

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes March 21, 2023

Members Present

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

*Attended via teleconference

Others Present

*Heather Duncan, Executive Director WVACD
*Katie Fitzsimmons, NRCS
Kim Fisher, Area Manager WVCA
Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist
Lauren Hobbs, NRCS

Vice Chairman Gellner called the meeting to order.

Cooperating Agency Reports

USDA-NRCS-FSA – Hobbs covered the written report provided. NRCS will be holding trainings the 4th Tuesday of each month starting in April through November. Having a round two for EQIP applications. Deadline for application is April 14 which is the deadline for CSP sign-up as well. As far as programs, we just hit our deadline for round one assessments Friday. So those are completed. I had a Partners Meeting, Meeting of the Minds on March 3. It went very well. I am working on a cheat sheet with all the information on it. I will make sure you all get a copy of that. We are still working on field visits, encouraging people to get stuff done. Women in Ag is coming up May 25. We can contact Dustin to see if he will help moderate the LWG Meeting. A draft copy of the newsletter is available. Please review for additions, corrections, etc.

Forestry - None

WVACD – The biggest thing is the quarterly meeting that's coming up, registrations online on the new website; please be sure to get registered. Registration will end next Monday. So that's Monday, March 27th. You will need to register for this meeting. It's a gate facility. So they're need to have your name and for any meals they need to have your name as well. Lodging is a little bit limited, so register early. Otherwise, Beckley isn't too far of a drive if you want to stay in Beckley. If there's no questions about the quarterly meeting, your area meeting is also coming up. That will be on Thursday, March 30th at 10:00 a.m. at the Little Kanawha Conservation District Office. For more information for that meeting, contact Bob Buchanan and Little Kanawha, and he will get you the information and also an agenda. I just sent out a rather large e-mail with a lot of information tonight. It goes over meeting dates and some grants that are available for districts

WVU Extension – Julie was unable to attend; handouts were made available.

Previous Meeting Minutes

McKeever made the motion to approve the February 21 meeting minutes. Thomas seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial Report

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

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

Funding Request – Women in Ag and WV Soils Team

Cunningham made a motion to sponsor for up to \$400.00 to Women in Ag. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Cunningham made a motion to donate \$105.00 to the WVU Soils Team. McKeever seconded the motion; motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Cooperator Agreements – None

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AgEP –

It was suggested to add fencing to the AgEP Pollination Practice to keep bears away from the bee hives.

Grant Needs

April 29 biochar field day at Gellner's. Morgan will prepare adds and flyers closer to the time. 28 people attended the Community Garden Workshop. Seven of the ten spots are spoken for. April 17 will be the build day for the raised beds. Starts at 9 am.

Education Programs –No schedule updates. Training is set for April 4. Holly is putting together some activities to do with the kids, so it is not a repeat of what they had last year. Maybe do a Soil Health Workshop this fall.

New Building

Utility markers were set. Only marking was the gas line in the woods.

Five Year Plan

Plan LWG meeting for May 2 @ 6:30. Senior Citizens Center with Dusting Adkins as Mediator.

Forestry Field Day

Set for July 8 at Allen's place starting at 10:00 am. Shaun Kuhn will take the lead with help from Jon Wilson and other Foresters.

Supervisor Per Diem

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

New Business

CDO Budget

Cunningham made a motion to approve the CDO Budget as presented. McKeever seconded the motion; motion carried.

District Personnel Plan

McKeever made a motion to approve the District Personnel Plan as presented. Thomas seconded the motion; motion carried.

Land Judging Contest

Thomas made a motion to hold the District's land judging contest May 25, with set up May 24, in Pleasants County. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

West Fork Envirothon Practice

Cunningham made a motion to donate \$105.00 to West Fork CD to support the Envirothon Practice. Thomas seconded the motion; motion passed.

LOR Audit FY21 and FY20

Gellner made a motion to submit LOR's for the FY20 and FY21 Audits in the amount of \$2150.00 each. Morgan seconded the motion; motion carried.

Conservation Farmer of the Year Award

Wetzel County – Possibly Hannah Ferrell
Tyler County – Howard Flesher possibly
Pleasants County – Need to research

Poster Contest

Photo Contest

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Supervisor Reports

Gellner – Working on the biochar project. Listened in on the Lime meeting earlier today. Tried to unmute to be heard, but not successful.

Cunningham – continue to report precipitation; we are actually a little dry. Listened in on the Virtual Ag Action Network meeting on the 25th. Made up of Ag Agencies introducing new producers to those agencies and discussing what they could do for the new producers. Spoke with Jessie Rupert at the Senior Citizen Center. She was interested in our programs; community garden, urban agriculture, container gardening, composting, rain barrel, anything we might be able to offer in the future. Attended Maple Days at Cedar Run. Spoke with someone needing a good source for bare root trees. Hillcrest Orchard near Amish country might be a good source for those. Contact #330-893-9906. NPCD is having a tree sale this year. I listened in on the Lime info call this morning. I have registered for the IS dinner meeting in Little Kanawha.

Morgan – I organized the Community Garden meeting, prepared adds for that and the Bio Char Workshop. Went to the Executive Meeting with the Association. Had someone contact me wanting to know what District they would be in. I accepted the position to be the Executive Director of the WV Farmers Market Association, so I will be leaving the theatre and the museum.

McKeever – Since I missed the last meeting, I have had 2 Envirothon meetings, we have about 29 teams. I was at the NACD meeting in New Orleans. Some of the Climate Change funds has come down. Some funds have shifted to WVU and some have shifted to us, but have no idea where the funds are at this point. There is lots of funding coming for technical assistance. Kim was elected NACD president. Wants to come WV for one of our meetings. I will get a report typed up for you all. Went to Pipestem and Cedar Lakes to check for suitability for 2024 Envirothon. That will be voted on at the next meeting. Attended on the phone a couple Northeast Area NACD meetings and an Executive meeting, and I wanted to let you know there is discussion about donations to Farm Bureau. Had a meeting with NRCS on bio char to get the technical code in. Needs to be proven so it could be written into a nutrient management plan. Had a call with Dr. Charlie Kelly and we are going to try to work in some plots at the organic farm and maybe with Lewis Jett. But they are going to work on the test plots there.

Thomas – Went to the Heritage Cattle Demo and Workshop at the Noble County Fairgrounds. Tom Wise from one of the area Co-ops was one of the speakers. Was saying there are fewer cattle now than since 1964?? Demand is at an all time high. Protein tubs, says the best bargain is the cooked ones pound per pound and recommendations of how many cattle to turn bulls in with at different maturity levels. Discussed the minerals needed for good sperm production and controlling stress for better production. I signed checks for the District. Spoke with Clarence Dawson. He lost six of his hives. He is getting that tested through FSA, thinking it is a fungicide. I guess they have come out with a vaccine for bees. He is available to teach classes and education programs if interested. I booked the Senior Center for the LWG meeting.

Rush – I went to the Meeting of the Minds that Lauren organized. Someone suggested we check to see if there is a walk behind mulch layer. Would be better for small gardens or high tunnels. It was suggested we have winter dinner meetings with Kacie Gantzer.

Correspondence

Bowie Lawn Care presented an estimate of the cost for lawn care for 2023 lawn care.

Gellner made a motion to approve Bowie Lawn Care to continue with our lawn needs. Morgan seconded the motion; motion carried.

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting will be April 18, 2023.

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist

Signature of Chairman

Signature of Secretary

Date

Date