

Missouri State Envirothon Meeting  
May 24, 2017  
Cole County USDA office

**Attendance:** Peggy Lemons, MASWCD; Andrea McKeown, NE Region; Audrey Rayl, Treasurer; Tina Dulaban, Central Region; Heather Keith, NW Region; Debbie Henderson, SW Region; Brad McCord, NRCS; Theresa Strunk, St. Louis Region; and Judy Stinson, DNR.

Committee reviewed student/coach evaluations before the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m., at the Cole County USDA Service Center.

**Minutes:** Judy made a motion to accept the March 18, 2017 meeting minutes. Andrea second and motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Audrey gave the Treasurer's Report. Fifty-nine districts have made donations equaling \$3,325. She will send another request to districts as the fiscal year comes to a close. The program received \$5.18 in donations through Amazon Smiles. Peggy reminded committee members to encourage Amazon users to make their purchase through Amazon Smiles and choose Envirothon as their organization to donate to.

Theresa made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Heather second. Motion was approved.

**Smithfield partner:** Peggy reported that Smithfield has been very supportive. They not only provide volunteers, but have paid for the t-shirts and other expenses.

**Smithfield Invitation:** Smithfield extended an invitation to hold a future event at their main headquarters in Princeton. Committee was interested, but the location may not be central enough for all teams.

**NCF-Envirothon Update:** Peggy provided a handout summarizing national committee discussions. The operating committee will hire a part-time coordinator which will be funded through a grant from NRCS. 52 teams will be competing in Maryland this year, with two teams from China. Plans are in the works for China to develop a sanctioned program.

A list of future NCF-Envirothon competition locations was provided.

The operating committee heard a suggestion from the Utah representatives requesting the program consider changing the oral component to a project-based presentation. Much discussion was held by the MO state committee with concerns centering around possible date changes for some regional competitions, lack of money and equipment for some teams to produce a video of a project, the time factor involved in completing a project before competition, etc. Committee agreed to email concerns to Andrea and Peggy. Tina made a motion to send the list of concerns with Andrea and Peggy to Maryland, and if there is a request for a vote from Missouri on this issue, Missouri's vote will be "no". Theresa second. Motion was approved.

**Mary Burt Scholarship Winner:** Theresa reported that there were 3 applications. The award went to Cheston Stacy of the Southwest Region.

**Paula Champion Envirothon Scholarship:** The Lawrence County Board would like to honor Paula with a scholarship, and the Envirothon Committee will offer it. After discussion, the committee decided to offer one scholarship in the amount of \$500. The certificate will name both ladies, and the committee will have professionally-made posters (one for Mary and one for Paula) to display at the state event. Peggy will work up an explanation for the website. Theresa will contact Mary's sister, Becky, to explain the decision. Tina made a motion to restructure the scholarship to be one of "honor and recognition" of persons making significant contributions to the program. Andrea second. Motion was approved.

**Missouri Envirothon Surveys:** Peggy reported that she now has all the surveys.

**Financial Grants:** Final reports are due to Audrey. Four regions received the grants. St. Louis, Southwest and Kansas City still need to send their grant reports to Audrey. Committee revisited discussion on providing regional grants. Audrey made a motion that in 2018, the committee decreases the grant to \$250 for those that request it and keep registration costs the same; but in 2019 to make the registration fee \$50 and not offer the grants at all. Judy second. Motion was approved.

**Plaque Reimbursement:** Some discussion was held. No changes at this time.

**State Test Writing Coordinator:** Ralph will no longer be able to assist the program. The committee discussed talking to J.R. about allowing an NRCS employee to assist with test coordinating. Brad and Judy said they would have that discussion with J.R.

**Excellence in Natural Resources Education:** Peggy recently was awarded the Excellence in Natural Resource Education Award given by DNR. She received the award at the annual Earth Day event in Jefferson City, and was recognized for her long commitment to Envirothon.

**Spring Event Concerns/Thoughts:** There was an issue with duplicate presentations from two teams from the same school. After discussion, Theresa made a motion to amend the rules to state that "Teams that do not present an original oral presentation may be subject to loss of points." Heather second. Motion was approved.

Discussion also covered concerns with teams having the wrong size materials for presentation. Some teams claimed "no one told them". Judy will work on a checklist with rules and a signature sheet for all teams coming to state competition. The list will include poster board and note card rules.

**Date for 2018 Envirothon:** April 26, a Thursday. Location was discussed.

**2017 Maryland Event:** Andrea and Peggy will attend. Audrey made a motion to allow \$3,000 for the team's travel stipend. Debbie second. Motion was approved.

Magazine: Theresa, Judy and Van are collecting stories for the next issue. Stories are to be sent to Theresa by July 14. Andrea will speak with Dee Vanderburg about possibly writing the Current Issue article.

**Next Meeting:** A date for a meeting in the fall will be determined.

Adjourn: Tina made a motion to adjourn. Heather second. Meeting adjourned.