

State Envirothon Meeting  
March 14, 2007  
USDA Service Center, Jefferson City

Meeting called to order by Peggy Lemons at 10:50 a.m., in a conference room at the USDA Service Center in Jefferson City.

Those in attendance: Peggy Lemons, Chair; Judy Stinson, SWCP DNR; Theresa Dunlap, Secretary; Syd Hime, MDC; Deneen Jenkins, Greene County SWCD; Fred Feldman, Southwest Region; Linda Young, Central Region; DeDe Vest, NRCS; Jackie Rogers, Mexico/Audrain County District Manager; and David Dix, Southeast Region.

The November minutes were approved as written with a motion made by Fred. Deneen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Deneen reported that three regions have sent in their registration for the state competition. The other regions are to send in registration after they hold their regional events. Southeast will send registration fees for only two teams. Deneen explained to the group that the account used for expenses for the state event cannot go below \$1,000, or else there will be a fee. Receipts will be sent to Deneen, but she needs to be told if there will be a large purchase so funds can be moved into the account. Judy said she had just ordered t-shirts. Peggy asked if all regions had sent a letter to get the money (\$250) for their training sessions. Deneen reported that she has paid three regions and that a fourth is in the process of sending their letter. Linda made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Judy seconded, and motion carried.

The Canon Envirothon Booth at the NSTA (National Science Teachers Association) at the America's Center in St. Louis was discussed. Peggy said we have booth #880, and we have six workers' names registered. Workers must have a name badge to check in. She said workers should send expenses (such as parking) to Deneen for reimbursement. The committee discussed items to have on hand at the booth. Canon will have a DVD running, and we will have our state DVD available. The committee discussed the usefulness of business cards and brochures that highlight the State Envirothon. Peggy said she would like to have at least one Missouri worker at the booth at all times to answer questions about the Envirothon at the state level. Theresa, Deneen, DeDe, Peggy, Judy and Charlie Perkins are among the workers.

Resource Trunks – DeDe gave a report on the final recommendations for the resource trunks. She provided committee members with a handout outlining the recommendations. Things to remove: Great Horned Owl track, Wild Turkey skull and Great Horned Owl skull. DeDe explained that the items are not from the species that are typically featured at the Envirothon. Those items are valued at \$133.95.

DeDe said that while the soil scientists had requested the Munsel color charts, we should instead provide laminated color sheets. They are less expensive and just as effective for competition purposes.

Items to be added to existing trunks include: a Biltmore Stick (\$18); "Forest Management for Missouri Landowners" (free); "Texture by Feel Guide Sheet" (free); Hard Copy Soil Survey (free); Soil Survey on cd (free); "FFA Soil Science Student Guide" (when reprinted, approx. \$20); 3-5 Soil Samples with known textural analysis (request through area soil scientists each year); "Stream Keeper's Field Guide" (\$20); and "A Guide to Freshwater Invertebrates of North America" (\$ ?).

DeDe reported having little to no input from the test writers of the various regions.

Each of the seven regions has one trunk at present. Resources for a complete trunk cost about \$1,000.

The committee held a discussion on the following three topics: 1) Materials list for the trunks, 2) How many trunks are there existing, and how many are now needed, 3) Do regions want another complete trunk, or the money to buy resources for their region?

DeDe said she would put together an official "trunk resource list" and put it on the MASWCD envirothon website. Those in attendance voiced agreement. The committee reviewed DeDe's list of recommendations. Syd made a motion to approve the list with the additions and exclusions. Linda seconded. Motion carried.

Some committee members said they did not know the password to access the portion of the web site on which the list would be displayed. Peggy said she would send the password out to the region chairs.

Peggy asked that we make clarification on which regions wanted new trunks and which wanted the money to build their own trunks or to enhance the resources for their own individual regions. The requests are as follows:

Southwest – new trunk

K.C. – money

Southeast – money

Central – new trunk

Northwest - ? (no committee member present – thought to want money)

St. Louis – money

Northeast - ?

