

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes June 17, 2025

Members Present

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

Others Present

*Don Whetzel, WVCA Area Manager
John Jennings, UOCD Outreach Coordinator
Jennifer Kile, WVCA
Lori Cochran, WVCA Administrative Specialist
Chuck Roberts
*Heather Duncan, WVACD

*Attended via teleconference

Vice Chair Gellner called the meeting to order.
Rush joined the meeting.

Cooperating Agency Reports

USDA-FSA NRCS –Nick provided a written report

WVCA– Whetzel reviewed his written report. Farm tours do not affect our district. The Annual Plan of Work needs to be approved and goes to SCC. Senate Bill 941 clarification on but does not apply to our District so much without any flood control structures. AgEP timeline. CDO Budget will need to be addressed next month as it is due to Guthrie by August 1.

Forestry – No report

WVU Extension –No report

SWA – No report

WVACD – Heater reviewed her written report

UOCD Employee – John reviewed recent accomplishments. Rain Barrel Workshop was held in New Martinsville with 14 participants. Brooklyn Community Garden, all beds are reserved; beds are planted and growing well except for a couple of beds have nothing. John will follow up with those people. A new sign has been installed. Sistersville Community Garden is growing well. John has been helping build a fence around the garden and building gates to help them out. Hundred Community Garden funding was lost but had some back up funding and were able to distribute some grow bags to some local residents. Grow bags consisted of soil and gardening instructions and plants from the Hundred Green House. John has been placing multiple articles in the newspapers recently about the Land Judging Contest and workshops as well as one on tick safety. Social media continues to grow. John did 37 posts over the last 30 days with 20,000 views and reached over 7500 people, 19 new followers and 385 visits directly to the page. John presented rack card drafts for ordering. Soil tunnel trailer went to the Sistersville Farmers Market and the Wetzel County Community picnic sponsored by the sheriffs dept. and while there the Center for Children and Families is doing an event out at the Robert Bird Center in July for that. Upcoming July 15 my grant reporting is due. I would like to get another newsletter out. We have been brainstorming on some additional summer workshops, maybe a composting workshop.

WVACD - July Quarterly meeting is coming up. Information is on the association website with a draft agenda. Also, Google forms link to RSVP. Take a look at the federal budget to see how that may affect WV. Currently working with NRCS to get payments through once again for the outreach and development grant. The association is working on two different foundation grants to try to get some funding for similar projects. Just track receipts, that kind of thing when working on the projects you had grant funding for.

Previous Meeting Minutes

McKeever made a motion to approve May 20, 2025, meeting minutes. Thomas seconded the motion; motion carried.

Financial Report

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

Approval of Invoices and Payments

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 – none

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes June 17, 2025

Unfinished Business

Cooperator Agreements –Steven Parks, Wetzel and Cole McCardle, Wetzel

Gellner made a motion to approve the conservation agreements of Steven Parks and Cole McCardle, both from Wetzel County. Thomas seconded the motion; motion carried.

Ag Enhancement Program

McKeever made a motion to approve the payments totaling 13758.42 as follows. Morgan seconded the motion; motion carried.

AgEP – Payments

Name	Practice	Cost Share Payment
Steven Long	Urban Ag	\$145.55
Elijah Haught	Lime	\$958.00
Elijah Haught	Pasture Division Fence	\$1542.00
Eric Wykert	Water System	\$1362.00
Thomas Wince	Invasive Species	\$259.96
John Ueltschy	Water Exclusion Fence	\$827.20
John Ueltschy	Frost Seeding	\$72.00
Dennis J. Moore	Invasive Species	\$129.00
Henry Barnhart	Heavy Use Area	\$2500.00
John Jennings	UA-Small Greenhouse	\$2252.25
Shelly Brown	Water System	\$1900.00
Shelly Brown	Invasive Species	\$393.75
Shelly Brown	Pollination	\$200.00
Sandy Blake	Urban Ag	\$1000.00
Annette Wetzel	Urban Ag	\$216.71
	Total Payments	\$13758.42

Gellner made a motion to approve cancellations for practices totaling \$14533.60 as shown below . Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

AgEP – Cancellations

Name	Practice	Cost Share Payment	Reason
Daniel Stillwagoner	Heavy Use Area	\$2500.00	Had shoulder surgery with slow recovery and despite hope wasn't able to get back to it in time.
Nicholas Racer	UA-Small Greenhouse	\$2500.00	Never signed contract-had worries about specs.
Allen Rush	Invasive Species	\$388.00	Not enough time.

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes June 17, 2025

Allen Rush	Heavy Use Area	\$2112.00	Not enough time.
Doretta Rush	Invasive Species	\$500.00	Ran out of time.
Doretta Rush	Heavy Use Area	\$633.60	Ran out of time.
Shannon Silva	Pasture Division	\$2500.00	Not enough time to do everything
Thomas Wince	Pollination	\$200.00	Vacation and rain caused timing to be off this spring.
Bobbi Jo Judge	Pollination	\$200.00	Too much to get done this spring & NUCS just didn't happen.
Amy & Jon Yost	Pasture Division	\$2500.00	The rain & schedules didn't work out; started but unable to complete.
Kenny Mercer	Invasive Species	\$500.00	Phone numbers do not work; couldn't be verified.
Total Cancellations		\$14533.60	

Education Programs –

Rain Barrel workshop went well. Soil Tunnel trailer went to a couple of events.

Equipment Rates –

Need to create requirements for equipment usage for placement in the flyer.

Conservation Farm of the Year

Chris Metz was for Tyler, Hattie Massey for Wetzel and Dave Sweeney for Pleasants Counties for recognition within the district only. Not for state competition.

Travel & Per Diem Policy

Tabled to review policy.

New Business

LOR return of GRASS funds

Gellner made a motion to submit an Lor GRASS fund returns in the amount of \$20000 plus accrued interest. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed

POW

Gellner made a motion to approve the POW as presented. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

Renaming Urban Ag to Small Scale Farming

Morgan made a motion to have the State AgEP Committee and the State Committee consider renaming Urban Ag to Small Scale Farming. Gellner seconded the motion; motion passed.

WVACD Dues

Morgan made a motion to pay dues of \$5000 to WVACD. McKeever seconded the motion; motion carried.

SWA Appointment

Gellner made a motion to appoint Anthony Campbell to the Tyler Co. SWA As UOCD representative. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Supervisors Reports

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes June 17, 2025

McKeever – presented a written report.

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting will be July 15, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist

Signature of Chairman

Date

Signature of Secretary

Date