

Missouri Envirothon Committee Meeting
Room 72-73, Tan-Tar-A Resort
November 30, 2003

Present: Carol Barnes, Pemiscot County SWCD/SE Region; Bill Bohnert, Jr., Jackson County SWCD/KC Region; Kathryn Braden, Taney County SWCD/SW Region; Elizabeth Brown, Soil and Water Districts Commission; David Dix, MASWCD Treasurer/SE Region; Sherri Doane, Douglas SWCD/SW Region; Gary M. Fak, Green Hills RC&D; Rachel Griffin, Ripley County SWCD/SE Region; Rose Marie Hopkins, DNR Soil and Water Conservation Program; Tina Hovendick, Benton County SWCD/Central Region; Carol Hubbard, Shelby County SWCD; Craig King, Show Me Chapter of the Soil and Water Society; Peggy Lemons, Cole County SWCD and MASWCD Executive Secretary; Jennifer Lewis, St. Charles County SWCD; Lena Sharp, Monroe SWCD/NE Region; Judy Stinson, DNR Soil and Water Conservation Program; and Bill White, MDC/NW Region.

Call to Order. Peggy called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. asking each in attendance to introduce themselves.

Approve Minutes. Judy moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held May 22, 2003. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. Carol Hubbard presented the treasurer's report and explained the details of the information. The checking account balance as of November 30, 2003 is \$3050.37. The budget presented is based on amounts from last year's budget anticipating the expenses for the 2004 competition to be \$7340. Lena moved to approve the treasurer's report. The motion carried.

Regional Boundaries Update. Peggy updated the committee on what was implemented in respect to the proposed boundary changes from last year's meeting. The proposal was to offer these districts the opportunity to move to a different regional competition: Ray County to Northwest from Central and Gasconade County and Montgomery County to St. Louis from Central. Ray and Gasconade elected to stay with the current regions but Montgomery moved. The map on the web site needs to be updated to reflect this change. Peggy plans to make that change later this week after returning from the Training Conference.

2004 Regionals Envirothons. Peggy asked for the updates on the 2004 regionals. For the first time, Southwest and Northeast held fall competitions so they have already held their Envirothons.

Southwest: Sherri explained that they were pleased with how the fall competition worked and plan to hold it in the fall again. Peggy assured them that there will be medals and plaques next year and that the state committee truly regrets the oversight about not having them for the fall competitions this year. David Dix asked about participation. Sherri said they had fewer teams but that the evaluations said they liked the fall. Nine teams participated. Next year's competition will be October 20, 2004 at the MDC Nature Center at Springfield.

Northeast: Lena reported that their fall competition was also successful and they will have it next fall, too. 12 teams had signed up and 11 participated. Lena acknowledged appreciation for "Mrs. McGyver" for making do with the substitute

awards and their teams really enjoyed them. Judy mentioned concerns when she visited with some of the team sponsors about how their teams will do in the spring at the state competition since it will have been so long since they had working with the information. This will be a learning opportunity.

Reports from the upcoming competitions in the spring:

Southeast: Carol Barnes reported they are planning to hold the competition at Cape Girardeau at an MDC location but she hasn't made the final arrangements with the appropriate people. She had had concerns about not being able to have a soil pit but now understands that she doesn't necessarily have to have one. Carol had checked on having their regional in the fall but the three very loyal teams she has don't want to have it in the fall and the region doesn't want to alienate them.

Northwest: Bill White reported that they're getting ready for their competition on April 12 in St. Joseph. Teacher training was held in October for seven teachers of 12 teams. December 9 they will have another training at Burr Oaks. Northwest and Kansas City go together with these training sessions. Letters about the Envirothon were sent to all northwest Missouri ag teachers but they received no response. Carol Barnes said she's had the same experience in southeast. Peggy mentioned that it may be time for exhibits again.

Kansas City: Bill Bohnert reported that they are expecting 9-15 teams on March 30. This year, they'll have two new schools and six new teachers. The info-ed grant will be used to help fund the KC Envirothon. Peggy suggested others may want to talk with Bill if interested in this kind of funding.

St. Louis: No report was given as no one was present.

Central: Tina announced the Central competition will be April 21 at Runge Nature Center at Jefferson City but in a different area than where the state competition was several years ago.

Peggy asked if regions would prefer to do their own plaques and medals with a reduced registration fee or prefer to have the state committee provide them. Lena and Carol Barnes want to continue as is. Bill Bohnert asked if there would be no registration fee. Peggy explained that last year, the regional plaques and medals cost \$1100 so fees could be reduced to \$140 from \$275. Carol Hubbard asked if the cost would be less for the state to order them all because of quantity but Peggy said she finds that it really doesn't make any difference. The only thing we save with the larger order is with the logo but a region might want to have its own logo. Tina moved that the state committee continue providing plaques and medals. The motion carried.

Test-writing Training. Bill White has reserved a room on January 28 at the Missouri Natural Resources Conference at Tan-Tar-A for testwriter training. It is currently set from 1:00-5:00 but could be extended if more time is needed. Originally, he was planning to cover wildlife only but could do more. Bill Bohnert said that one of the hardest sections to write is the current issue. Carol Barnes has problems with aquatics. It was decided by the committee to get the list of testwriters to Bill White and he'll notify them of the training to cover wildlife and the current issue. People to be there will be regional and state testwriters and regional chairs or representatives. Space is limited but Bill will try to get a larger room for up to 25 people.

Carol mentioned problems she has in getting commitments to help. She feels that NRCS is not supportive of the Envirothon in her part of the state. Peggy will address that.

Future Exhibits and Displays. Peggy explained it may well be time to get back to doing exhibits again. Interface, a conference for science and math teachers, will be held in February for grades 6-12. Liz mentioned we may want a display at Howard County's Town and Country event on January 24. Peggy referred that suggestion to Tina as the Central chair. Carol Barnes mentioned career days as another place to have displays. The Interface booth costs \$125 and would be up on February 22 and 23. Another opportunity is STOM (Science Teachers of Missouri). Gary asked if the purpose of the booth is to generate interest and new teams. Judy explained that the most interest in the past has been from junior high teachers but we need to talk to all of them.

Bill White moved to have a booth at Interface. The motion carried. Peggy will make the attempt to track contacts to see if they result in teachers bringing new teams in the next year or two. David suggested we might consider a booth at the State Fair like MASWCD used to have as there was a great deal of interest from many teachers and students.

2004 State Competition. The date is May 6, 2004 at the University of Missouri's South Farm at the AC exit off of Highway 63. Rose Marie will again coordinate volunteers. Mary will organize the test and should probably be at the testwriters training. DeDe will take care of the current issue. The oral question is on the web site. The state question will probably be a continuation of the regional question, as has been customary in the past.

Liability Insurance. Peggy is continuing to investigate the need for liability insurance but she is getting conflicting advice. Some agents are surprised we haven't been asked for it by the locations where we have held competitions. Others question why the Envirothon needs protection in addition to that already held by the owner of the property, such as MDC or UMC. In the future, we will add acknowledgment of each student having health insurance on the registration forms. Peggy is waiting for information from Maryland to see what they did.

Bill Bohnert asked about MOPERM but Peggy explains that covers the district. If a district signs the agreement with the location, MOPERM would apply but normally, the regional committee is making the arrangements.

Other Business/Next Meeting. Seeing no other business, Peggy discussed the date for the next meeting. It will be June 8, 2004 at Columbia at 10:00. Peggy will make arrangements at the state office.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00.

Rose Marie Hopkins
Secretary