Farming is a stressful occupation, and we have a program that we started in 2018. Whether you are a farmer, family member or service provider, you are engaging with farmers who are under stress. The program teaches the signs of stress, how to communicate with someone under stress and the resources available in your community, using the Observe, Engage, Share method. Breakout Session was "Expanding Our Reach Through Urban Ag Programs with Jennifer Keller, Northern Rhode Island Conservation District. Says the 5th year of the urban ag program provides assistance to urban growers in a variety of ways, including an urban ag cost-share grant program. Provides workshops and education opportunities and technical assistance. Formulated by the learning interest and needs of local growers. Provides additional support to growers with cooperative agreement with NRCS and Rhode Island State Conservation Committee. NENACD Business Meeting, **Denise Sauvageau**, Northeast Region Chair reports elections for officers coming up, both for the Region and NACD, closes November 4th. Anyone interested contact the nominating team. Kim Lafleur, from the Northeast, will be the next NACD President. Two positions up for election in the Northeast, Region Rep and Region Chair. Working on the NACD Policy book. Working on review of Strategic Plan, which will be announced at the NACD Board Meeting in New Orleans, February 2023. Working also on planning for New Orleans. Secretary Vilsack will be the keynote speaker at the NACD Meeting in New Orleans. Registration costs will be increased for the annual meeting. Leadership Institute application period is still open for upcoming leaders in your district. Please apply. Trying to form an Executive Director Association. Heather would be on this. NACD Board going through training exercises right now concerning diversity equity inclusion. Looking into proposals to help with fundraising for NACD. Will be re-doing NACD website in May 2023. Most of staffing at NACD is being paid for by grants. It's important to understand the strengths and vulnerabilities of NACD's current funding. The HR committee has finished and released the National Employee Handbook. Need to fix NACD bylaws. **Farm Bill Report** NE has one member on the Farm Bill Task Force. The inflation fighter bill threw a wrench in the works. There was a ton of money in that package and how would that affect the Farm Bill. Michael Crowder, NACD President, is helping to write the Farm Bill. Need to have Climate Smart Ag to have a bigger definition. Looking for how the Farm Bill can assist, promote, and safeguard climate change, hunger, resiliency, etc. Some are asking for a discussion at the NACD Annual meeting in February on the farm bill because we are finding that we don't know much about what is being written. If the House flips this fall, Glenn Thompson, from Pennsylvania, could very possibly become Chair of the Ag Committee. If he does, it will be the first time the NE has had a Chair in that position. Breakout Session-Climate Change and Strategies for Adaptation. **Victoria Coles, UMCES/The Nature Conservancy**, presented data showing past changes in weather events and how future projections suggest climate and weather will continue to change and how those changes will affect agriculture. **Taryn Sudal, MD Sea Grant**, the grant provided workshops for coastal farmers in MD and VA to hear about coastal farming challenges producers may be experiencing due to sea level rise and to identify potential research and policy gaps affecting producers' ability to adapt to these changes. **Tim Rosen, Shore Rivers**, Drainage is the cornerstone to agricultural production. With more variable weather, managing drainage will become more important. Advances in conservation drainage allows farmers to build resilience while achieving water quality and climate goals. Afternoon Tours were **Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge** and **Commercial Miscanthus Production**. Tidal Marshes of the Chesapeake Bay Region are an ecological treasure. Marshes are the most abundant and dominant in southern Dorchester County. Refuge loses an average of 300 acres of wetland each year through sea level rise and saltwater intrusion. Adaptation and mitigation projects are being adapted throughout the Refuge from planting transition crops and raising the marsh surface. At the Miscanthus farm, we learned about a new emerging crop that may be an option for farmers who are facing saltwater intrusion in their fields. Envirothon changed Scholarship amounts to first \$5000, second \$4000, third \$3000, fourth \$2000 and fifth \$1500. There was a lot of interest in how we raise our funding for the Envirothon. At the teachers workshop yesterday there were around 40 in attendance, with eight being new teachers. Biochar is coming to Middletown Tractors in Fairmont in 900# bags. Need to take a trailer to pick it up. Julia Bolin, Jim Bowen and Audra are going to participate in the study in this District. May be able to get a grant for a mobile unit. Are we contributing money or auction items for the scholarship auction at the QM. Heather made a list of who is in charge of the different committees with phone numbers.

Thomas –Julie Bolen has scheduled the BQA at the Tyler County Fairgrounds October 25 at 6pm. Made the arrangements at the Gun Club for the Forestry Contest to be held there. Read and responded when needed, to all the correspondence. Put a hairpin in the sod seeder at Jim Bowen's, needs a 5/32 roll pin.

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Cunningham – Reporting precipitation data daily, our District is now out of the drought area. Helped Lori with the May minutes, listened to the recording and completed the minutes the best we could. Talked to a couple of landowners; one about diversification, suggested start by pulling soil samples, the other about forage samples. We had the soil trailer at the PCYF. Lots of adults and children were amazed. Wanting the trailer next year for Thursday-Friday so the elementary school can come see it on Thursday. Would like to get with Aimee for an education component with the soil trailer. Made the trip to deliver the soil trailer key to the office. Made a call to Jon Wilsons wife about cookies or deserts for the awards dinner and one person in Pleasants County about catering the dinner.

Rush – Attended the Forestry Contest. The Foresters would like us to name it the Steve McAnarney Memorial Contest; Steve had a huge input in getting the contest started in the area. The Foresters are going to bring their portable sawmill to both festivals. Went to the LKRC&D meeting. Funding is about the same, donations have gone up slightly, not a lot of money to work with. Spoke with Forestry about holding another workshop.

Funding Request - None

Unfinished Business

Cooperator Agreements –

AgEP –

Gellner made a motion to approve payments for Donald Seckman \$2021.00, Kara Garrett \$1936.00, Hannah Ferrell \$792.00, Jack Smith \$1303.00 and Larry Jochum \$1000 for a total payment of \$7052.00. Thomas second the motion; motion passed.

Gellner made a motion to accept the cancelations of Clarence Dawson PP 230.00, Claude Farson Lime \$124.00, and Terry Cozart WS \$2186.00, for a total cancelation of \$2540.00. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

Gellner made a motion to approve application funding for Henry Barnhart PD Fence \$2500.00 and Allen Rush IS \$388.85. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

Grant Needs

Nothing new.

Education Programs – Winter class on Urban Ag second week of Feb. Morgan to check with WVNCC for space availability.

Other ideas –

UOCD promotional video update – Devin received his license for the drone.

RC & D Grant update – Trees have been purchased; need to get them planted.

Barrel order update – waiting for availability.

Annual Awards Dinner – Contacting caterers for availability and prices.

Budget FY23 - nothing new.

New Business

LOR District Support \$7000.00

Gellner made a motion to submit an LOR for District Support funds in the amount of \$7000.00. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

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FOIA Policy – Table until October.

Supervisor Travel and Per Diem Guidelines

Get with other Districts to see what their guidelines are; what works for them and what not so much.

CD Maturity

Discussion with Mael Glennon from Edward Jones.

Gellner made a motion to place Education Funds with Edward Jones; amount and length to be determined. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Correspondence

Adjournment Morgan

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

The next regular meeting will be October 20, 2022.

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist

Signature of Chairman

Signature of Secretary

Date

Date