

Upper Ohio Conservation District Minutes September 15, 2020

Members Present via teleconference

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

Others Present via teleconference

David Shipman, NRCS
Lori Cochran, WVCA/UOCD District Manager
Kim Fisher, WVCA Area Manager
Jennifer Kile, WVCA
Katie Fitzsimmons, NRCS

Chairman Rush called the meeting to order.

Cooperating Agency Reports

USDA-NRCS-FSA –Fitzsimmons reviewed current NRCS programs activities.

WVCA – Fisher reviewed the written WVCA report.

Forestry – None.

SWA – None.

WVU Extension – None.

Meeting Minutes

McKeever made the motion to approve the August 18, 2020 meeting minutes. Cunningham 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. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

Funding Request

None

Supervisor Reports

Gellner –Nothing to report.

Cunningham – Gutters and downspouts have been placed on the building. She has looked at them and has photos for anyone wanting to view them. Attended via Zoom a Woodlands Steward Seminar. Jared Beard was one of the speakers along with 3 or four others. Have been submitting rain data for the summer. That area is currently showing good for precipitation, for a while it was showing up on the drought monitor. Participated in meeting for the COVID Food Assistance Program. They are not sure what the parameters are going to be on the distribution, so they are still working on that.

McKeever - Supervisor in the state passed, Mike Adkins from Mingo County in the Gyan District. He was a good guy on several committees, and we are sorry to hear of his passing. Had a legislative committee meeting that was fairly good. Going to have another one this month. If not able to participate, Allen, please let him know so we can find someone else to sit in on the meeting. Maybe need and alternate for the committee, Audra is interested in being the alternate. Some items will be presented for the SCC on the 13th of October. Legislative committee, again, are working on things that need to be done in the future. Attended a meeting for Pasture Invasive Plants Grant pilot program meeting. New program trying to get started, maybe in the future get grant money for it. Maybe six Districts in the state will be pilot areas for the program. These are invasive species that are not currently included in AgEP. Going to take these areas and work on the invasive species to bring back better pasture. Currently in the planning stages and will probably have a meeting for this next month. Attended an Envirothon meeting, are having a teacher's training on the 28th of this month at Holly Gray Park near Sutton. If the teachers are not able to attend, each presentation will be filmed and placed on the website for

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teachers that are unable to be there. Work continues for Envirothon in two ways, actual or virtual. Had a partnership meeting with Brian Farkas, WVCA, Jon Bourdon, from NRCS, and Roger Dahmer from FSA. Communications meeting lasted for a couple hours, anyone can participate, and it is good about keeping everyone informed about what is happening around the state. Received Resilient WV Virtual Education Series information from NRCS. Think it would be good for a board member to sit in on the sessions. There are four one-hour sessions in October involving state, federal and non-profit partners to educate on flooding preparedness and recovery programs. Covers policies and the impact disasters have on local and regional government and is an effort to get federal, state and local partners to better cooperate when there is a disaster. Currently working with Tygart's Valley to order the chestnut trees in an effort to keep the shipping cost down. Probably going to get 20 – 25 trees to be divided between the three counties. Tyler Co. will be placed behind the high school and will keep track of the growth, etc. Need to find a public property in Wetzel and Pleasants Counties planting. Been making lots of phone calls for Envirothon and the Association.

Thomas – participated in the AgEP meeting and signed paperwork at the office. Looked at the new office roof and felt it was a job well done. Robert VanCamp, a new cooperator, needed technical assistance on his fence, so Kenny provided training for him on his high tinsel fence, loaned him some tools and got him started. Kenny showed him how to run the skid steer with a post driver and brush hog attachment. Robert is probably about done with his practice. It was good to see someone so enthused and working to get their practice done. Other than that, with us being back in school, that's pretty much all I have had time to work on.

Morgan Had a couple calls from cooperators; one about pollinator plants for the spring and the other about heavy use protection area. Told them I would contact them if we opened another round. Prepared applications for Carroll Greene and Communications awards. Facebook reached 900 people last month, not a real big month, but we got 6 new likes. Participated in the AgEP meeting.

Rush – Rented the weed wiper for use on a neighbor's farm. He had a lot of foxtail and hemp dogbane. He had read up on it and found now was the time to treat the dogbane; it did a tremendous job. Other people were stopping to comment on it. Plan to weld an ear on the top bracket to make it easier to strap to the trailer to reduce the risk of tipping over while hauling. Attended the SWA meeting; they are still not taking any plastics but did take in 27000 pounds of cardboard last month.

Cooperator Agreement

No new agreements

AgEP

A correction on the amount of AgEP funds allotted for the first round was noted. The amount approved in round one was \$50,407.64, not the \$43,427.64 given at that time.

Cunningham made a motion to submit a LOR for the \$10,000 supplemental AgEP funding. Thomas seconded the motion; motion passed.

Round three applications were postponed due to not being listed on the agenda.

CD at Bayer Heritage

Thomas made a motion to reinvest the matured CD at Bayer HFCU for 24 months at 1%. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Soil Sample Mailings

Rush appointed a committee consisting of Gellner, Morgan and Thomas to research other District's procedures and best mailing options.

Audit

Gellner made a motion to accept the audit as presented. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

WVACD Auction Items

Audra will provide the basket for goodies Supervisors would like to provide to fill it to placed for auction at the WVACD Scholarship Auction.

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UOCD Awards Dinner

Morgan made a motion to not have the Awards/Christmas dinner this year. Gellner seconded the motion; motion passed. Will try to do a Virtual Awards video for the Facebook page.

Chestnut Tree Planting

Covered in McKeever report.

PEIA

Gellner made a motion to table so more information could be obtained. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

Equipment Usage Update

Lime spreader continues to go out. One cooperater had a problem with the Chandler spreader. The drive shaft was just a little long and when they went down in a little dip, the shaft jammed and could not be easily disconnected from the tractor. Kenny and Danny were called to go help, but the landowner called back to say it had been disconnected. The weed wiper was used in Wetzel Co. with great results.

Correspondence

None.

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting will be on October 13, at 6:00 p.m. Meeting style is yet to be determined.

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, District Manager

Signature of Chairman

Signature of Secretary

Date

Date