

# Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes May 16, 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

Cindy Shreve, WVCA  
\*Heather Duncan  
\*Kim Fisher, Area Manager WVCA  
Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist  
Lauren Hobbs, NRCS  
Katie Fitzsimmons, NRCS  
Jennifer Kile, Conservation Specialist

Chairman Gellner called the meeting to order.

## Cooperating Agency Reports

USDA-NRCS-FSA – Fitzsimmons reviewed the written report provided. Happy to see our application numbers are up. For four contracts Lauren wrote, \$307,801. We have been working on WIA for next week. The Pathway student will be arriving from Puerto Rico June 5<sup>th</sup>. Still needing lodging for him. I will be out of town from June 16-25. Lauren Hobbs reported on the high tunnel meeting hosted by Extension. Lewis Jett was the speaker. She was able to promote the low tunnel program both agencies have. Wetzel County Farm Bureau ask her to come to a meeting and talk. She shared information on NRCS, AgEP and FSA programs. EQIP round two has 10 applications in this district, eight of which have all their paperwork. FSA has their CSP Grassland open for applications till May 26. J.L. is officially the CED out of Whitehall. Nobody is sure how long this will last.

Forestry - None

WVCA– Cindy Shreve shared a report with everyone. Currently there are four vacancies within our division. West Fork, Mon, Eastern Pan and Southern. Jenn is helping fill in at Mon. There are also several temp or intern positions posted. One of those would serve Upper Ohio and Northern Pan, so if you know anyone looking for an opportunity to build their resume, we do have an opening available. Several Grants. We are listed as a partner for the Grazing Regenerative for Appalachian Sustainable Solutions (GRASS). That is with WVU Extension. We will receive a sub award of \$660,000 to issue and direct initial payment to small and underserved farmers. This is still in early stage, so not sure what it will look like yet. We recently received word that we were awarded a grazing lands conservation initiative and that was an opportunity to offer through NRCS. The award will be \$240,192. It will be for virtual pasture walk development of a five-video series to educate about soil health, forages, grazing techniques. The videos will be paired with in person pasture walks and outreach events held at the district level. We also submitted a grant for the National Association of State Dept. of Ag and Partnership with the Association for \$225,000. The full application is by invitation only and should receive notification the end of May or June. Fisher reviewed the written report provided. The Conservation Farmer is due to her by the end of the month. AgEP database up to date for closing of the year. Busy time trying to fill vacancies.

WVU Extension – Julie was unable to attend but sent an email with recent activities and coming events.

## Previous Meeting Minutes

**Thomas made the motion to approve the April meeting minutes. McKeever 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. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.**

## Funding Request

**WV DEP – Gellner made a motion to donate enough funds to pay the cost of 6 campers. Thomas seconded the motion; motion carried.**

**Ravenswood FFA - Cunningham made a motion to donate \$100 to Ravenswood FFA to help with the cost of representing WV in the Mid- American Grasslands Contest in June. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.**

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*WV Conservation Camp* – **McKeever made a motion to donate enough funding to cover 4 camp registrations. Gellner seconded the motion; motion passed.**

*WVACD Dues* – **McKeever made a motion to pay \$5000 for dues. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.**

### Unfinished Business

Cooperator Agreements – Tyler County resident Colleen Folger – **Thomas made a motion to approve Colleen Folger as a Cooperator. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.**

### AgEP –

**What is acceptable for Heavy Use Area Protection?**

**Thomas made a motion to approve the payment of 2217.60 to John Furlong for his completed AgEP HUA practice. McKeever seconded the motion; motion carried.**

**Gellner made a motion to approve the payment of \$200.00 to Greg Musgrave for his completed Pollination practice. Morgan seconded the motion; motion carried.**

**Morgan made a motion to approve the payment of \$519.28 to Sandy Blake for her completed Urban Ag practice. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion carried.**

*Total Payments: \$2936.88*

### Grant Updates

Bio Char Rings are at the shop. We requested \$6300 for the grant. We have had one workshop. We have had the rings made, it was supposed to cost us \$2400 to have them made and it cost us \$500.00. \$1000 of the grant is set aside to buy bio char to give away. Add bio char to the Forestry Field Day. Maybe have them at the fall festivals in Tyler and Wetzel counties. Need an informational pamphlet to hand out with the rental of the rings. Rental form should state we are not responsible for any damages/harm from the use of the rings.

**McKeever made a motion to donate \$100 to MOVTI for the work to assemble the Bio Char Rings. Gellner seconded the motion; motion passed.**

**Cunningham made a motion to reallocate grant funds from materials to workshop supplies. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.**

**McKeever made a motion to set a weekly refundable rental rate for the rings at \$50. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.**

Gellner volunteered to have forms and instructions made up for the next meeting.

Raised beds have been turned over to the people for planting, six of the ten have planted. Working on getting the water hooked up. A fence will be installed around the garden to help keep critters out.

A story for the soil tunnel trailer at New Martinsville School will be submitted to the papers.

### Education Programs –

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*Land Judging is set for the 25<sup>th</sup> of this month. We have almost 20 posters to judge. Check with Aimee as to dates for trailer in September for Pleasants County Youth Fair. Forestry Field Day in July.*

## New Building

### **McKeever**

**moved to proceed with getting estimates on tree removal, building plan, dirt replacement. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.**

## Five Year Plan

Draft Five Year Plan was reviewed. Changes and additions suggested will be approved at the June meeting.

## 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.

## Conservation Farmer of the Year Award

Gellner made a motion to select Hannah and Joe Ferrell as the District Farmer of the Year. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

## **New Business**

### Wetzel County Solid Waste Authority

Thomas made a motion to appoint Ed Estep as the Wetzel County Solid Waste representative. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

### LOR's

**Gellner made a motion to submit LOR's for Q1 \$33082.00, Q2 \$16692.00, Q3 \$16691.00, Q4 \$12668.00. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.**

## Supervisor Reports

**Gellner** – Already discussed the community garden and bio char earlier in the meeting.

**Cunningham** – On meetings with everyone else this month. Current prices from Swisher Feed are on the table for anyone interested. Sat in on the Grazing Meeting. Wood County IS talk with Bruce Lloyd handout is very long; if you would like a copy, let us know and we will make copies for you.

**Morgan** – Worked the soil trailer 3 days, community garden worked on, and meetings you all attended.

**McKeever** – 19 – 21 at the Envirothon, had about 30 teams. Ravenswood won. Will be attending National in New Brunswick, Canada. Attended RC&D meeting, bio char with Bill, and executive committee meeting on the first, five-year plan on the second, Envirothon Meeting on the third, went to Cedar Lakes to look for the Envirothon we are having there 2024 and 2025. Had a Legislative meeting on the tenth.

**Thomas** – High Tunnel meeting Extension held, Bio Char Workshop, booked the Sr. Center for the LWG meeting and attended that meeting, went on the 2 conservation farm tours. Handed awards out at Tyler Consolidated Awards Day. Plan to attend WIA next week.

**Rush** – RC&D meeting, picked up plaques for the Land Judging and Forestry Contests. Did talk to the barrel supplier. He is moving. And normal talks with co-operators, signing checks, etc.

## Correspondence

## Adjournment

**Morgan made a motion to adjourn. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.**

**The next regular meeting will be at 6pm June 27, 2023.**

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Chairman

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Signature of Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date