

Missouri Envirothon Committee
Camp Clover Point
Lake Ozark, Missouri
February 13, 2002

Present: Kevin Dacy, Rose Marie Hopkins, Carol Hubbard, Aaron Jeffries, Peggy Lemons, and Judy Stinson.

Peggy called the meeting to order at a picnic table in the brisk sunshine at 10:30 a.m. There were no minutes of the previous meeting.

Carol distributed the budget for the 2002 competition. Peggy explained some of the changes that will need to be made to the budget. A refundable linen fee of \$250 must be added for the team for Massachusetts. The cost of the medals can be reduced from \$450 to \$390. Peggy has the medals. We need to order another 175 t-shirts as the supply is very low, which increases that expense to \$1225.00. We decided to stop discussion on the budget and go on to cover the issues that Kevin Dacy and Aaron Jeffries came to address with the understanding that we would return to the budget later in the meeting.

We then moved to the item on the agenda concerning the Wildlife Proposal for the 2002 State Competition Tests. Kevin Dacy, MDC, distributed information that would be distributed to each team in advance for study. Kevin credits Bill White with this idea, having based it on the wildlife habitat disc currently used by 4-H. It provides a good foundation for students describing habitats for different species applying various management practices. The materials cover six wildlife species, but the test would actually only be over four. This process will provide greater opportunity to make the testing site specific and more hands-on. Jerry Snapp, UM-C, has given permission to use University materials without any copyright concerns. We expect to be able to get this to regional test writers right away, especially in time for the March 21 competition at Doniphan. Kevin will have a draft of the materials to be distributed to Peggy by March 4th. He will work with Sarah Minor to incorporate photos. Peggy will call someone involved with the southeast competition to see where their test writers are to be able to incorporate this material for this year.

We next moved to the 2002 oral question. Aaron Jeffries, MDC, has been working on the oral problem for both the regional and state competitions. He provided a draft of the main issue sample questions and the regional oral question. It is currently more geographically specific than might be appropriate for a regional question. Aaron will make it more generic so it will relate to each regional competition. Then, Aaron will further develop a problem for the state competition. He will have the regional information to Peggy by next week to get it posted on the web by February 21. This will comply with the policy to have the oral question posted 30 days in advance of the first competition.

Kevin and Aaron then left the meeting to investigate potential site locations for the competition, which will further assist them in writing test questions.

In returning to the budget discussion, the Conservation Federation will be sponsoring lunch. Niki has reported to Peggy that this has not been formally approved but is expected to be approved. The Wild Turkey Federation has had an increased demand on their funds so their amount is not expected to increase but rather to remain constant. Diane Bradley, president of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, reported to Peggy that the Society has reduced its donation to \$300 with the challenge to other natural resources societies to match them. They have in mind the Wildlife Society, the Fisheries Society, and the Forestry Society. Bass Pro, as per Martin McDonald, has committed \$2000, which was added into the budget. Peggy is meeting with the District Employees Association next week. She will also request \$1500 from NRCS as per Terry Cosby's suggestion. These changes bring anticipated expenses to \$8633.00 and expected income to \$8525.00, leaving a slight deficit. It may be necessary to reduce the amount of the cash award for the winning team.

In discussing the 2002 Regional Competitions, the dates for all regional competitions have been set. In lieu of more members of the committee, those present divided attendance to ensure that members of the state committee will attend every regional competition. It is understood that there may be scheduling conflicts, but this is an initial plan.

March 21	Doniphan	Judy/Rose Marie/Mary/Pat
April 3	Springfield	Carol/Rose Marie/Judy/Peggy
April 4	Atlanta (NE)	Carol/Sarah/Elaine
April 22	Blue Springs	Elaine/Sarah
April 24	Columbia	Carol/Rose Marie/Lorna
April 24	St. Joseph	Judy/Peggy
April 25	St. Charles	Pat/Mary/Sarah

The 2002 State Competition will be more completely covered at the next meeting when we have more members present.

There will be no activity for the students prior to the award presentation. This is the time when final scoring is done. In past years, we have had an activity but for 2002, it is felt that the students might prefer to have some down-time. There are areas available for Frisbees, basketball, and playing cards.

At the next meeting, we will also discuss an activity for the advisors for during the competition.

In the discussion regarding the evaluations for the Envirothon, it was decided to send evaluations to the advisors following the event. The evaluations will be reworded to try to get more constructive input. We don't seem to have been very successful in getting much input when the evaluations were distributed that day.

Judy reviewed information from meeting with the Canon Envirothon Executive Board in Reno. Massachusetts is making some progress in planning for the 2002 competition, but they are still very much behind in where they should be in their planning with the event less than six months away. A Code of Conduct is required to be signed by the students, their parents, and their advisors. There has always been an understood code but this process formalizes expectations and potential penalties. At this point, those anticipated to attend the 2002 Canon Envirothon include Mary, Pat, Judy, Peggy, Rose Marie, and DeDe. Travel arrangements were also discussed. The nearest airport is Bradley International in Connecticut, about an hour away. Boston is two hours away with no shuttle service into Amherst. Depending on costs, it may be more prudent to fly into Boston and rent a van for the team. The committee members will all have jobs to help us continue to know what will be needed in 2005 but we suggest taking a smaller contingent than what should attend in 2003 and 2004. We hope for as many of the committee as possible to go to Emmitsburg, Maryland in 2003 and everybody that will be in a position of responsibility in Springfield to go to West Virginia in 2004.

Judy and Peggy reported on their trip to Springfield in January in support of the 2005 competition. They met with DeDe and she made arrangements for appointments for the 2005 competition. They have negotiated admission at the Wonders of Wildlife Museum to \$4 per person. The folks at Wilson Creek Battlefield are very excited and have blocked the entire week for the Envirothon. There will be no problem with digging a soil pit. There are several potential locations. They toured Fantastic Caverns and will be able to have access to the grounds including a teaching site. The charge will be \$11.50 each. They were extremely successful at Bass Pro. Martin McDonald has committed to sponsoring the wildlife station by sponsoring the Wonders of Wildlife admission, dinner catered by Hemingway's, coupons for Bass Pro, give-aways, and XXXXXXXX, which will exceed \$20,000. He is extremely interested in the Envirothon and plans to attend the regional at Springfield. Bass Pro also has a store in Maryland, so he may visit the 2003 competition while in the area.

We need to begin work on a logo for 2005. As a reminder, the Canon Envirothon Executive Committee must approve the design prior to being reproduced. There was discussion about holding a contest for a logo design or considering the designs submitted for the state quarter. Most other states have contracted out the design of the logo. This is still open for discussion.

We are comfortable with the budget that has been developed for 2005, which is about \$200,000. We are unable to find things we are missing but other budgets are \$300,000 and over. Maryland has set up a payment plan for its districts to use to contribute covering multiple years. Peggy reported that Steve Wilson told her that the RC&D Council met last week and wants to be more involved in environmental education. They want to set-up a fund within with their sources for grants but they wanted to make sure we didn't both go to the same foundations soliciting donations. He mentioned two foundations in Kansas City that he was confident would generate \$50,000. He also asked Peggy about tying the Envirothon in with the NRCS Career Camp.

There being no additional business to be conducted and the fact that we were freezing, the meeting was adjourned at about 12:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Marie Hopkins