

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes February 21, 2023

Members Present

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

Members Not Present

Wayne McKeever

*Attended via teleconference

Others Present

*Heather Duncan, Executive Director WVACD
Katie Fitzsimmons, NRCS
*Jennifer Kile, WVCA
*Shaun Kuhn, Forestry
*Kim Fisher, Area Manager WVCA

Vice-Chairman Gellner called the meeting to order.

Cooperating Agency Reports

USDA-NRCS-FSA Fitzsimmons reviewed the written report provided. NRCS staff will be in training every fourth Tuesday of the month. Jennifer Kile will be in on those trainings as well. Currently working on assessments and ranking for EQIP and AMA; deadline for completion is March 17. CSP sign-up is now. Mid-April is the deadline for that. It is designed more for those that have completed EQIP and have already put a lot of good conservation on the ground. Lauren is working on 15 applications in UOCD. Lauren will be out of the office Wednesday thru Friday to attend the Small Farms Conference. Women in Ag is Tuesday, May 23. Lauren has planned a meeting at the Extension office March 3 to get someone from all of the partners together to get them face-to-face. She has someone from DNR, Extension, Dept. of Ag, Dept. of Ag Apiary, Forestry. FSA is still doing signups for RPLC till March 14. The FSA staff this week are at a statewide training in Morgantown for the PARP Program (Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program). JL is at the training in person; Becky is attending by call in, she had some training already and did not have to travel. WVCA - a written report was provided by Kim Fisher. Conservation Farm Contest is coming soon. Our District selection needs to be to Kim by May 31. District personnel plan is due in March for State Committee. Put the CDO Budget on the March Agenda. That is due by March 30. The State Fair schedule is up and running so if you want to volunteer for a time slot, get with Lori and she can get you on that schedule.

Forestry – Kuhn reported he has been working on management plans in Wetzel County. A few have been completed. One was an older cooperator; glad to see him back working with us again. We did have a couple of fires in Wetzel County and several throughout the region. That is not typical weather for February. 70 degrees and dry for a few days, so even though not in fire season, we are picking up a few fires. Logging is going about the same. White Oak is still driving the market, Poplar is doing ok, but Red Oak and Cherry are still suppressed. I am working with Allen for the Forestry Field Day. Still working on the details, but my understanding is that it is going to be geared toward chainsaw safety.

Rush joined the meeting a took position of the Chairman.

WVACD – Duncan provided a written report. She will be going to Summit Bechtel Reserve Thursday to go over last-minute details for the April quarterly meeting. Hoping to have an online registration and payment portal. That has been the holdup as far as getting your information for the quarterly meeting to you. Points from the NACD meeting that was held in New Orleans, I'm going to be sending out a copy all of my notes, but I wanted to give you some highlights. One thing that I did not realize, when you are a NACD gold level member, which your district is because you pay your \$775 dues, your Board of Supervisors qualify for the Mercer Indigo Insurance, but any employees that your district has also qualify. If you want to register your district as a small business with Mercer and then you would be the provider of the insurance, you have that option as well. Another thing worth noting, the Spring Fly In for NACD to Washington DC is going to be in person this year. So that is going to be March 22nd and 23rd in DC if anyone is interested in going and they are going to have virtual Fly In trainings per se. Those are going to be March 7th and March 9th. When I get that information, I will be sure to get that out to you, even if you do not plan on attending, they'll probably be worth watching. Also, I am still having issues with Gmail e-mail addresses. They're marking me a spam, so if you're not getting emails from me, let me know because I'll have to send you emails individually instead of as a group, so some Gmail accounts

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are getting emails from me and some aren't. Capital CD did receive a Friends of NACD grant, so kudos to them. Those are available to all Conservation Districts. It is a \$2500 grant to help get started on the project. Keep that in mind for next year if those are offered again.

WVU Extension – Julie was unable to attend, a report was emailed on current events.

Previous Meeting Minutes

Thomas made the motion to approve January 24 meeting minutes. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

Thomas made the motion to approve February 3 Special AgEP meeting minutes. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

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. Thomas seconded the motion; motion passed.

Funding Request – Envirothon Sponsor

Cunningham made a motion to sponsor for up to \$750. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

After additional discussion, Cunningham amended her motion to include any team in the Upper Ohio Conservation District. Morgan seconded; motion carried.

Morgan made a motion to pay Little Kanawha RC&D Dues of \$100.00. Gellner seconded the motion; motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Cooperator Agreements – None

AgEP –

Nothing

Grant Needs

April 29 biochar field day at Gellner's. Morgan will prepare adds and flyers closer to the time. Community Garden three of ten spots are spoken for. Nine signed up so far for the event March 2. Picked up some give aways at Wal-Mart on clearance. Ask Dustin to come to Biochar Field Day.

Education Programs – Soil trailer 4/17 – 4/21. We have the trailer the week prior to that, no school on the 10th. Available in Tyler and Pleasants 11 -14 if able to get other schools interested. Training is set for April 4. Will try to get them interested in doing the poster contest.

New Building

Rush has called for utility placement of markers. Thomas suggested when it dries up some, driving a truck in to make sure placement of turning with equipment is correct. Will need to remove some trees.

Five Year Plan

Plan LWG meeting for May 2 @ 6:30. Thomas to schedule venue. Plan is due in June.

Supervisor Per Diem

Waiting on the Attorney General to get back with an opinion.

New Business

None

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Supervisor Reports

Gellner – Working on the biochar project. Spoke with Mark Hadley, Brian’s brother, Brian is a new AgEP participant. Happy to be funded.

Cunningham – continue to report precipitation; we are actually a little dry. I was on the AgEP meeting for a short time. Visited the high school and took the scholarship information with me. Also spoke to them about the Envirothon Competition. I was told there is just not enough interest to get a team together. Extension Service meeting in Pleasants County. They are expecting staff changes in the near future. Contacted by a cooperater wanting to grow a variety of peppers, wanting to rent or partner with someone with a high tunnel. Attended the Ham & Bacon Sale in Pleasant Co. Prices were consistent with those of last year. Sat in on the Grazing Conference meeting. Dates for 2024 is March 7, 8 & 9. The theme is Managing the Systems, Land, Water and Livestock. They are considering having a Thursday Field Day instead of just a tour. Preparations are of course still in progress.

Morgan –I participated on the AgEP meeting via telephone. Working on the grants, posted on Facebook. I emailed back and forth with the schools. Had the Extension Service Committee meeting last week. At the WVACD Executive Meeting, talked about the grants, how you pay for everything up front and are reimbursed. Officer and Supervisor training is being requested. Particularly Secretary/Treasurers. The Financial Audit Review of WVACD there were no findings of issue.

McKeever –

Thomas – Attended the Special AgEP meeting, reviewed the new building site. Working with a new farmer, giving information on different programs offered, encouraging participation. A lady that works in Wetzel County but lives in Ohio reached out . So I am trying to connect her with the equivalent of the offices in WV.

Rush – Attended the AgEP meeting, signed checks and just regular stuff. SWA is interested in getting the survey books out of the building to recycle if they are not moldy.

Correspondence

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting will be February 21, 2023.

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist

Signature of Chairman

Signature of Secretary

Date

Date