

Missouri Envirothon Committee Meeting

Room 72/73, Tan-Tar-A Resort

November 28, 2004

Present: Carol Barnes, Pemiscot SWCD; Bill Bohnert, Jr., Jackson SWCD; Kathryn Braden, Taney SWCD; Elizabeth Brown, Soil and Water Districts Commission; David Dix, MASWCD; Rachel Griffin, Ripley SWCD; Rose Marie Hopkins, DNR Soil and Water Conservation Program; Tina Hovendick, Benton SWCD; Carol Hubbard, Shelby County SWCD; Peggy Lemons, Cole County SWCD and MASWCD Executive Secretary; and Judy Stinson, DNR Soil and Water Conservation Program.

Call to Order. Peggy Lemons called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes. Tina Hovendick moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion carried.

Budget and Treasurer's Report. Carol Hubbard distributed the financial reports. She explained expenses for West Virginia for the 2004 Canon Envirothon and reimbursement for the expenses for the survey for district employees to help at the 2005 Canon Envirothon. The savings balance is \$39,239 with committed pledges received totaling \$122,729. Kathryn Braden moved to accept the treasurer's report and file for audit. Motion carried.

Diversity Grant. Peggy reported that the US Forest Service has changed its process to encourage diversity within its organization. In the past, USFS contributed significant funding directly to annual competition but now they have established a grant program. With the assistance of Cole/Moniteau's info-ed specialist, Peggy shared a grant proposal for \$5000. There are four areas highlighted in the proposal: Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield, and the Bootheel.

The proposal is requesting funding for scholarships for African-Americans or Hispanics that participate in the Envirothon. Qualifying students would have to have an approved major when they go to college and maintain a certain grade point average. A problem with this idea at this time is that some regional competitions have already been held this fall.

There was a question as to if the Envirothon should wait to apply for this grant until next year to cover all areas or to apply for part of the state this year. Peggy was uncertain as to where there will be funds next year but Canon is thinking this will become an annual opportunity.

Rose Marie Hopkins had issues with excluding others on the team that worked just as hard but did not meet the racial qualifications.

Carol Hubbard was in favor of tabling the issue to think about it more before deciding. Bill Bohnert stated that the Kansas City Regional has had teams with minorities but none have ever advanced to the state competition. He could envision animosity developing by providing additional rewards for some that had not placed well enough to earn them.

The consensus of the committee was to wait to see what other states are doing, perhaps in addition to scholarships. Peggy will bring this back for further discussion at the next meeting.

2005 Fall Regionals. Those that held fall competitions reported on the competition with comments on fall v. spring.

Southwest. Kathryn shared a brochure they are using in Southwest Missouri. She said they hated losing Travis Dinsdale as he had been a strong asset for them. They are very pleased with the MDC trunk. They had new teams and new schools this fall. They tried to get more hands-on questions and will work to continue to get the timing down to allow the schools to be excused sooner. They lost a couple of teams due to the National Forestry Competition. Forsyth had been coming to the Envirothon but went to this FFA competition instead and placed first. She would really like to see schools repeating. Kathryn still believes fall is working better for them. She commented that personal contacts at the schools is important. They will go visit schools next year. To prepare the top three teams from Southwest going on to state, they will have a mini-Envirothon in the spring to serve as a refresher.

Northeast. Carol Hubbard reported that they had the most teams ever with 14 competing. There was a big rain that day but all in all, the competition went well. They like fall because the small schools participating in FFA have so many conflicts in the spring. Northeast will be planning for fall again next year.

Carol Hubbard brought a question from the Northeast Regional committee asking that if two teams from the same school are allowed to share oral presentation materials. After extensive discussion, Tina moved that each team must have its own presentation materials and may not share materials with another team. The motion carried.

Carol Hubbard had another question about a tape of the national oral presentations. The teachers in her area would like to see what kinds of presentations do well. Judy Stinson has a copy of the top national presentations. She will provide a copy to each region. Her copy is from Massachusetts.

Northwest. Judy attended the Northwest Regional and reported on their behalf as no one was present. She reported that they are so happy to have Travis to help them. They had nine teams at their competition. The winners were Norborne, Plattsburg, and Gallatin. She was surprised the students didn't understand what cultural landscapes are. She suggested other regions work on this and reinforce the concept with students.

In general discussion about the regional competitions, Peggy had received questions about what items are to be used for oral presentations. There have been issues about supplementing the presentation with music, costumes, music and stop watches. Carol Barnes reviewed the rules, which limit items to be used with the current issue presentations to two posters of a maximum size, a one-page handout, and 3x5 notecards. Anything in addition to these items will not be put into the bag of materials for the presentation at registration.

