

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes December 21, 2021

Members Present

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

Others Present

Lauren Hobbs, NRCS
Logan Marino, NRCS
*Jennifer Kile, WVCA
* Kim Fisher, WVCA
*Cindy Shreve
*Katie Fitzsimmons

*Attended via teleconference

Vice Chairman Gellner called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Cooperating Agency Reports

USDA-NRCS-FSA - Hobbs reported the NRCS office is on 75% staffing, so the most in the office will be two. Lauren and Nick are teleconferencing based on Logans work schedule at the UOCD office. Round one Equip has been closed and staff are working on eligibility and will be starting assessments. CSP has just been completed. Suzie has retired at the beginning of the month. Brandon Duckworth is currently the acting Area Conservationist. The staff have been working on getting stuff ready, maintenance, all the usual stuff. Kevin did some dam inspections with WVCA up North. Several of the staff just received work cell phones, please feel free to share them if anyone asks. Marino reported he has been pulling soil test and mailing and filing results, probably a couple times a month. Went with Kevin for field visits for irrigation pipeline. Doing a lot of training online. Webinars, Ag Learn, Teams. Took Forestry Practice Training last Friday. It was an all-day training. Teleworked November 22 – 24 because of a close contact incident in NPCD. Prescribed Grazing visit with Kevin. Will be taking some leave Monday and Tuesday.

WVCA – Fisher provided a written report.

Forestry – None

WVU Extension – Cunningham reviewed the report provided by Julie Bolen. Winter Dinner Meeting will start after the beginning of the year.

WVACD – Fisher provided a written report.

Previous Meeting Minutes

McKeever made the motion to approve the November 16, 2021 meeting minutes. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial Report

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

Rush joined the meeting and took the chair.

Gellner made a motion that UOCD bills be paid as funds permit and coordinated by office staff. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Supervisor Reports

Gellner – had the opportunity to tour Jacksons Mill and all of the improvements they have made. Dave Snively is now the Director and he has an assistant for programming. They have put in a gun range, some new camping areas, they have added some yurts. The dining hall is set up and doing meals, they were making Christmas cookies for the community to purchase. They hosted different groups of children at different times, have new printers in the new building, the head cook is eager to make meals. They have two places to launch boats into the stream. It is a good place if you know anyone wanting to make use of it. They are ready for business. RC & D meeting is mostly the same. They have limited income. DJ is planning to retire in the not-too-distant future. It will be very hard to find someone to replace her based on the limited hours and low income.

Cunningham – Still turning in precipitation data daily. Attended the National Grazing Conference in Myrtle Beach from December 5 – 10. The conference can be overwhelming. They offer many speakers, but you are limited to a few according to the time and they did not repeat any of the sessions. A lot of good information overlapped, and you had to miss out. Received a lot of information from farmers in the west about carbon credits and how they are collecting the

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data for that, about how they are offering the credits to businesses to purchase. Carbon sequestration could be a whole day seminar. Make sure when you go to sell your carbon credits, make sure you have a very reputable broker. It is not currently in this area, but like everything else, it will move this way. Right now they do not have a way of mapping those credits for the forested area but they are working on the technology. I was on the Grazing Conference Committee Meeting on the 16 and voted to move forward with the Grazing Conference in March. Registration is open. They have speakers lined up. IT is what they are working on now. I have a complete written report at home and will make sure Lori gets a copy of it.

Thomas – Contacted the elementary school principals in Tyler County and scheduled the soil tunnel trailer with them. Updated some of our educational programs with the schools. Signed District checks.

McKeever – Had a NCF Envirothon Meeting, Education Meeting, Communication Meeting, Legislative Meeting, Planning Meeting, code was approved and passed on to the Board and the Board met on last Friday and approved the code changes with one minor wording. We will work on trying to get that introduced into the Senate and House. Commision does not want it attached to their bill, so we will have to work on it on our own. Having another Legislative meeting on Dec. 27 for anyone wanting to attend. Lots of planning going on for Conservation Day on the 7th. There is a questionnaire here for the rack cards. Just need to know what our District would like the focus of the rack cards to be. Envirothon Meeting planning in progress. Once again prepared to hold the competition in person or virtual, whichever the situation calls for at the time. Partnership call December 2, it was Doug's last call, John Perdue is now the State Director for the Farm Service Agency. NACD NE Regional and Communication Meetings, there is going to be extra money for technical assistance coming down, but we are not sure how the distribution will be. Appalachian Grazing Conference Committee, Board of Directors Meeting last Friday. Quarterly Meeting coming up January 18, 19 and 20th. Get your room reserved prior to the 3rd or be prepared to pay full price. Training will be on Wednesday, Tuesday will be committee meetings plus will try to establish who will be sitting on the board for the Foundation, and Thursday will be the regular business meeting. There is a Water Resource Committee meeting on January 13.

Morgan – Will include November and December reports since missed the last meeting. Attended the Exigency Meeting, booked the Soil Trailer with New Martinsville School, no response from Short Line or Hundred on having the trailer there, also booked it with the Wetzel County Center for Children and Families. We are going to have a big Agricultural day. Extension shares an office with them and so they are going to go in with that. Talked to Aimee about some training with the soil trailer and I will be traveling to visit with Aimee while she is constructing the second trailer. No date is set for that yet. I sat in on the Watershed call, the Communications call, spoke with a couple people about Century Farms and posted about that on Facebook pages. FB has reached about 300 this month.

Rush – Went to the Directors Meeting last week. We got the couplings in for the water systems. Couplings ended up being \$20 each with the shipping added in. Kelly Cook is coming up after the beginning of the year with the contractor to review the big tires. DEP is probably going to take care of all of our tires at the State Road Garage. There is 14 big tires, the biggest is between 8 ½ and 9' in diameter. I gave her all the dimensions and they are coming to look them over. She said they will probably take care of the biggest part of the cost. Made a call to check on the cost of our culvert pipe for the spring boxes. It is \$290 and I think it will make 8 of them. I talked to some people about AgEP. Paden City HS is interested in participating in our Urban Ag Program if they are eligible. Grow Local would also be interested.

Funding Request

None

Unfinished Business

Cooperator Agreements

None

AgEP –

Cunningham made a motion to approve payments AgEP for pending proper paperwork is received:

Timothy Wilson – Lime - \$597.50

Gary Hamilton – Lime - \$742.75

Total \$1340.25

McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Grant Needs

Nothing new.

Spring Development Supply Update

Covered in Supervisor reports.

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Pressure Washer Update

Rush purchased a Green Works 2000 psi 1.2 gallons a minute for \$213.43.

Shop Man Door at Shop

Door has been purchased but not yet installed.

Education Programs

- Barrel order update – Still not able to contact the supplier.
- Other ideas –.
- Big tire disposal – covered in Supervisor reports
- UOCD promotional video update - Several farms were proposed for the video including Kenny Mason, Kenny Mercer and John and Edith Smith Farms
- RC & D Grant update - nothing new

New Business

State AgEP Committee secondary and tertiary representatives for FY22

Thomas made a motion for Holly Morgan serve as secondary representative and Audra Cunningham to serve as tertiary representative for State AgEP committee effective now until such time is changed during a UOCD Supervisors Board Meeting. McKeever seconded the motion; motion passed.

Century Farm Applications

Applications are due to our District Office by February 1.

Rack card survey

Done

Legislative Meeting February 7 & 8

Allen will not be able to attend. Alternate will need to attend in his place.

District Legislative Meeting

Need to meet with our Legislature. Maybe should wait until after the election is over.

Correspondence

Nothing new.

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting will be Monday, January 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist

Signature of Chairman

Signature of Secretary

Date

Date