

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes June 18, 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
Barbara Parsons, FSA
Jon Wilson, Forestry
Grant, Summer Intern
Jennifer Kile, WVCA
Lori Cochran, WVCA Administrative Specialist

*Attended via teleconference

Chairman Rush called the meeting to order.

Cooperating Agency Reports

USDA-FSA –

Parsons reported on FSA happenings. County Committee elections in Ritchie and Wood Counties. The deadline for nominations is August 30. If we know anyone in either of those counties that would be interested, have them call the office. The tornadoes that came through some of our counties in April and just received word that Pleasants, Ritchie, Wirt and Wood counties have been approved for an emergency program. It is called EFRT (Emergency Forest Restoration Program) and is strictly for Forestry, not for the sheds and barn damages that we have received notice of. No sign-up dates or details are available yet. Currently taking acreage reporting. The deadline is July 15; anyone needing to report can call the office for assistance with this reporting. Also interested in coming to the office to become better acquainted with the Pleasants Co. producers to better serve those producers. Grassland CRP sign-up is going on now. The deadline is June 28. Anyone interested, please call the office. A field visit by NRCS is required, but not at the time of sign-up. If we need assistance with the county fair display, get in touch with Barbie or Mikayla. They are willing to partnership with us on those.

NRCS-Beaver reviewed his written report. He has been pushing forward on contracting trying to get those completed; received 8 preapprovals for the area for CSP contracts. These are pretty high dollar contracts; 248000 over the next five years for these eight contracts. Did get two introductory grazing plans approved, one in Wetzel and the other in Pleasants County. Performance review is coming up in a couple of days. There is some movement trying to get positions filled here to help out with the workload here. There is some discussion on getting us an ABC (American Bird Conservancy) Biologist. That would be an NRCS partnership position. At this point, I am not sure what is going to happen with that. The photos I provided are from Joe and Hannah Ferrel's property.

WVCA– Fisher provided a written report.

Forestry – Wilson reported this season is very slow. Pretty much the only calls now are for Managed Timberland Plans.

WVU Extension – None

SWA – None

WVACD – None

Previous Meeting Minutes

Thomas made a motion to approve the March 19 and the May 21 meeting minutes. Gellner seconded the motion; motion carried.

Kile introduced the new Summer Intern, Grant?

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. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Funding Request –

Morgan made a motion to sponsor the WV Extension WIA with \$115. McKeever seconded the motion; motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Cooperator Agreements –**Thomas made a motion to approve the cooperator agreements of Steve and Jody Melott, Tyler County, Amy Yost, Tyler County, Jacob Ueltschy, Wetzel County and Eric Wykert, Wetzel County. McKeever seconded the motion; motion carried.**

AgEP –

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McKeever made a motion to approve the following payments for AgEP. Morgan seconded the motion; motion carried. Total Payments \$27056.06.

Name	Practice	Amount	Cost Share
Kathy Phillips	Urban Agriculture		\$1,000.00
Kathy Phillips	Invasive Species	2.5 gals	\$312.08
Jon Dopudja	Lime	34.99 Tons	\$837.00
Greg Musgrave	Pollination – Nucs	2	\$200.00
Terry Collins	Forage Seeding	30 acres	\$2,250.00
Terry Collins	Lime	5 Tons	\$250.00
Anthony McDiffitt	Water System	1 system	\$1,926.00
John Furlong	Heavy Use Area Protection	1300 sq ft	\$1,716.00
John Furlong	Invasive Species	5 gals	\$500.00
Sandy Blake	Urban Agriculture		\$518.96
Sandy Blake	Heavy Use Area Protection	1155 sq ft	\$1,500.00
Shannon Silva	Pasture Division Fence	881 feet	\$1,409.60
Elijah Haught	Pasture Division Fence	1497 Feet	\$2,275.00
Elijah Haught	Lime	9 tons	\$225.00
William Baker	Heavy Use Area Protection	266 sq ft	\$350.00
William Baker	Water System	1 system	\$2,150.00
Everette Anderson	Pasture Division Fence	1141 Feet	\$1,825.60
Annette Wetzel	Urban Agriculture		\$382.83
Stevie Young	Heavy Use Area Protection	780 sq ft	\$1,029.00
Stevie Young	Invasive Species		\$264.99
Nancy Seckman	Invasive Species	40 ac	\$500.00
Charles Musgrave	Invasive Species		\$500.00
Tony Huggins	Invasive Species	9 gals	\$500.00
Hattie Massey	Pasture Division Fence	900 ft	\$1,440.00
Hattie Massey	Urban Agriculture		894.00
Lauren Weaver	Water System	1 system	\$2,300.00

Thomas made a motion to accept the cancelations as follows. Gellner seconded the motion; motion passed. Total Cancelations \$7765.16.

