

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes October 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

*Kim Fisher, WVCA Area Manager
* Heather Duncan
Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist
Jennifer Kile
Katie Fitzsimmons, NRCS DC
*J.L. Tennant, FSA

Vice-Chairman Gellner called the meeting to order.

Cooperating Agency Reports

USDA-NRCS-FSA A written NRCS report was provided and reviewed by Fitzsimmons. We had a lot of training during September and the beginning of October. Our focus is on our CSP renewal assessment and eligibility. That is due on the fourth. We're trying to get all of it done and wrapped up. Some of the things that I have missed putting on my report there is a job opening for a Pathways student; it's going to be for Middlebourne and McMechen. If you know any students that are interested, it'll be the internship deal where they work 2 summers and if they turn out to be a good employee then they could get a permanent job offer. Offer closes Tuesday the 25th. There's also an engineering job in Morgantown for students in archaeology job and I think there's one in soils at the state office. In addition to the leave on the report, Lauren will be on leave the 3-8 of November. Every year we go over the civil rights responsibilities and I brought that for you guys to sign. We updated the MOU this year, so that's been done. Dustin is going to be our Urban Ag Coordinator for a while and going to push for the Urban Community for 2024 for the whole state. Right now, the discussion is for Upper Ohio, Mon, Gyan and Southern as pilots for the Urban Community Ag Program. Still have not determined what's going to fall into the Urban basis. DC's will all get together to make those decisions, currently some would be raised beds, deer fencing, irrigation, etc. EQIP sign-up should end November 18. Tennant reported wrapping up the Fiscal Year ended September 30. Sent letters to producers with fall crops letting them know the fall crop reporting ends November 15. LDP payments are available for wool and unshorn pelts. That information was sent to producers in NPCD and Tyler and Wetzel Counties. If anyone has not, they can still sign up, they need to sign that page one before they bring their receipts in, and receipts must be in by December 30 for those PDP's. Some personnel changes, Dough Seifers retired end of September, Mary Jouver filled his position as District Director for District 2, the north central part of the state. NAP deadline to buy crop insurance for Honey is December 31.

WVCA - a written report was provided by Kim Fisher. First part of the report is either a past due or a repeat. The last page is AgEP timeline. If anyone has any new practice they would like added to AgEP or a new allocation formula, it needs to be to Jen by the 18. The Administrative Specialist in Gyan has resigned, so I am covering that District. I hope to have interviews next week and bring somebody on board. It will still take a month. Stephanie in HR with the agency has resigned. We wish her well. Brian is leaving November 11 and Jennifer Skaggs has been appointed interim Director until a permanent replacement has been found for Brian.

Forestry – None

WVU Extension – Julie sent a report and flyers on upcoming workshops included in packets.

WVACD- Duncan informed about the Friends of NACD Grant available for \$2500 for CD awarded.

Previous Meeting Minutes

Thomas made the motion to approve the September 20 meeting minutes with corrections; Katie Fitzsimmons not in attendance and under FY23 Budget, Royalty Expense Account was added to the list of accounts. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial Report

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

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

Supervisor Reports

Gellner – Met with Allen and a representative from Pyles Auctioneers on selling the shop.

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes October 20, 2022

Morgan – Did the area meeting. Did the monthly association meeting. Went to the quarterly meeting. I've worked with New Martinsville school on the soil trailer some more because they want to do a full week and then corresponded with Lori and Aimee. I still don't have a date down yet for them. The legislative meeting. Highlights I have here; conservation day is January 16th. That's a Monday, we will follow the same agenda as last year. Visit your legislators from 8:00 to 10:00 in the morning. Then hang out in the rotunda, dinner with Legislators will be finger food from 4:30 to 8:00. Discussed extensively throughout the meeting about what Brian has asked for in the budget. He asked for 1.6 million to be added to the budget. He is asking every supervisor to write a letter to support the budget request. Also ask for 55 million to go for the watershed and damns in the state. Asking us to support his request with letters explaining why additional funds are needed. The Education meeting, discussed due dates for various items. Scholarship, Century Farm, Rookie of the Year. Century Farm is due by Feb. 1, Scholarships are due the first Monday in March. Poster and Photo are due at quarterly meeting in July. Rookie of the year is due September 1. Excellent Conservation September 1. No dates for Conservation Camps yet. NPCD talked about their Hands on Ag. Day. I became representative for the WVACD Foundation. Secretary for that, too. Heather presented the NRCS Community Outreach Grant at the Quarterly Meeting. There will be 10 projects funded at \$6500 per project, plus \$900 in office supplies. \$1000 in kind donation is required; this can be supervisor, AS time, pretty much anything, or can be cash. Applications are due December 23 to Heather Duncan and Kelly Wayne by e-mail. This is a reimbursement grant; must be paid for up front and receipts must be turned in and project must be completed by July 2024. Eastern area meeting talked about the State Fair. Said there was low supervisor turn out. Mon has provided \$5000 for greenhouse and biochar project with the school. Had a pasture field day. Western had great attendance. Forestry was well represented. Spoke about a farmer that used liquid lime. He proposes the districts hold a Farm Dinner meeting in January so more people could learn about that. We committed our relationship to Forestry. Wanting high-tunnel trainings at some point. Our next meeting is December 8, not in the same time frame as the other area meetings. Ours is a month earlier. Central area meeting talked about staffing the districts. Talked about having the common voice to request the money to the legislature. Talked about the State Fair, biochar with scrap wood and manure. Negotiations are still underway for Clements Tree Nursery. Trying to make an outdoor classroom at a school and a safety day for 3rd graders. District Operations. Quarterly Meetings for next year, WV State has offered their facility for our meeting in January. January Quarterly Meeting will 15 – 17. You will be responsible for your room. April 24-25 will be the Spring Quarterly Meeting at Summit Bechtel Boy Scout Camp. July 17 -18 Potomac Valley, looking into some options. October 15 – 17 for next year. One winner from Cabell Midland High School for the Grassland Evaluation contest. 2024 Appalachian Grazing Conference is debating on where to hold it. Committee will be meeting monthly to made plans and deciding on the theme. Jesse Pennell gave a report on 450 producers that are members of the Cattlemen's Association. Weather reporting stations are still being set up. Talked about chicken farming. Water Resources gave a report on infrastructure progress. State Conservationist will visit each District between now and March. Partnerships – we had Jim Anderson for RC&D, Wayne presented NACD, FSA, Dept. of Ag not there, CREP had 54 offers, 34 were accepted. 2000 acres were enrolled this year. Brian discussed SPRP funds will be recalled from the district and be redistributed equally in all the districts. Falls under 713 Agreements, that states cities and counties are responsible for stream flooding. The redistributed funds will be categorized as 713U in the general fund and looks like it will be a million dollars.

