

Upper Ohio CD Draft Meeting Minutes October 24, 2023

Members Present

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

Others Present

Nick Beaver, NRCS DC
Rafael Mendez, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations
*Kim Fisher, WVCA
John Wilson, Division of Forestry
Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist
Jennifer Kile, WVCA Conservation Specialist

***Not Present
*Attended via teleconference

Secretary/Treasurer Morgan called the meeting to order.

Cooperating Agency Reports

Forestry – It's fire season, pretty slow so far. There is a company called "Keeping it Native". They are a habitat management company from Ohio. They are doing all of the invasive stuff, spraying, TSI and they are trained in Forestry. They are interested in working in this area. They had a big job in Pleasants Co. and currently are working a job on Leo Schumacher's property working some EQIP. They are interested in doing one of the landowners' workdays that we do. They are willing to do that at no cost. I would feel comfortable letting them conduct the whole thing because they are very knowledgeable. They would also like to come to the work group meeting in the spring. With EQIP, Lancaster is doing IS. The Spotted Lantern Fly is now in Ohio County. Only a matter of time for it to be here.

USDA-NRCS-FSA –Mendez gave a report. As he has said before, his commitment is to provide customer service. NRCS has opened a position for a Forester. Six applications have been received. Also, Soil Con Tech is in the staffing plan that is being discussed with leadership. It will be a while for that position to be filled if it happens. Nick is working by himself and helping with the FSA also. Appreciate the support being given to him. Funds this year were increased more than what was projected. So, we need lots of applicants, so please help promote our programs.

Rush arrived to take over as Chair.

Beaver reviewed the written report. Went over "Keeping it Native" again with the practices they can work on. They have been added to the contractors' list. Continues to work on the list of contractors for this area.

WVCA– Fisher reviewed the written report. Time to get the audit completed. A map is on the second page of the written report showing the area covered by each District Operations Manager. Devon Kokoska officially started September 25; Kim will continue to cover our district. Personnel wise, last weekend we lost Kelly Kent, the AS in LKCD. She passed away unexpectedly. We will be looking for someone to fill that position now.

WVU Extension – Report is attached.

SWA – Rush discussed SWA news. Another building is coming down this week. Discussing having farmers markets there on Saturday mornings. Recycling is picking up. Terri replaced Bob Gorby as the RC&D representative from Wetzel County.
WVACD – Heather reminded that grant reports are due by the end of the month. Envirothon training is on the 25th. NACD Annual Meeting registration is open. It is in San Diego this year. Quarterly meeting registration as Kim said on the 25th, discounted room rate is open to the 5th. Area meeting is 27th at LKCD. We are going to have training with the WVCA fiscal department. It will be Q & A style, but if you have any questions as a board or individuals, please try to get them to me by the end of the month so we can have handouts prepared with those Q and A on them.

Previous Meeting Minutes

Thomas made a motion to approve the September 19 meeting minutes. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial Report

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

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

Funding Request – None

Unfinished Business

Cooperator Agreements –
None

AgEP –

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Morgan made a motion to cancel the AgEP \$500 Invasive Species and \$1600 Pasture Division Fence practices of Terrell Cozart as he requested. McKeever seconded the motion; motion carried. Total cancelation \$2100.00.

Thomas made a motion to approve the AgEP Water System payment to Kara Garrett in the amount of \$1930.00. Morgan seconded the motion; motion carried.

Grant Updates

Allen to get with Jason Brake to discuss fence job for Community Garden. Received payment of funds spent for last quarter's expenses on the Garden Grant.

Education Programs –

January 25th will hold a enhanced back yard gardening workshop. Still looking into purchasing inflatable soil tunnel. Morgan will work on getting a grant. Wayne talked about training for educators for grades K -8. Posters we can submit digitally.

New Building

Nothing new

UOCD Annual Meeting

Lewis Wetzel Family Center in New Martinsville, Izzy catering.

New Business

SWA Representative

Morgan made a motion to appoint Kristianna Venderlic as the Pleasants Co. SWA Representative. McKeever seconded the motion; motion carried. Pleasants Co. SWA had sent a recommendation for Ms. Venderlic. Keeping it Native was discussed again.

FY20 and FY21 Audit

Thomas made a motion to accept the FY20 and FY21 audit report as prepared by Lowe and Associates. McKeever seconded the motion; motion carried.

Per Diem/Travel Rules

Morgan and McKeever informed everyone about action taken at the QM on the \$150 per diem issue. Please refer to those minutes for additional information.

Financial Training from QM

Morgan shared the slide show information from the training. Not sure if this teleconference was recorded due to technical difficulties at the beginning of the meeting.

Supervisor Reports

Gellner – None

Cunningham – None

Morgan – will email her report to the supervisors.

McKeever – as attached.

Thomas – None

Rush – None

Correspondence

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting will be at 6pm November 21, 2023.

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist

Signature of Chairman

Signature of Secretary

Date

Date