Discussion followed concerning regional needs. Deneen asked that if a region receives money and later decides they want a trunk....will there be additional funds for that. Peggy said no. This is a one time offer – trunk or money. If a region later wants a trunk, it will be up to that regional committee to fund a new trunk.

The question also arose about bringing the existing trunks up-to-date. DeDe explained that it would make things easier if the regions requesting money would also use those funds to update their existing trunk, rather than she trying to provide the missing items. She said she could come up with a specific dollar amount that would include all the items for an additional trunk, as well as enough money to purchase whatever is missing in the existing trunks.

The committee will finalize the details so that money or a trunk can be distributed at the state competition in May.

A discussion followed as to how the regions would be allowed to spend the funds if they request the money. Deneen made a motion that the money would have to be spent on items for trunks. Fred seconded. A discussion followed. The committee discussed legitimate purchases that would help regions build their programs. Theresa said that St. Louis may want to use some funds to help with a teacher training. DeDe said that (one of the regions, I think Carol Barnes) expressed a need for money to promote the program in their region.

Peggy noted that there was a motion on the floor. Members were asked to vote on the motion. Motion was opposed.

Syd made a motion that in 2007, regions will receive the one-time offer of a new resource trunk valued at around \$1,000, or a grant opportunity of the same value to use for their individual program needs. Regions requesting the money would be required to fill out a grant application request (a letter) before receiving the funds, and then would report back to the committee on how the funds were spent. DeDe seconded. Motion carried.

DeDe handed out a map of the Mexico, Mo. site for the state competition. She had highlighted the station sites and location of pavilions and restrooms. Members reviewed and discussed site needs and possibilities.

Judy discussed registration for state. She said the regions that have not yet held their regional competition will send in their t-shirt order forms and registration once they complete their events. Judy has ordered 125 shirts already. The total will be around 200.

Volunteers – Judy is putting out a letter.

Judges – Six are needed. We are still looking for some.

Oral question – State question is ready and will be posted April 26

Oral presentations – Judy said some teams carried note cards during last year's event and then used them at oral. During orientation this year, Judy or Peggy will tell the students that they must turn in all notes, cards, etc. with registration materials. Any items found to be carried during competition will be confiscated before oral and the team will not be able to use them.

Rotation schedule – DeDe and Judy are looking over rotation.

Tests – The first draft of all tests will be received by March 15.

Testing sites – Discussion on location of oral. If a pavilion is used, tarps will be hung on three sides. Peggy will see if the armory building will work for oral. She will inquire about room dividers. DeDe said the large pavilion will be reserved for lunch.

Materials list – Committee reviewed the needed materials list (Judy provided copies for all)

Port-a-potties – DeDe said we will need two sets.

4-Wheelers – Jackie said she has one and will check on getting another.

Lunch & Soda – Jackie will check with providers in Mexico.

Advisor activity – Activity is to be between 9 and 11:30. Bio-diesel plant and ethanol plant are options.

Door prizes and t-shirts for advisors – Door prizes may not be needed.

Scoring – DeDe

Award Presentation –

Activity for students – committee decided to bring balls, Frisbees, etc.

Set-up – 1pm the day before event. Committee and volunteers to meet at large pavilion in park.

State Winner Financial Award – Peggy asked if the committee felt \$3,000 would be appropriate. Judy made a motion to provide a stipend of \$3,000, Dede seconded. Motion carried.

Attendance in New York – Peggy asked who planned to attend. She warned that all attending should have passports in order to return to the US from the Canadian side of Niagara Falls.

Other Business – Peggy announced the locations of upcoming Canon events:

2008 – Flagstaff, Ariz.

2009 – Ashville, NC

2010 - ??

Peggy said the 2010 event is available to the Midwest region again. All agreed not to host another large event this soon after the Springfield Envirothon.

Next meeting – May 10, at 10:30 am at the USDA Service Center in Jefferson City.

Dede made a motion to adjourn. Syd seconded. Meeting adjourned.