Name	Practice	Cost Share
Allen Rush	Heavy Use Protection Area	\$2112.00
Hannah Ferrell	Heavy Use Protection Area	\$314.16
Delbert Elder	Invasive Species	\$300.00
James A. Cochran Jr.	Lime	\$1935.00

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New Beginning Recovery Clinic, LLC	Urban Agriculture	\$1000.00
Annette Wetzel	Invasive Species	\$118.00
Allen Rush	Invasive Species	\$390.00
Rebecca VanCamp- Daugherty	Urban Agriculture	1,000.00
Rebecca VanCamp-Daugherty	Pollination	\$430.00
Hattie Massey	Lime	\$166.00

Total Cancellation

\$7765.16

Jenn reported the Watershed Division and the Conservation Service section have been merged into one unit, Field Operations. Jenn will be taking on more duties, such as taking the EWP calls, stream blockage calls, stream surveys, etc. Wanted to note FY25 applications are being reviewed for July meeting approval. Currently we have 75 applications from 37 producers.

Grant Updates

Morgan reported on the Community Garden expenses. Expenses as of the end of the month were \$10124.67. Over by \$2024.67. Transferring funds from the Bio Char Grant to the Community Garden would leave the Bio Char Funds at \$1463.

Gellner made a motion to transfer the needed funds to pay Community Garden invoices from the Bio Char Grant to the Community Garden Grant. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Morgan made a motion to use funds from Outreach to cover the water expense for the Community Garden. Thomas seconded the motion; motion passed.

Education Programs – Ideas, Field Days, Inflatable Soil Tunnel

McKeever mentioned meeting with Donnie and Dr. Hubbard earlier in the spring. Dr. Hubbard was very interested in biochar. Last month had a meeting with all of the agencies, Dept. of Ag, NRCS, WVCA, WV Extension, Division of Forestry, etc., in a think tank meeting to see how we should proceed with this. We all knew biochar, when used correctly works. NRCS wants specifics. Dr. Hubbard feels they can do that at WVU. He has a team to help with that, but just comes down to the money part. So he is working on some grants for that, and we are going to try for grants for that also.

Storage Building

Nothing new.

Conservation Farm

After much discussion, the supervisors decided not to have a District winner this year. Both farms are doing an excellent job but are dissimilar to each other. It would be difficult to choose one over the other.

Mailbox – Nothing new.

UOCD Education Grant

Taken care of last month.

Poster/Photo Contest

We have posters to judge after the meeting tonight.

Soil Tunnel Trailer

Booked for October 1 to October 22. New Martinsville School is taking for a week. We have heard nothing from other schools yet.

Annual Plan

Will collect notes and come up with a draft plan for the next meeting.

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Bayer Signatures

Everyone has signed the necessary documents.

New Business

SWA Re-appointment of Kristi Venderlic

Gellner made a motion to re-appoint Kristi Venderlic as the UOCD representative on the Pleasants County SWA committee. McKeever seconded the motion; motion carried.

WVACD Delegates

Morgan made a motion to appoint McKeever and Cunningham as WVACD Delegates. Thomas seconded the motion; motion carried.

County Fairs

Pay for space at Tyler County. Try again to get a space for Wetzel County. If not available, order stall decoration for Wetzel County.

Supervisor Reports

Gellner – None

Cunningham – None

Morgan – All was Community Garder

McKeever – provided a written report

Thomas – None

Rush – None

Correspondence

Correspondence was reviewed from DEP, Elk CD, Lewis Wetzel misplaced check.

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting will be at 6pm July 22, 2024.

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist

Signature of Chairman

Signature of Secretary

Date

Date