

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes February 15, 2022

Members Present

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

Others Present

*Beverly Gibbs, New Mart. Parks & Recreation
*Julie Bolin, WV Extension
Jennifer Kile, WVCA
* Kim Fisher, WVCA
*Lori Cochran, WVCA
Katie Fitzsimmons
Nick Beaver, NRCS

*Attended via teleconference

Chairman Rush called the meeting to order.

Cooperating Agency Reports

City of New Martinsville Parks and Recreation-Beverly Gibbs wanted to make us aware they are making the old airport located on West Benjamin St. into a WV Gold Star Mothers Memorial and a community orchard with apple trees, nut producing trees, berry bushes, paw paw trees, plum trees; those type of trees that are hardy in our area and will produce fruits, nuts, and berries. The public would be allowed to pick those for their own use. A grant has been applied for to extend the bike path from the south to the north end of the property, an engineer is working on a plan for a boat launch and a boat dock in that area. There are none on the north side of the dams for several miles on both the WV and Ohio sides of the river. We would like to make it a giving park in addition to it becoming a Gold Star Memorial Park, we would like to add additional pollinizers, etc. It could be used for education, The 4-H, agriculture groups, boys and girl scouts, and the community as well. We could hold agricultural classes there; how to prune apple trees, teach the kids that fruit and nuts come from trees, not just the grocery store, work with volunteers, learn about Sustainability. Maybe put in some beehives. This will be more of a tranquility park. We have lots of ball fields and playgrounds in the parks in New Martinsville, this will be completely different. We just received a grant for a program called Teachable Moments and this is to work with Stalder Family Ice Cream and taking teenagers and teaching them how to cook from scratch and how to work on a budget. The city has already promised an additional two years of money for that project and some of those kids could eventually be able to use the fruits from this park to make jams or pies or whatever. Soil samples have been taken and it needs lime and some grading. Working with Swiss Valley Associates and Gabe Hayes from Wallace Pancher Landscape Architect are working on a design. The trees will be planted in the shape of WV, the Mothers Memorial will be a star where New Martinsville is and the flagpole will mark where Charleston is. The trees will be as native to WV as we can do. We are wondering if any of this would fall under any kind of funding UOCD would be able to help with or if we could direct us to someplace to get help. The City of New Martinsville is 100% on board for this park. They have already committed a great deal of funds for work that needs to be done now.

USDA-NRCS-FSA - Fitzsimmons provided a written report. Still at 25% capacity in the office. Still working on payments, assessments were due on the 4th. EQIP rankings are due on March 11 and then will roll into writing contracts. NPCD is having their tree sale. Everyone has been helping with that. Lauren and David have been working on a lot of designs. In McMechen, trying to get the high tunnel ready for planting. Taking soil temps every day. Hoping to try the planting tapes this year. Kevin researched a new potato planting box we are going to try. We have been working on the LWG meeting. Locked Bruce Lloyd in for the April 14th Invasive Species Evening. Logan's last day was January 27. Fitzsimmons reviewed an FSA report, they are starting to send out ARC PLC contracts and mailing out page one for potential Wool LDP.

WVCA Fisher reminded all the State AgEP meeting is March 21, is a teleconference meeting, make sure our District is represented on that call. The rest of my report are on the agenda later.

Forestry – None

WVU Extension – Julie Bolin working with Small Farm Center that has a large grant to put on field days. They will be partnering with FSA and FSA will have a 15 minute or so presentation at the field days. Topic chosen for this district is Small Step Poultry and Specialty Crop High Tunnels. These have to be done by the end of July. They would like to have 20 to 25 participants. Participants will receive goodies. Need some ideas on producers that would be willing to host the field day. Julie Taylor on Little Sancho was a possibility for the poultry field day and Shaun Kuhn in Hundred was suggested for the high tunnel.

WVACD –

Previous Meeting Minutes

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes February 15, 2022

Thomas made the motion to approve the January 24 meeting minutes. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial Report

Cunningham made a motion to file the financial report for audit. Thomas 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.