Resource packets. Judy has talked with advisors who are questioning that the resources are not specific to what the students are tested over. They are looking for more specific references rather than a shotgun approach. They have made comments that there are the same resources for several years and that there should be some differences. The teachers feel it is a problem for the kids to sort through all the volumes of materials. Judy explained that the resource might be web sites instead of a real book. After discussion, Peggy believes there is a need to keep the resource packets as they are and supplement them with current issue information. There could be a regional emphasis that may be different than at the state competition or even the national. Bill stated the best resource is

the resources in the trunk. Each Kansas City testwriter is required to ask two questions for each ecostation from the trunk. Others on the committee planned to take this idea back to their regions.

Appeals process and form at regionals. Peggy provided a sample appeal form. She explained that teachers must know about the appeal process and time constraints for filing an appeal. Carol Hubbard asked when to tell teachers about the process. Peggy and Judy suggested talking about the appeal process at the opening session and distribute forms at registration.

2005 Missouri Envirothon. Peggy announced the state competition for 2005 would be at the Runge Nature Center at Jefferson City.

Volunteers/Judges. Rose Marie didn't have anything to report at this time.

Registration. Peggy commented that a better registration process was needed to ensure the same students are competing at the state competition that qualified at the region. Judy has designed a form for the regions to submit following the regional. Teona has not yet submitted the form for Northwest.

Rotation schedule. Peggy shared the 2004 schedule with the committee and asked for input to the 2004 process. Carol Hubbard suggested adding information regarding the poster requirements. Carol Barnes suggested removing information on the team photo since we no longer take them. Tina suggested reducing testing test to 40 minutes and ten minutes for rotation time. A statement will also be added that the coaches go on the tour as it is not an optional activity.

Station materials. There was no report.

Test writers. Peggy wanted to see if Mary Burt wants to continue this responsibility. As she was not present, the issue was tabled to discuss with Mary at a later time.

Advisor tour. Peggy and Judy discussed a tour of the Capitol or the old prison as they have cultural landscapes or perhaps a tour of the new Lewis and Clark State Office Building. This building is a "green" building, which would be interesting as this is a new concept in construction using all the latest in environmentally friendly construction methods and materials.

Team buddies. There was an issue in the past where the team buddies were not staying with the teams. Judy believes this must be emphasized at the regional level. Judy pointed out that it is important to select people that enjoy being with high school kids and will be friendly. Tina suggested getting back to an orientation about the jobs at the Envirothon. In addition to talking about duties that day, information should be sent in advance. Tina also suggested having the team number on the team buddy's name tag. Judy again emphasized that this is a really important job.

Lunch. For the last few years, MDC has sponsored the lunch. Peggy is expecting this again for 2005.

Judges. Rose Marie reinforced the importance of the judges at the Canon Envirothon not having judged or been involved at a regional or the state competition. Those names should be shared with her so there is not accidental duplication. It is extremely important that the teams at the Canon Envirothon have had no interaction with the judges for the current issues presentations.

2005 update. Peggy reported that we are very close to covering all expense for 2005. The planning committee feels very comfortable but it is still doing fundraising.

Some expenses may be higher than estimated. The planning committee has learned that Canon will be covering some items that had not been expected. Judy reported that beginning in January, Missouri will be on conference calls with Canon. Carol Hubbard explained there is a grant application with the Wild Turkey Federation for \$10,000 that looks very promising. Peggy mentioned ongoing efforts with Pioneer Seed, Ford Motor Co., and Conservation Federation of Missouri. She is very upbeat about the good potential for funding from those sources.

Other business. In other business, Peggy raised the issue of the national meeting in Atlanta in February in conjunction with NACD. Missouri is to make a presentation regarding final arrangements for the July competition. Peggy is looking for assistance at this presentation. She was asking who else, besides her, will be going to Atlanta. Judy and Rose Marie will not be going due to departmental travel restrictions. Carol Barnes may be arriving early enough for the Canon Envirothon meetings. Liz Brown will be going if the travel is approved by DNR. Peggy will let those possibilities know scheduling information for the meetings.

Bill Bohnert asked if the training for the Envirothon is certified by MEEA. This has been requested by one of his teachers. Bill sent a request to MEEA but is waiting for a response.

Next meeting. Peggy reminded the committee that the state competition is May 5, 2005. The next meeting of this committee is tentatively set at Cole County on May 11 at 10 a.m.

Adjourn. Peggy adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Rose Marie Hopkins
Secretary