

Missouri Envirothon Committee Meeting

Room 74-75, Tan-Tar-A Resort

December 1, 2002

Present: Carol Barnes, Pemiscot County SWCD; Bill Bohnert, Jr., Jackson County SWCD; Kathryn Braden, Taney County SWCD; Elizabeth Brown, Soil and Water Districts Commission; Mary Burt, St. Charles County SWCD; David A. Dix, MASWCD Treasurer; Gary M. Fak, Green Hills RC&D; Rachel Griffin, Ripley County SWCD; Rose Marie Hopkins, DNR Soil and Water Conservation Program; Tina Hovendick, Benton County SWCD; 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; and Judy Stinson, DNR Soil and Water Conservation Program.

Call to Order. Peggy called the regular meeting of the Missouri Envirothon Committee to order at 5:07 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes. The minutes were approved upon a motion by Kathryn.

2003 Budget and Financial Update. The most current budget for the 2003 Missouri Envirothon was distributed. Peggy is confident expenses are accurately reflected but the income is not necessarily correct. It is unknown at this point whether Bass Pro will be contributing \$5000 or \$2000 as both amounts have been discussed in meetings with Bass Pro. Peggy and Judy will go to the Soil and Water Society meeting to be present when they are planning their upcoming budget. Peggy still doesn't know what the amount will be that we will receive from NRCS for the coming year but NRCS has verbally committed financial assistance. DNR will be contributing by covering specific expenses. Peggy felt that even if we receive less than the income projected, the financial support of the competition should still be safe as we have a positive balance.

Peggy is still in the process of setting up a separate 501(c)(3) structured entity for the Missouri Envirothon. It is still being determined as to much is to be transferred from MASWCD. The IRS has received the Missouri Envirothon's application and should issue a response within 120 days.

Kathryn moved to approved the proposed budget for the 2003 Missouri Envirothon. The motion carried.

New State Logo. For several years, there has been discussion about creating a new state logo to be more eye appealing. As the time is approaching to order t-shirts, the time is right to change the logo if it is to be done. Judy distributed a proposed design with a lady bug. Rose Marie asked what the state insect is and if we should consider it instead of the lady bug. Bill thought the state insect was the honey bee. There was also discussion about submitting this design to Canon for the 2005 competition as using the same design would give the Missouri Envirothon greater recognition. The consensus of the committee is to change the logo. The committee liked the concepts in the logo Judy presented but would like to see some variations. Suggestions for changes to the proposed

logo are to use different colors for the Envirothon wording such as green or gold with black outline and to change the lady bug to a honey bee or whatever the state insect might be.

Kathryn moved to change the logo for the state design and national, if approved by Canon, and have the changes available for the committee to vote on the web page. Motion carried. Peggy will post the choices on the web site by the end of December to give the committee the opportunity to vote. Then Peggy will get the approved logo to Canon as soon as possible in order to hope to have news of the logo by the meeting in Orlando in February.

Regional Competitions in the Fall. Peggy has received several suggestions to allow regions to hold that competition in the fall. This is especially being promoted by FFA as they have their present contests in the spring with fewer competitions in the fall. Kathryn explained that after ball season is over, the kids begin on the Envirothon and learn it in three weeks. Peggy explained issues that could create complications such as a crunch on the regional test writers, the regional current issue must be posted one month before the first regional competition which means that some teams would have six months to work on the questions, and a fall regional would limit the training to prepare for it before fall. Liz commented that we need to have either fall or spring and not both. Tina has also had questions about fall competitions, mostly from FFA teachers. Kathryn likes the oral questions coming from the state in order to keep continuity. Carol Hubbard said that they may never have a team from Shelby County because the schools are small and FFA is a big deal. Kathryn asked if it would be possible to have a trial period. Rose Marie asked what other states are doing. Judy said that most other states hold two-day regionals. Peggy said that most are also spring regionals.

Judy moved to allow regions to set the date for their competitions in the fall beginning with 2003. Motion carried.

Regional Competition Dates. Dates have been set for most of the regional competitions for 2003. They are as follows:

Southwest @ Springfield	April 2
Central @ Brady Showgrounds near Boonville	April 9
St. Louis @ Babler State Park	1 st Thursday in March
Kansas City @ MDC's Burr Oak Wildlife Center	April 15
Northwest @ St. Joseph	April 11
Northeast @ Mark Twain Lake	April ??
Southeast @ Mingo Wildlife Area	April ??

In light of the dates as set, the current issue question will be out by the first Thursday in February.

Consistency in Use of Note Cards. Peggy explained that teachers have asked for a consistent policy on the use of note cards during the oral presentation. Judy said that notes cards are allowed to be used at the state and national competitions. Tina moved that all regionals be notified that 3x5 note cards can be used. Motion carried.

Approved Poster Size. Peggy brought up the issue relating to conformity of posters allowed to be used during the oral presentation. Current guidelines allow two posters. It is clearly the consensus of the committee that two posters may not be connected into one big poster. In contest guidelines, the size is currently listed in metric measure, which will be converted to inches. The consensus is to allow two pieces of standard 22x28 inch poster board. No foam board will be allowed. Both the front and back of the poster board may be used. Tina moved that if the visual aid is too large, it may not be used in the presentation. In further discussion, Judy said that deducting points is not enough. Bill said this policy regarding the posters must be clearly communicated. Peggy said this will be posted on the web site and in the coach's and the student's directions, if approved. The motion carried.

