

Missouri Envirothon Meeting
Monday – March 17, 2008
Lewis & Clark Building
Jefferson City, Mo.

Attendance: Judy Stinson – DNR, Peggy Lemons – Cole Co. SWCD, David Dix - MASWCD, Tina Hovendick – Benton Co. SWCD (Central Region), Deneen Jenkins – Green Co. SWCD (Southwest Region), Theresa Dunlap – St. Charles Co. SWCD (St. Louis Region), Bill Bohnert Jr. – Jackson Co. SWCD (KC Region), Fred Feldman – MASWCD (SW Region), Audrey Rayl – Lewis Co. SWCD (NE Region), Travis Dinsdale – MDC (NW Region), Teona Harris – Clinton Co. SWCD (NW Region), DeDe Vest – NRCS.

Peggy called the meeting to order at 1:20 pm

Minutes from the last meeting of November 26, 2007, were reviewed and presented for approval. Judy made the motion to approve the minutes and Bill 2nd the motion. Motion was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was presented by Deneen. The regular account has the most activity and has an ending balance of \$2,060.07. The money market account has an ending balance of \$14,252.52, and the CD has an ending balance of \$53,919.66. It was noted that the Soil & Water Conservation Society donated \$400 to the State Envirothon Program. Tina made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. David 2nd. Motion was unanimous.

Regional Grants: Deneen said that at this time she had just three applications for the \$500 grant to regions. Discussion was held on the time frame for the use of the grants and for reporting back to the state. The committee decided to use the fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). Peggy said the hope of the committee is to offer approximately \$500 to each region each fiscal year. Theresa asked about the timeline for using this year's grant for which regions were to apply by March 1, 2008. The committee came to the consensus that this grant would be for fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, with regions reporting back to the state committee by June 1, 2008. Regions will be able to apply for another \$500 grant after June 30, 2008, to be used fiscal year July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.

Regional Concerns: Peggy opened the floor for comments/concerns from represented Regions. Theresa said the St. Louis committee decided that they will not change the date of their regional event which is always the 1st Thursday in April, and they were concerned about the closeness of the state competition should we adjust that date for FFA. Peggy said that the dates have not been finalized and other details need to be worked out before we confirm competition dates. It was noted that no FFA teams showed up for the Envirothon training that was offered this year.

Deneen brought from her region concerns associated with the 55% minimum on regional tests. This is the minimum required in order for a team to proceed to state. (The state waived that minimum this year because of previous miscommunication to that region).

Deneen also asked that her committee and/or test writers be allowed to see some other tests from other regions so they can see if their tests are too difficult (or how they compare to others). Discussion was held. DeDe said most test writers had received a Test Writers Guidelines published by Canon. Peggy said she will make sure these guidelines are on the website. Bill and Theresa both said they would be willing to share some old tests with Deneen's test writers after they approve that with their respective committees. It was a consensus of the committee to hold off on making a decision on the 55% rule. Regional committees are to consider the following three items which will be discussed at the state's June '08 meeting. 1) Should the 55% be eliminated, 2) Should each region decide their own minimum requirement to place the top three teams, 3) Would your region be willing to share old tests (This can be done securely on the web with a password and offered only to the regional test writers)

Canon Logo Grant: Peggy informed the committee about another \$250 grant offered by Canon – specifically to put the Canon logo on a give-away item. After some discussion, Tina made a motion to pass on the grant for this year (a decision was needed by March 31). Bill 2nd. Motion was unanimous.

2008 State Competition:

Registration – Judy reported 3 regions registered so far.

Volunteers – Judy will send letter April 1. There is some concern that recent budget cuts may reduce our available volunteers.

Advisor Activity – DeDe will check with a friend who works for Ameren near the Lake Ozark area. Perhaps a tour of the dam. Judy said the teachers/coaches need to be gone the whole day (9am to 2pm).

Door Prizes – No need for door prizes because teacher/coaches will not be on site long.

Scoring – Test writers will be in the scoring room.

Award Presentations – Judy is checking on the station awards from MDC.

Student Activity – Committee decided to allow the kids to hang out and play in the open areas near the main lodge. (Judy, Peggy and possibly DeDe will make a trip to the park to check on various site logistics.

Water Jugs – Eight are needed. Peggy (1), Judy (1), Deneen (2) and Tina (1). Peggy will have 2 coolers. Three coffee pots will be available.

4-Wheeler – DeDe said that the station sites are not handicapped accessible. Peggy and Judy will look at the site soon, but will probably need to find at least one vehicle for transporting either students or runners.

Team Numbers – Mary Burt is to bring the team numbers (1-20). The committee decided to try putting the numbers on the tests beforehand. The students would identify themselves by their number and the station monitor would provide the corresponding test.

Appeal Form – Line was taken out of appeal form “What part of the rules were not followed” This line was removed because behavior away from the stations may require a team to be reprimanded, and their infraction may not fit easily into a listed rule. At Canon and at State, anyone can file an appeal. Peggy noted that rules have been updated/changed at the national and state level.

State Winner Financial Award: Committee discussed the travel stipend for the winning Missouri team. Judy made a motion to approve \$3500 as the travel stipend. Tina 2nd. Motion was unanimous.

MEEA – Bill told the committee that MEEA provided a full page story on the Envirothon in their last newsletter. He believes it will be on the MEEA website.

Next Meeting: June 5, Thursday, 1 pm, at the Lewis & Clark building in Jefferson City.

Meeting adjourned: Bill made a motion to adjourn. Tina 2nd.