

Upper Ohio Conservation District Minutes June 16, 2020

Middlebourne, WV
June 16, 2020

Members Present

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

Others Present

David Shipman, NRCS
Lori Cochran, WVCA/UOCD District Manager
Kim Fisher, WVCA Area Manager
Jennifer Kile, WVCA
J.L. Tennant, FSA
Katie Fitzsimmons, NRCS
Cindy Shreve, WVCA

Chairman Rush called the meeting to order.

Cooperating Agency Reports

USDA-NRCS-FSA – Tennant reviewed current FSA programs. Notably the food assist program for farmers. This program is paying various rates to farmers, based on the number of animals sold and owned at different times, to assist with difficulties due to COVID 19. Also assists with wool, however, wool pool participants are not eligible.

Fitzsimmons reviewed current NRCS programs activities as attached. Office will be open in Phase 1 with doors locked. Nick Beaver was hired as the Soil Con in the Middlebourne office and will be starting July 6. Katie reviewed the mentor program requirements. Patricia Thomas and Allen Rush volunteered to mentor.

WVCA – Fisher reviewed the written WVCA report attached. Continue to work from home. Reminded that our District needs to respond to the Himalayan Blackberry survey sent out in May. Rush indicated he would respond. UOCD POW is already in place but need to resubmit a copy to WVCA.

Forestry –

SWA – None.

WVU Extension – None.

Meeting Minutes

Gellner made the motion to approve the May Board Meeting Minutes. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

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

None

Supervisor Reports

Gellner – Participated in the LK RC&D regular monthly meeting. Mini grants were awarded; three within UOCD. Half of the lights have been installed.

Cunningham – Met with roof contractors. Went to the post office to check on bulk mailing permit to see if it would be a benefit to us. Continue to report the weather daily. FYI May total rain was 7.89". Measured the front office space. Farmers are reporting hay crops are much less than typical. Chasing Steve Westbrook around about the Conservation Farmer Award. Cottage food webinar on the 10th and working with Lisa Cochran to move forward with the Ohio River Sweep by contacting 4-H and Energy Express families.

McKeever – Sat in on the communications call, RC&D meeting, LWG meeting, and the Envirothon meeting. 2021 Envirothon will be in Nebraska, in 2022 it will be Ohio, and Nova Scotia in 2023.

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Thomas – Evaluated the shop for switches for lights, etc. Delivered barrels and kits to co-operators. Sat in on the LWG meeting. Provided feedback on the AgEP application. Provided bed layer before and after photos to Holly for the Facebook page. Worked on getting the word out to co-operators about AgEP.

Morgan – Sat in on the LWG meeting, promoted the photo contest on the Facebook page. Had 18 new likes on the page, views were up by 2300. She boosted the AgEP page but lost most of the benefit because we had to pull it down for a corrected application.

Rush – Sat in on the RC&D meeting, SWA totaled their truck & trailer. They are keeping the litter crews going all spring. Sold 41 tree guards. Put the temporary drop box in. It is around \$60 for a better more permanent drop box. Tried to contact Shane Goddard about Conservation Farmer Award.

AgEP

AgEP Addendum Agreement – **McKeever made a motion to approve the agreement as presented by Kile. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.**

Rush recused from the meeting.

McKeever made a motion to approve the following payments:

Charles Musgrave	IS 2163	\$300.00	Anthony McDiffitt	PD 2872	\$1800.00
Greg Musgrave	IS 2165	\$300.00	Doretta Rush	PD 1793	\$1475.00
John Furlong	IS 2166	\$300.00	Larry Hadley	Lime 7603	\$1800.00
Stevie Young	IS 2167	\$287.40	Jon DuMars	UA 1196	\$750.00
David Clough	IS 2224	\$159.98	Steve Anderson	WS 2969	\$1450.00
Total payment					\$8917.38

Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed. Correction July 13 meeting. Doretta Rush from \$1475 to \$1770. Motion by Thomas, seconded by Morgan.

Cunningham made a motion to cancel the following agreements:

Brian Weigle	EF 3483	\$1800.00	Kurt Grimes	Lime 6219	\$1800.00
James Slider	EF 2455	\$1500.00	Amanda White	PD 2889	\$1800.00
Allen Rush	EF 2457	\$1800.00	Richard Thomas	PD1797	\$1800.00
Terrel Cozart	IS 2168	\$300.00	Kenneth Mercer	PD 1795	\$1800.00
Rodney Adams	Lime	\$779.50	Terrel Cozart	WS 2970	\$1490.00
Total Cancellation					\$14,869.50

Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

Rush rejoined the meeting.

Facebook

Covered in Supervisor Morgan's report.

Office lights

Covered in Supervisor Gellner's report.

Cooperator Agreement

None.

Office Roof

Covered in Supervisor Cunningham's report.

Conservation Farmer

Covered in Supervisor Rush and Supervisor Cunningham's reports.

Bulk mailing

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Cunningham contacted the post office. There is a \$240 sign-up fee and a \$240 annual fee to have a bulk mailing permit. Table to next meeting to research do more research.

Office Door

Getting estimates.

FY21 LOR's

Cunningham made a motion to submit a LOR for the following:

AgEP	\$26,000.00
CD Operating and Supervisor Support 1 st Qtr.	\$33,082.00
CD Operating and Supervisor Support 2 nd Qtr.	\$16692.00
CD Operating and Supervisor Support 3 rd Qtr.	\$16691.00
CD Operating and Supervisor Support 4 th Qtr.	\$12668.00

Gellner seconded the motion; motion passed.

SWA Appointments

Thomas made a motion to reappoint Amy Yeater to the Tyler Co. SWA, and Daniel Witschey to the Wetzel Co. SWA. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

Engineer on Retainer contract

Morgan made a motion to sign a contract with Stantec to keep them as the Engineer on Retainer for the District. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

Photo contest

Morgan made a motion to make "Having a 'hay' day" the first-place winner in the District Photo Contest. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

Office Space

Rush appointed a committee to review the office situation and make suggestions on making it safer work environment for employees in the future. Committee consists of Cunningham, McKeever, Rush and Cochran.

Correspondence

None.

Rush left the meeting.

Gellner appointed a building committee to consisting of McKeever, Cunningham and Thomas.

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting will be on July 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