

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes August 22, 2022

Members Present

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

Others Present

Katie Fitzsimmons
Nick Beaver
Lori Cochran

Chairman Rush called the meeting to order.

Cooperating Agency Reports

USDA-NRCS-FSA Fitzsimmons reported on current happenings in the two districts. A written report is provided.
WVCA - written report was provided by Kim Fisher. It was noted that any comments about the policy needed to be back to Brian Farkas prior to the next meeting.

Forestry – None

WVU Extension – Julia Bolen is working on getting BQA set up in Tyler County.
WVACD-

Previous Meeting Minutes

McKeever made the motion to approve the July meeting minutes. Gellner seconded the motion; motion passed. The May minutes have been tabled.

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. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

Supervisor Reports

Gellner – Spoke with Tina Oldfield about the SWA. She has been to one meeting. There are concerns with the building location not being ideal due to water runoff. It was suggested she speak with Ron Copely for alternatives. Spoke to one person about a high tunnel.

Morgan – At the Area Meeting and the Quarterly Meeting. It was decided to raise the WVACD dues for next year by \$1000. *There was some discussion at this time on paying vs not paying. That decision will be made when the budget comes out.* Spoke with a cooperator about a stream bank situation in Wileyville; passed all of the information to Kim Neal. She says they will do a site visit. Was on the Area Farm Tour. Also attended the Envirothon Meeting.

McKeever – Attended the Quarterly Meeting July 18-19. Congratulations to Holly on position as Secretary for WVACD Board. Asking for \$1000 from each District for the Scholarship Auction. Or donate items and funds. If donating items, send a photo of item to Mark Fitzsimmons. Need to work on poster and photo contest for more participation. I do want to mention that health insurance is available through NACD. Best way to find out more information is to go on their website and go through the process. It was brought up to reduce the number of meetings, but majority wanted to keep it the same. Envirothon – WV team came in 29 out of 40. Participation was down this year. The winning team was Massachusetts, second was Maryland, 3rd was Florida followed by New York and North Carolina. A good job with Envirothon; the facilities and everything was nice. Worked the Tyler Co. Fair. I had 3 or 4 new people interested in working with us. Attended the Envirothon Meeting, starting a new Envirothon for the year. The fifth topic will be on climate change for this year. Been working on update the webpage for Envirothon. Teacher/Advisor training will be September 12 at Holly Gray Park. Went to the North America Bio Char Live Energy Conference August 8. Worked with Dr. Charlie Kelley so we didn't have to pay registration fee. Need to adjust the course a little on the bio char practice. Do a high tunnel, checking to see if will reduce salinity in high tunnel. Going to do a forage type deal as well. need to keep tabs on it this fall and into next year. Trying to make it easy as possible. WVU says just to top dress, but we are looking at discing it into the ground. Bio char depends on so many variables, climate, soil type, etc.

Thomas – Booked the Tyler Co. 4-H building for our December Awards/Christmas Dinner for Tuesday December 6. Attended the Quarterly Meeting for all 3 days. Sent photos to Lori for the Display. Jon Borden and others came to our

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farm for a tour. Manned the fair booth and signed checks. I handed out a lot of literature, had lots of interest in different things. Conservation camps, Envirothon, AgEP, etc. Photos were good conversation starters. Read correspondence and responded as needed.

Cunningham – Reporting precipitation data daily, spoke with a person about stream bank stabilization and someone else about road bank planting. Spoke to a cooperater about a high tunnel. Worked two days at the State Fair booth. Our booth received the Spirit of the Fair Award. Went to the Quarterly Meeting and was on the Area Farm Tour.

Rush – Went to grazing conference on the 21st. Discussion held on the date, trying to get away from the spring. Maybe towards fall. May talk more about fencing options and get away from the grazing so much. Next meeting September 16 and then November 17 @10:00am. Done the farm tours. SWA is chugging along very good. Terri said she may have a new source of barrels out of Wheeling. Took the display to the fair. Attendance was low this year.

Funding Request – WV Women in Ag.

McKeever made a motion to give \$300 for the Women in Ag. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

Unfinished Business

Cooperator Agreements –

Gellner made a motion to approve the Cooperator agreements for Thomas Wince and Larry Jochum of Tyler County and Sandra Blake of Wetzel County. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed

AgEP –

Morgan made a motion to correct the July minutes to show the AgEP funds approved as \$43763.50. Gellner seconded the motion; motion passed.

McKeever made a motion to approve applications for Allen Rush – HUA, \$2112.00, Richard Thomas – PD Fence, \$2500.00, Diann Wykert – IS, \$500.00, Kenneth Mercer – HUA, ~~\$1612.00~~ \$2112.00, Doretta Rush – PD Fence, \$2200.00 and Steve Long – IS, \$500.00, totaling \$9424.00 in funds allotted. Cooperators with approved practices have until September 30 to return paperwork or practice will be canceled and funds will be reassessed for redistribution to non-funded applications. Gellner seconded the motion; motion passed.

Correction approved at the June 27, 2023 Board meeting.

Grant Needs

Grazing technical assistance to producers available.

- Education Programs – Project Wet & Project Wild, speak with curriculum directors in the schools
- Other ideas – Gypsum to pasture fields.
- UOCD promotional video update – Devin getting license for the drone.
- RC & D Grant update – Working on getting the trees
- Urban Ag Funding
- Barrel order update – Covered in Supervisor Rush report.
- Resource Concerns – Information was sent in; just waiting now.
- Carroll Greene Nomination –
- WVACD Honorary Member at Large – Terri Tyler
- WACD Lifetime Honorary Member – Eugene Friend

Gellner made a motion to submit Terri Tyler as the Honorary Member at Large and Eugene Friend as the Lifetime Honorary Member. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

- Annual Awards Dinner – Patricia has paperwork to reserve the 4-H ground for December 6. Need to work on caterer. Cunningham made a motion to pay \$125 to the 4-H Camp. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

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- Budget FY23
Gellner made a motion to approve the amended FY23 budget and to review the budget quarterly. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.
- Conservation Farmer of the Year Tour – UOCD did not win.
- Biochar Support – Would like to do some trials on high tunnel or forage or both so we can have some results to support a bio char practice. McKeever made a motion to spend \$1000 for biochar testing. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

New Business

LOR - AgEP \$37000.00

Gellner made a motion to submit an LOR for AgEP funds in the amount of \$37000.00. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

NRCS DC Letter

Gellner made a motion to submit a letter requesting a NRCS DC in UOCD. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

Forestry Contest

McKeever made a motion to have a District Forestry Contest in September. Thomas seconded the motion; motion passed.

FOIA Policy – draft for next meeting.

Scholarship Auction

Soil Trailer Tunnel Booking – Schools

Gellner made a motion to reserve the soil trailer for April if the dates are open. Split the cost with the school. Thomas seconded the motion; motion passed.

Supervisor Travel & Meal Rates

Place on the September agenda. Need to come up with travel and per diem guidelines as well.

Policy Review

Send comments to Brian prior to the next meeting.

CD matures 9/5

Check into rates and bring to next meeting.

Correspondence

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting will be September 20, 2022.

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist

Signature of Chairman

Signature of Secretary

Date

Date