

Missouri State Envirothon Meeting
Wednesday, March 25, 2009
USDA Service Center, Jefferson City, Mo.

Attendance: Peggy Lemons, Cole County SWCD; Deneen Jenkins, Green County SWCD; DeDe Vest, NRCS; Judy Stinson, DNR; Lorna Domke, MDC; Theresa Dunlap, St. Charles County SWCD; Wilma Carlyon, St. Francois County SWCD; Tina Hovendick, Benton County SWCD, and Steven Rogers of Missouri FFA.

Meeting was called to order at 11 am in the USDA Service Center in Jefferson City.

FFA Discussion: Peggy introduced Steve Rogers of the Missouri FFA and invited him to speak to the committee at the beginning of the meeting.

Steve explained that FFA would like to use the State Envirothon for the FFA wildlife contest. He said FFA has wildlife competition at the national level, but not at the state level. Since the Envirothon has such a strong program already established, FFA would like to try a pilot year or two in which FFA members compete as Envirothon teams with the only difference being that those FFA teams would take their Envirothon wildlife station scores with them to their FFA competition.

The biggest change for the Envirothon program would be that the Missouri State Envirothon would need to be held the same week as the state FFA Convention. That is usually the third week in April and is a Thursday and Friday. (April 15 and 16, 2010 & April 14 and 15, 2011).

Discussion followed. Peggy said that as far as the regional competitions are concerned, each region is to treat the FFA teams like any other team. The top three teams from each region will go to state no matter what organization/school they are from. Steve said that FFA would find a way to deal with the fact that not all FFA teams at the regional level will go on to compete at state.

Peggy said that timing and score reporting details would need to be worked out.

Some members expressed concern about their regional competitions growing too large. The committee agreed that, should the need arise; we could discuss splitting a region. Regions are encouraged to tell schools that they can only bring a certain number (2 or 3) teams to the regional competition, and to have a cut-off date and a first registered, first entered policy.

Steve said he didn't expect FFA to have that large of an impact on the Envirothon. He said there are 6 FFA districts with 50 to 60 schools in each district. He said the first year, they didn't expect to have more than 10 or so teams across the state that would enter the Envirothon.

Peggy and Judy agreed to have an Envirothon booth at the 2009 FFA Convention April 17.

Minutes from the December 3, 2008 meeting were reviewed and presented for approval. Judy made a motion to approve, Theresa second. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Report presented by Deneen. Interest from the CD is now going into a money market account. While rates are dropping, it is still earning money. Lorna asked how much the State Contest spends each year. Peggy said around \$7,000 (\$9,000 with the grants to regions). Deneen reported that the regular account (pg. 3) was changed to an interest bearing account.

Tina made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Lorna second. Motion carried.

2010 State Envirothon – A few regions may have to move up their competition as the state's event will be moved up to accommodate FFA. (It was noted that regions will need to be aware of the Easter holiday as they choose their dates. Easter is April 4 in 2010 and April 24 in 2011 and April 8 in 2012).

The theme for next year is Groundwater in an Urban Environment. The actual question will be posted April 6, 2010.

The 2010 Envirothon will be held at the Runge Center (5th year rotation) on April 13, 2010. Deneen made a motion to accept this date and location. Judy second and motion carried.

Regional Grants: Final 2009 reports are due June 1, 2009, along with the 2010 Grant Requests. Peggy will email forms to the regions.

Regional Concerns: Tina said that the Central Region is at maximum participation. She and Theresa voiced concern over being able to financially and logistically handle more teams. Both regions already limit schools to two teams. Suggestions were that schools could be restricted to just one team, or regions could be split, or they may consider a two day competition.

Participation Surveys: Judy asked that committee remind regions to fill out and send in their participation surveys as soon as the regional competition is over.

Peggy said we need the numbers to justify funds requested from Canon. We would like to see that our program is reaching 500,000 students across the county.

MEEA Report – Theresa and her district tech, Charlie Perkins presented at the MEEA Convention in St. Louis Dec. 7, 2008. They presented Soils Training for the Envirothon. They also helped man an informational Envirothon booth. Ten attendees in sessions and more than 60 visited the booth. Theresa is to find out the date and location of the next MEEA conference.

Patches: Peggy looked into patches for the state competition. Committee would like to award each student a patch and then chevrons for each year they participate starting in 2010. Tina made a motion to approve the purchase and Wilma second. Motion carried.

FFA Participation: Committee went back to FFA discussion because changing the date is actually a rule change. Lorna made a motion to change rule #10 allowing the State Envirothon to be held some time between April 1 and May 15 of any given year. Deneen second and motion carried.

2009 State Competition: Camdenton Conservation Center, MDC property.
Peggy and Judy encouraged anyone attending to make their reservations soon.
Regions were reminded that registration forms were needed soon and that all teams need at least a 55% to go to state.
200 t-shirts have been ordered. (Kiwi – not pistachio)
Volunteers – Judy put a letter out.
Judges – still some needed. Send email to Judy if you know someone.
Oral question – was posted April 30th
Rotation schedule – Judy and DeDe are working on it
Tests – all drafts are due to DeDe
Testing sites – DeDe reported sites are good. Aquatics might have water if it rains.
Station material list
Port-a-potties – need a few
4-wheelers – none needed
Lunch and sodas – Pizza, soda, water. MDC will help. One bottle of water per student and they can refill throughout day.
Advisor Activity – Bridal cave
Set-up – Day before at 1 pm
Judy is to get easels and weather radio.

State Winner Financial Award: Team will be going to North Carolina. Need them to go a day early because last year the team was rushed and did not properly acclimate themselves before competition. Theresa made a motion to provide the team with \$3,500 so they can go at least one day early and have enough money for airfare, a room and car rental. Tina second and motion carried.
Judy made a motion to provide between \$180 and \$200 for the advisors to attend two tours of their choice. Tina second and motion carried.
All participants will have the opportunity to tour the Biltmore Mansion.
Discussion on providing funds for a regional committee member to attend the National Envirothon with the winning team from that region was tabled for later discussion.

Appreciation Plaques: Theresa said that Mary has retired and will no longer participate on the Envirothon committee. Peggy and Judy said that Bill Bohnert, too, is planning to retire from Envirothon duties next year. The committee decided to honor members who have been on the committee with a plaque. Peggy and Judy will look into making a special award for those committee members.

New Committee Member: Bill Bohnert has already found a replacement for his position on the State Envirothon Committee: Chuck Schroeder of the Kansas City Discovery Center.

Next Meeting: May 21st, Thursday at 10 am

Tina made a motion to adjourn, Deneen seconded and meeting adjourned.