

# Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes February 20, 2024

## 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  
\* Cindy Shreves, WVCA  
Kim Fisher, WVCA  
\*Shaun Kuhn, WVDOF  
Jon Wilson, WVDOF  
Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist

\*Attended via teleconference

Chairman Rush called the meeting to order.

## Cooperating Agency Reports

USDA-NRCS-FSA – Beaver reviewed the written seven-page report. Been working with round one applications. I have 13 that have been selected for funding. Ranked and assessed 36 applications for the first batching period. Additional pre-approvals will be released shortly. Spoke with Eric Hayes a couple of times and is working on a program for the March 1 session at Momentive Employee Park. Audra and I have been working on getting things coordinated for that. The Forestry and Technician positions will be readvertised. Spoke at the Wetzel Co. Farm Bureau and received 3 interested landowners in programs. Ranking and assessment deadline was February 2<sup>nd</sup>. I have three contracts that have been obligated and four more ready to go. Round two deadline is March 15. Jeff Barr has been acting as the State Conservationist while John Borden is in D.C.

WVCA – Fisher reviewed the written report. Dates for the Quarterly Meetings are included in the report. October meeting date is blank on the report, but it is the 14-15. Conservation Farm contest is coming up, so you should be working on who you want to recognize. There are traditional and non-traditional categories. District Personnel and CDO Budget reports are due. Get your audits done. Little Kanawha AS position will be reposted. Of the four people that confirmed to be interviewed, only one showed. Western is in the process of moving into their new building.

Forestry – Jon reported March 1 starts burning season. Farmers can get a burning permit for agricultural purposes, and they are exempt from the fee. You can burn legally after five if you stay with it and have the ten-foot safety strip. As far as logging, it's pretty much the same. They currently want white oak, so this is a good time to get rid of your white oak. Been working on a lot of the EQIP stuff, some invasive species some TSI stuff. I will be there March 1. March 22 is Envirothon Practice at 9:30. Basic instruction similar to the Forestry Contest. Shaun has written up a good stewardship plan on a farm in Wetzel Co.

WVU Extension – Julie reported the high tunnel, waiting on quotes on electric and water. After that is done, will start offering classes. March 20 is the educational dinner meeting with Dr. Lee Jones speaking. RSVP at the office. Doing SES doing wildflower seeds for March Month of Kindness. May 17 will be progressive agricultural safety day. Will be camping with Ritchie County June 16 to 21.

## SWA –

WVACD –

WVCA – Cindi reported a position in Potomac Valley has been offered and accepted. Just waiting on paperwork to go through. Internship postings will be coming soon. Potomac Valley, Eastern Pan, and a shared position between UOCD and NPCD to provide some support to Jenn. Grants – GRASS Grant is in partnership with WVU. The sub award has been received and there is an interest form located on the extension's website. Darien Carson is the agency's lead for that grant. Darien is headquartered in Tygarts Valley. There is a grazing lands conservation initiative that is in partnership with NRCS that is to develop a five-video series to educate about soil health, forages, grazing techniques, nutrient management, weed control, and there is a portion that will include field days at the district level. The agency leads for that grant are Aaron Krieger in Eastern Pan and Braden Schneider in Southern District. Most recently is the SMART Grant or the Sustainable Management and AG using Regenerative Techniques and that is to incorporate native warm season grasses for rotational grazing and to reclaim log landings. Cindi has agreed to send her report in writing as requested due to the sound issues of the teleconference.

## Previous Meeting Minutes

**Thomas made a motion to approve the January 16 meeting minutes as amended by changing inflammatory to inflation. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.**

## Financial Report

**Gellner made a motion to file the financial report for audit. Thomas 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 Extension Farm Viability Conference

Gellner made a motion to table. Morgan seconded the motion; motion carried.

## Unfinished Business

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Cooperator Agreements –  
None

AgEP – Gellner made a motion to approve Small Scale Soil Amendments- bio char with a 65% cost share, not to exceed \$1000.00. Urban Ag - adding cold frames and hot beds, irrigation, landscape fabric, shade cloth , stakes and trellises, and green houses 50% up to \$2500.00. Honey Bee Nuc's do not have to be for replacement purposes. No fewer than five frames. Increase spring development to \$700.00. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

## Grant Updates

Grant money remaining is \$4730.88 less \$989 for the bio char purchased for door prizes. 4532 remaining on the garden grant. Need to build more beds estimated to be \$1900 for 10 beds and still installing fence. Estimating 4000 needed for Community Garden. Meet on March 18 to install additional raised beds. Rush will pick up lumber and take it to Gellner for cutting. We will provide snacks for the Forest Be with You Always classes.

Education Programs – continue to look into an inflatable soil tunnel.

## **New Business**

### Storage Building

### Bayer Credit Union

**Gellner made a motion to remove Cumberledge and Fletcher from all accounts and add Patricia Thomas and Holly Morgan to all accounts. McKeever seconded the motion; motion carried.**

### Personnel Form

**McKeever made a motion to approve the personnel form with 2 maintenance positions \$1000 with addition of \$6000 for a grant employee. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.**

### Local Work Group

April 25, 6:00 LTBD include a workshop? Change the title. Check with long year plan.

### LK RC&D Dues \$100

**Morgan made a motion to pay FY25 dues of \$100. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.**

### Employee Grant

District Employee soil testing, education outreach, etc. Urban and Community Grant. We would have to come up with 25% for one year, possibly be able to extend for longer than a year. Supervised by one of the District Supervisors.

**Gellner made a motion to amend the personnel form to include an Urban Community Outreach Coordinator for \$60000.00 grant funds. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.**

### Conservation Farm

Need to be thinking of Farms to present. Cochran will forward new Award Program category information to supervisors.

### CDO Budget

**McKeever made a motion to approve the CDO Budget as presented. Gellner seconded the motion; motion passed.**

### Supervisor Reports

**Gellner** – None

**Cunningham** – Written report provided.

**Morgan** – None

**McKeever** – Legislative dinner was not very well attended. Had seven Senators, 8 Delegates and seventeen supervisors and conservation employees with a total of 65. Had food for 200 which cost the agency \$1700 and the association \$1700. WVACD advertising for 2 employees to help with outreach and other things that the district needs help with throughout the state. They have what's called a working lands climate core, which is NRCS guided type of deal, provides skill training career for anything conservation. No details other than they announced that. Farm Bill is a continuation of what it was before.

**Thomas** – None

**Rush** – None

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Correspondence

Adjournment

**Gellner made a motion to adjourn. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.  
The next regular meeting will be at 6pm March 19, 2024.**

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date