McKeever – planted chestnut trees September 22, 27 legislative meeting, October 3 NENACD meeting, climate smart meeting, 5 Envirothon meeting, 6 NACD BOD meeting, Area meeting, 11 State Conservation Committee Meeting, 16-18 Quarterly meeting. Very important to us the 1.6 million improvement package for FY24 and requesting one time 55 million supplemental for FY23. This is the first time the districts actually have requested additional money different from AgEP money. Letter campaign needs to be written to the Governors office from each of us in our own words. If you need a copy, I have a page to give you some background on it. Climate Smart deal is coming down from NACD. It is \$90 million, and if it does, the districts will be handling the money. For any type of Climate Smart, education, etc. Money for technical assistance type of practices. Another Legislative meeting Day at the Capitol, exhibit for a table there, along with pull up quick banners, etc. have the meet and greet around 4:30, short introduction to what's going on in the Conservation Districts. We want to make sure to invite everyone we can and if see them out make sure to mention this to them. It is on Martin Luther King Day, January 16. Invites will be made to send out.

Thomas –Promote the workshops Extension has going on. Covestro has a hazardous waste clean-up drive. Saturday 22, 9 – 12. Needs to be in the original container. It is for Marshall, Wetzel, Tyler and Monroe County in Ohio. Located in their east parking lot. Nothing gas cylinders or electronics. Taking up to four tires without rims. Tyler Co. is having a drive to take appliances, etc. Read and responded to emails as necessary.

Cunningham – Reporting precipitation data daily. Trying to learn all I can find out about Carbon Credits in this area. Have had several as about it. Still in the beginning stages. There are four agencies in WV that will come and measure. Still no clear definition on how to measure. They tell you how much carbon you have, then you work with a broker and sell those credits. There is going to be legislature introduced pertaining to carbon credits. Talked to the

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes October 20, 2022

Dept. of Forestry. Bill was introduced last year but shot down because still too murky. If you sell your carbon credits you can cut any of those trees, so will not be able to manage as needed. Talked to two farms about Century Farms. I worked the Soil Tunnel Trailer at the Autumn Fest on Saturday. Kids and adults enjoy it. Spoke with Trenton Barnhart the Delegate for Pleasants County.

Rush – Four trees planted at the Reader Park; Sportsman’s Club is taking the other two. Bio-char pick-up fell through for me. November 17 next Grazing Conference meeting. January 19 liquid fertilizer and liquid lime meeting at LKCD. Rain barrels SWA is getting are not the screw on lids; not easy to clean. Recycling averaging 8 tons a month. They are getting a free bench made from recycled plastic.

Funding Request - None

Unfinished Business

Cooperator Agreements – None

AgEP –

McKeever made a motion to approve payment for Steve Westbrook, PD Fence in the amount of \$2500.00. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

Grant Needs

Nothing new.

Education Programs – Visit Board Offices to let them know what outreach we have available, poster, photo contest, Area Conservation Scholarship, land judging, forestry judging, etc.

Other ideas – Beekeeper programs workshop.

RC & D Grant update – Trees planted in various places.

Barrel order update – waiting for availability.

Annual Awards Dinner – Contact Izzy’s and Lakeside, go with most reasonable priced.

Budget FY23 –

CD Maturity

Discussion with Mael Glennon from Edward Jones.

Morgan made a motion to invest \$50000.00 in Edward Jones 6-month CD. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

FOIA Policy – Morgan will prepare a draft for review at the November meeting.

Supervisor Travel and Per Diem Guidelines

Review for November meeting.

New Business

New Building

Talked with Auctioneer.

Forestry Contest

Morgan made a motion to name the Forestry Contest, the Steve McAnarney Memorial Forestry Contest. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes October 20, 2022

WVACD Scholarship

McKeever made a motion to donate \$500 to the WVACD Scholarship Fund. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

Contact Legislative Representatives

Urban, Small Scale, and Climate Smart Agriculture and Social Equity Initiative Community Outreach Grant
Gellner appointed a committee consisting of himself, McKeever and Morgan.

Soil Probes

Cunningham made a motion to purchase two soil probes. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Display

Cunningham made a motion to purchase a new display board. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

Soil Tunnel Trailer/schedule/transport

Morgan made a motion to allow UOCD Supervisors transport the WVCA Soil Tunnel Trailer using their personal vehicles. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Correspondence

Adjournment

**Thomas made a motion to adjourn. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.
The next regular meeting will be November 15, 2022.**

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist

Signature of Chairman

Signature of Secretary

Date

Date