

Missouri Envirothon Executive Committee Meeting

University of Missouri South Farm

Columbia, MO

April 15, 2004

Present: Mary Burt, St. Charles SWCD; Syd Hime, MDC; Rose Marie Hopkins, DNR Soil and Water Conservation Program; Carol Hubbard, Shelby County SWCD; Judy Stinson, DNR Soil and Water Conservation Program; John Pulliam, University of Missouri South Farm; and DeDe Vest, NRCS.

Judy Stinson called the meeting to order at 10:00. She announced that Peggy was unable to be present due to her husband's CAT scan.

Mary Burt moved to approve the minutes of the conference call as distributed. Motion carried.

Judy opened a review of the status of the regional competitions. Three are left to be held: Southeast (Cape Girardeau), Northwest (St. Joseph), and Central (Jefferson City). Carol Hubbard discussed the Northeast competition held in the fall. There were 11 teams participating. The fall schedule was well accepted because most of their teams are FFA teams and spring often conflicts for FFA. Teachers did voice concern about success at the state competition in the spring because of the time lag between the regional and state competitions. DeDe Vest spoke concerning the Southwest competition, which was also held in the fall. They lost the Springfield teams because of issues with the honors class training. Judy explained that there were nine teams participating. There were a few new teams. The superintendent of Wilson's Creek Battlefield was there and questioned why the students didn't have hands-on questions. Judy and Peggy attended the Kansas City Envirothon. Things went well. Judy reported that Kathryn Braden went to Kansas City to observe and took lots of notes. There were seven teams at Kansas City. Mary Burt stated that at St. Louis, there were six teams. There were light showers that day but the weather was still OK. They used four oral judges and averages the scores. There was a discussion about using more technical judges at the state competition. This will be a discussion item for next year since 2004 is too close to make those kinds of changes at this point.

Using a supply list, Judy led the discussion on responsibilities for supplies and materials needed for May 6. Mary moved to purchase another canopy. Motion carried. John Pulliam said that the South Farm has a 10 X 10 to use, if necessary. The test writers had been at the South Farm prior to this meeting and finalized locations for their respective stations.

Judy announced that the forms are posted on the web page. The state question will be posted April 29. All other information is active. There was a suggestion to have the team buddies at registration to pair them up at that time.

Judy asked John if he had ideas for two hours of a teacher training activity while at the South Farm. He suggested touring South Farm, including the Phillips Tract which is under development. John also suggested something involving certified crop advisors. John will take care of the training, which will go from 9-11:00. We will use two 15-passenger vans to transport the teachers.

Judy suggested that the workers arrive May 6th at 6 a.m. Workers will be there at 1 p.m. on May 5th to set up what can be done the day before.

In respect to the financial stipend, Judy suggested that the winning team have the flexibility to choose to either fly or drive to West Virginia. Flights are about \$215 round-trip. DeDe moved to provide \$1500 for the stipend and the team determine its own travel arrangements. The motion carried. The stipend will be paid to the first place winner but only if the first place team goes to West Virginia. If not, then the stipend will go to the second place team for travel expenses.

Judy reviewed the list planning to attend the Canon Envirothon in West Virginia. It includes Peggy, Judy, Rose Marie, Gary Fak, Laura Cowert, Sherry Doane, Mary Burt, and Jennifer Lewis. Mary will check on flights for her and Jennifer. DeDe will check on a third NRCS employee to go as Roger approved three to go.

As an update on the 2005 Canon Envirothon, Judy distributed an updated budget. The Fisk bid for the buses came back double of what was expected. DeDe suggested checking with the city buses. A deposit of ten percent is required to lock the bid. After further discussion, DeDe moved to accept Fisk's bid and make the deposit to lock in the price. Motion carried.

In other business, Judy presented the Memorandum of Understanding with NRCS for the 2005 event. Mary moved to accept the terms of the MOU. Motion carried. Peggy will sign the MOU on behalf of the Envirothon. Judy will send a copy to Syd as an example of MOU language for MDC's agreement. In the MOU, it states that NRCS will provide fanny packs. DeDe had seen some at a conference and priced them. They were \$3.85. Peggy is working on this and Judy will tell her so she can consider this option.

The next meeting of the state Envirothon committee was set for June 8, 2004 at the NRCS State Office at 10 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. to walk the site for the Envirothon and finalize the rooms needed for oral competitions and scoring.

Rose Marie Hopkins
Secretary