Supervisor Reports

Gellner – on the State AgEP Sub Committee meeting going over recommendations for the Exigency Program. High tunnel repairs, feeding areas, water, are some of the ideas. Also looking at a new AgEP for small green house. 6X8 or 8X10 around \$1800 CS. Next week will be a RC&D meeting.

Cunningham – Still reporting precipitation, on the communications call on January 26, was on the Legislative Outlook call sponsored by Farm Credit on the 27, February 3 listened to the webinar for grazing for carbon and eco system health, was on a call for Maple Syrup Production on the February 4, on the 7th and 8th listened to WV Legislature Session, on the 9th contacted three youth and sent them information for the scholarships and also sent to the high school to be handed out as well. LWG committee meeting on the 10, February 11 Winter Feed Supplementation webinar. March 23, Winter Dinner Meeting in Richie County on alternative income sources.

Thomas – Signed District checks, read all of the correspondence, and have been trying to get some young farmers interested in attending the Appalachian Grazing Conference. Dates of that are just not good for the farmers. Working on getting kids to complete the Area Conservation and WVACD Scholarship applications.

Morgan – Communications call, sent emails to all of the Tyler and Wetzel County counselors and advisors for the scholarship information. Also sent emails to some of our legislators about the funding request and Legislative Day. Had the LWG meeting, someone contacted about the sod seeder. Spoke with Extension concerning the project Beverly went over earlier.

Rush – Was in on the communications call, the legislative call, and a few others. Have not had any luck getting anyone to go to the Grazing Conference. Spoke with the contact for barrels, end of March, first part of April should be getting them in. LKCD and Westford CD are interested in getting a few from us when we get them in.

Funding Request

RC & D annual Dues

Gellner made a motion to pay the \$100 to RC & D for annual dues. Thomas seconded the motion; motion passed.

Unfinished Business

Cooperator Agreements

Nancy Seckman, Tyler County and David Colvin Pleasants County.

Thomas made a motion to approve Cooperator agreements for Nancy Seckman and David Colvin. Gellner seconded the motion; motion passed.

AgEP –

Kile reviewed current price lists provided.

Grant Needs

Nothing new.

Spring Development Supply Update

Need to pick up pipe to make spring headers. Will check with Perkins and Jabo availability of 18” smooth wall.

Shop Man Door at Shop

Will get to when weather is fit.

Education Programs

Upper Ohio CD Meeting Minutes February 15, 2022

- Morgan updated on the day at the museum. Still in the process of getting a speaker for history in farming.
- Kile said there are grant funds available for Ag use. Grant requests need to be submitted by March.
- Barrel order update – Will get two truckloads when available.
- Other ideas –UOCD Urban Ag Program using lease funds
- UOCD promotional video update – nothing new.
- RC & D Grant update – Find out the cost of trees and UOCD may provide funding for supplies needed to plant
- Practice Envirothon – Talk to Wayne to find out available dates, place on the agenda for Feb. 28.

New Business

Local Work Group

Mountain Meadows has locked on April 26th for UOCD. Will have this on agenda of Special Meeting on Feb. 28.

Urban Ag Funding

Possibly use the lease funds to promote Urban Ag in the District, possibly with the schools.

New Building

Still need to think about selling the shop property and placing a building for rental equip on office property.

Area Conservation Scholarship Applications

We have received 1 Area Conservation Scholarship applications. They will still be accepted until the first Monday in April.

District Personnel Plan

Gellner made a motion to approve the District Personnel Plan as presented for 2 employees totaling \$2500. Cunningham seconded the motion; motion passed. Thomas abstained.

Land Judging Contest

Districts are having contest. NRCS can not participate day of the contest. They can help with preparing before the event, but we will need to have people lined up to do the actual day of the contest.

Conservation Farm Contest

Continue to think who we would like to have as District Farmers.

Video Conferencing Equipment

Thomas made a motion to approve up to \$475 for new video conferencing computer. Morgan seconded the motion; motion passed.

7-1-3U Agreement

Watershed manager goes with Supervisor to the Commission meeting. Contact the counties within the District to get placed on the agenda.

Correspondence

Encova Proxy letter
Thank you for Kelly

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday March 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lori Cochran, Administrative Specialist

Signature of Chairman

Signature of Secretary

Date

Date