Return of Oral Judging Sheets. Like with the note card issue, Peggy explained that teachers want consistency among the regions. The purpose being so that a team can review the feedback and know what to improve for the next time. Tina asked when to return the sheets. Judy responded that the sheets are to be returned as soon after the regional competition as possible so the team can work on improvement for the next year. Bill asked if the judge's sheets will be revised and improved. Currently, they include irrelevant issues with points that sum to an odd number. Peggy explained that we've tried to use the sheets used at the national competition but they don't apply to the specific year's question. Missouri had changed the sheets from what had been used previously. The St. Louis regional uses a sheet that addresses the issues identified. Tina moved to use Mary's sheet and return them to the teams as soon as possible after the regional and state competitions. Motion carried.

Qualifying for State Competition. Peggy announced that one regional has said that they need more help at the regional level. Also, the Northwest region probably is needing to split again due to high levels of participation. Judy distributed a map proposing to divide Missouri into nine regions for the Envirothon. Carol Hubbard asked if this proposal is to go back to the regional committee. Northeast would be losing a testing site and some strong supporters. Peggy suggested the regional chairs discuss the proposed map with their committees and the state committee will take the matter up again in May to decide how or if the state will be divided differently.

In the past, some regions have only had three teams so the teams didn't take the competition very seriously. They already knew they would advance to the state competition. Increasing to nine regions will mean two teams will advance to state, not three. Mary said even with two teams advancing, there should still be a minimum score to be able to go to state. Carol Hubbard is concerned that if only there are two teams and both are too low to advance, that they might not come back next year at all. Kathryn said the Southwest regional had an extremely difficult section in their test last year, which caused her to be concerned that they might a situation where the teams weren't at fault for low scores. Even with the Southwest's experience, in reviewing the scores from the various regions, everybody is clearly scoring at least 60%. Tina moved to set the minimum score of 55% for any team to advance to the state competition. The motion carried.

Alternates at State Competition. Carol Barnes explained that she has told alternates to come to the regional competition as a learning experience to see and know what to expect. Regions are divided in opinion as to whether they allow alternates to come or not. Judy explained that at national, every member of the team must have participated at the state competition to be eligible. If one of the actual state team members is unable to go to the national contest, then the alternate attending the state contest would not be allowed to substitute because that student had not participated in the state competition. Mary moved to allow alternates to attend regionals but not be allowed to attend the state competition. Kathryn asked for clarification to ensure that regions will have the option as to whether to allow alternates. The motion would give the option to the regions to decide to include alternates or not at the regional competitions. Motion carried.

2003 State Competition. Peggy announced the 2003 competition will be May 1, 2003 at the Lincoln University's Carver Farm near Jefferson City.

Intent to Participate in 2003 National Competition. Gary moved for Missouri to sponsor a team to go to Maryland for the 2003 Canon Envirothon. The motion carried.

Peggy asked for names of those is planning to help in Maryland. This will be an excellent year to participate in the workings of the competition as Maryland has been very open about allowing us to help in all facets of the competition. The dates of the competition are from July 22 through August 1. The Missouri helpers will need to be there prior to the beginning of the competition. At this point, those that are planning to go: Mary Burt, Jennifer Lewis, Carol Hubbard, Tina Hovendick, Rose Marie Hopkins, Judy Stinson, Peggy Lemons, Craig King, DeDe Vest, Deneen Jenkins, Sheilla Braden, Charlie Rahm, and Liz Brown (maybe). If anyone cannot be there for the entire time, notify Peggy and she will find out what the most important dates are for what those people will be helping with. Craig will not be able to stay for the entire time and will be helping with the buses in 2005 so Peggy will find out when Maryland will need Craig the most.

2005 Update. Judy reported that the meeting she and Peggy had with Bass Pro resulted in a verbal commitment for \$25,000 in meals, shirts, Wonders of Wildlife Museum admissions, and other extraneous items. They will be doing presentations at Tan-Tar-A for the Employees Association and MASWCD to explain in greater detail what the Envirothon is all about and about the contributions being solicited from the districts. As per Carol Hubbard, \$48,000 has been received so far. Peggy is working with NRCS for a financial commitment. She is waiting for written confirmation to use to take on to other groups for additional fundraising.

In October, the Canon Committee met in Springfield. They are very impressed with the facilities and activities planned for 2005. At this time, Missouri is ahead of West Virginia, who is hosting in 2004.

Election. Due to vacancies created by resignations from Niki Aberle (Conservation Federation of Missouri), Lorna Domke (MDC), and Sarah Minor (NRCS) as members of the board, Peggy asked for nominations to fill these vacancies. Kathryn

nominated Rose Marie for secretary, that nominations cease, and that she be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

There was discussion about the number of members needing to be filled. Rose Marie has agreed to continue with appeals and volunteers in addition to being the secretary. Under the current structure, that leaves a vacancy for training & resources and public affairs. Elaine Callaway and Syd Hime were suggested as joint members. As neither were present, that has been left open until it can be discussed with them. Mary nominated Jennifer to be the member in charge of public affairs, that nominations cease, and that she be elected by acclamation. The motion carried.

Other business. In other business, Bill announced that Bill White has created a PowerPoint presentation for promoting the Envirothon. It will be available in the resource room.

Next meeting. The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the state Envirothon in May 2003.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Rose Marie Hopkins
Secretary