

State Envirothon Meeting
November 27, 2006
Tan-Tar-A

Meeting called to order by Peggy Lemons at 8:00 a.m., in a conference room at the Training Conference at Tan-Tar-A.

Those in attendance: Peggy Lemons, Cole County District Manager; Judy Stinson, SWCP DNR; Mary Burt, St. Charles County District Manager; Theresa Dunlap, Secretary; Bill Bohnert, KC Region; Wyn Kelley, DNR; Deneen Jenkins, Greene County SWCD; Fred Feldman, SWR; Rachel Griffin, Southeast Region; Carol Barnes, Southeast Region; Tina Hovendick, Central Region; Linda Young, Central Region; DeDe Vest, NRCS; Beverly Domiturch, SWCD; Travis Dinsdale, Northwest Region; Teona Harris, Northwest Region; Bill White, State Office; and Jim Spreitzer, Laclede County.

The meeting began with a short discussion on the MEAA Conference. Peggy noted that there was low attendance, less than 70 people. Judy and Peggy attended. Jan Weaver spoke at a committee meeting, trying to solicit ideas on improving attendance/involvement. Mary said that she felt our people should be teaching sessions, not attending them. DeDe said that their purpose is not clear. Peggy said that without MDC support, they are running on a shoestring. The group briefly discussed what Soil and Water's role might be, and whether we would be able to offer more assistance. Discussion was tabled.

The June minutes were approved as written with a motion made by DeDe. Judy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Carol to accept the treasurer's report. Mary seconded. Motion carried.

Regional boundaries were discussed. Deneen made a motion to move the boundary line so that Crawford would be included in the St. Louis Region. Carol seconded. Motion carried. It was noted that the map does not reflect a past change in which Montgomery was moved back into the St. Louis Region. Peggy said she would fix the map. There was a discussion on Phelps and Warren counties. Committee decided to leave things as they are unless a request is made for a change.

Judy led a discussion on regional training funds. Per a previous vote, each region is to receive \$250 a year, for the next three years, for training expenses. The committee agreed that each region should hold their training session and then send a letter to Deneen requesting the \$250. Deneen asked that the letters include an agenda of the training and the number of schools participating. The committee discussed the \$10,000 limit put on this "training fund", and noted that it would not cover the \$1,000

per region plus the \$250 each yr/3yrs. Mary made a motion to remove the limit, Bill seconded, and motion carried.

DeDe gave a report on the Resource Trunks. She received feedback from state test writers and others.

Wildlife: Bill said the wildlife questions come from the book Wildlife Ecostation 2002, and that it needs to be in the trunks. Committee members also received a handout that noted the six wildlife species that students need to explore for the test. Bill said that some regional writers may not be aware that the state writers use the Wildlife Eco book.

Soils: Wyn said there are 4 dominant resources: Soil Formation and Distribution in Missouri, From the Ground Down – an introduction to soil surveys, Soil Survey (or use CARE on web, and Soil Science Student Guide. Wyn said he would like to see more interpretation of the info by the students.

Forestry & Aquatics: Committee members received a list of recommended materials, including a Biltmore stick, Forest Management for Missouri Landowners, and Streamkeeper's Field Guide.

Peggy said that DeDe will whittle down the current list of recommended materials and come up with the core items to go in all trunks. (list to be presented to committee in March) Individual regions can decide to add additional publications as they desire. The \$ for trunks will not be distributed for this year's competition.

A discussion was held on the needs of individual regions. Mary said that the St. Louis region already has enough of some resources: i.e. – animal furs, tracks.... St. Louis plans to split their trunk into smaller topic trunks to make it easier to share among the many schools. Mary asked if the St. Louis region could receive the \$1,000 to put together their own trunks. Some things on the main list will probably not be needed by some regions because they either have the resources already or have access through MDC. DeDe said that each region's competition is individual and independent, and she felt it was valid to address needs locally. Peggy asked all regions represented to voice their opinions on receiving completed trunks or money to update or improve their materials. After some discussion, all but one region said they would like to receive the money to fulfill their individual region needs. Peggy asked all regions to meet with their local committees and come back to the March meeting with regional needs.

Peggy spoke to the committee about the Diversity Grant. There was no interest at this time.

Each region was asked to report on their local events. Northwest had 17 teams. Teona and Travis reported that the competition went well. Their only request is that the committee look into providing pins, rather than ribbons. Southwest had 23 teams. The competition went well, but they will need to put a cap on the number of teams per school for future competition. The Kansas City Region will hold their competition in April (10-12 teams). The Central Region reported no problems. They have a limit of two teams per school (19 competed last year). Northeast was not represented at this

meeting. Southeast has two teams from the same school. Carol asked if they could compete with another region. The committee held a discussion. Mary made a motion to allow Southeast to compete in either the St. Louis, Kansas City or Central regions – as long as they pay their own way, and the SE teams do not knock out any other team qualifying for the top three spots. The SE teams will go to State competition if they score above 55%, regardless of where they place in the region in which they compete. Judy seconded the motion. It was understood by all that this decision is in effect for one year only, and that future arrangements would be decided upon on a year to year basis.

2007 State Competition date is May 3 at Plunkett Park in Mexico, Mo. Registration needs to be sent to Deneen. Rotation schedules will be provided at a later date. An advisor activity may be a visit to the Ethanol Plant. The Armory Building will be used for orals, the opening and closing ceremonies, and in case of bad weather.

NSTA Exhibit in St. Louis – March 29-31. Peggy asked for volunteers to man the booth. Mary, Theresa, DeDe and Deneen are taking shifts.

2007 Canon Envirothon – Geneva, New York, July 29-Aug. 4. The competition location is one hour from Syracuse and near Niagara Falls. Peggy gave the committee a description of the lodging options on campus. Judy told the committee about New York's fundraiser - \$15 Canon Envirothon Cookbooks.

Annual Dues: Judy made a motion to pay the annual dues to Canon Envirothon. Bill seconded and motion carried.

MEAA was briefly discussed again. The committee agreed that it would be o.k. to continue to have a booth at their event, but that they could offer no more help at this time.

The next meeting will be in March.

Carol made a motion to adjourn. Mary seconded. Meeting adjourned.