

Missouri Envirothon State Committee Meeting  
Soil and Water Conference Room  
May 20, 2002

Peggy Lemons called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Those in attendance were: Bill Bohnert, Kathryn Braden, Liz Brown, Mary Burt, Elaine Callaway, David Dix, Rose Marie Hopkins, Tina Hovendick, Carol Hubbard, Craig King, Lena Sharp, Judy Stinson, Pat Wohler, and Linda Young.

**Approve minutes.** Judy moved to approve the minutes of the meetings we have received to date. Bill seconded the motion. Motion was unanimous.

**2002 financial update.** The financial report was distributed with several changes discussed. The first place cash award was changed to \$2750 to include the hotel costs for prior to when the team can get into their accommodations on campus. It now includes \$1000 cash for expenses and \$1750 for airfare. The actual T-shirt bill was \$1170 for 150 shirts. In regard to the income on the budget, we haven't heard from Bass Pro, so that donation remains in question. In correspondence with Bass Pro, they have until June 1 to contact us about what they intend to do. We have received MDC's contribution but not that from NRCS or the Turkey Federation; however, Peggy is confident both of those checks will be coming. Kathryn moved to approve the financial report and file it for audit. Tina seconded the motion. Motion was unanimous.

**Review state competition.** Peggy initiated a recap of the state competition. Evaluations have been sent out by email regarding the event. Mary felt evaluations should have been designed separately for volunteers rather than using the same one as for the teams. Several others voiced supporting comments about the evaluations not being relevant to what the volunteers did. Next year, we will have team, coach, and volunteer evaluations. Liz explained that the oral judges need to better know what is expected and should get the oral question at least a week in advance, plus have more standard questions at least to ensure some specific points are covered in the presentations. Judy said that in the teacher training, one teacher suggested rotating the judges between both sets of judges to avoid an easy set of judges compared to a set with more stringent scoring standards. Also, the teachers asked that score sheets for the orals be returned. The committee offered concern that the points would have to be correct. Some regionals return oral sheets and some do not. The teachers also suggest having another monitor in the oral presentation room to write down all comments, including feedback the judges might offer on presentation skills. Teachers want consistency among the regions for things such as mailing score sheets and the use of note cards.

Tina also offered teacher feedback she had received. Some teams bring alternates and others do not. The question raised is if the alternates are to come. Also, teachers were asking how to prepare for the nation competition and how to prepare. The teachers want a list of the schools participating. Tina also heard criticism about grammatical issues in the test (affect v. effect).

In regard to alternates, the committee discussed combining alternates into teams to go through the process. This would give the alternates experience of the competition if they had to serve on the winning team going on to the Canon Envirothon. There was concern that the teams of alternates might not take it seriously and be disruptive for the rest of the competition. But it was also pointed out that this could act as a feeder program to help prepare alternates in becoming a full member of a future team.

The size requirements of the poster board for the oral presentations is an issue. Size does matter. Currently, the maximum sizes are in meters and not the standard sizes readily available. One school connected the two posters allowed to create one very large poster. Also, the easels need to have a back to prevent the poster board from buckling. Easels used should be more stable rather than the tripods being used currently.

Several teams asked about receiving a copy of team photos. They didn't realize that they just needed to ask for them. Judy is sending photos to each regional to distribute to their teams that participated in the state competition.

At the meeting of the full committee at Tan-Tar-A in December, the full committee will discuss alternates at the state competition, use of notes for the oral presentation, returning oral judging sheets, and poster size restrictions.

Kathryn said that her list includes that we need trash containers at each station, plenty of coffee, making sure the correct terminology is used (lagoon v. pond) within the test questions, have more pencils rather than having to collect pencils each time, and too much time available because of getting finished early.

Judy stated that regionals all need to have recycling containers available to further reinforce our environmental responsibility. We also need to have an emergency plan in place for threatening weather.

Bill suggested that the teams fill out their evaluations during the down time waiting for the final tabulation of scores. Peggy explained that in the past, we have tried to get them to do evaluations at that time and didn't get much feedback. There was a suggestion that they might be required to complete the evaluation before getting to see the answer key for the test questions.

**Discuss qualifying for state competition.** The issue was brought to the committee that if only three teams were at the competition, then they automatically have placed at the regional to advance on to the state competition. Judy asked if there should be a minimum score at the regional level to advance. The problem involves consistency because of different regional tests. It was decided to wait to discuss this more fully at the full committee meeting at Tan-Tar-A. Peggy asked the regional representatives present to review the past three to four years of test scores to set an average percentage for the qualifying score if the full committee would choose to go that route.

**2003 state competition site.** Peggy said that we must set the location for 2003 and also suggested we discuss 2004 and 2005. For 2005, we want to return to Runge Nature Center in Jefferson City due to the quality of the facilities in anticipation of the 2005 Canon Envirothon in Springfield. Elaine reported that Runge is expecting us for 2005. For 2004, we were considering Lincoln University's farm at Jefferson City but it was decided to go there in 2003 because the national oral question topic concerns ag land preservation and conservation. It was felt that this location would better reflect the topic than some others being considered. There is a charge for using the facilities of approximately \$150 that we will be expected to pay. The group decided to leave the location for 2004 open until we know the oral topic. The two locations being considered are the Prairie Garden Trust at New Bloomfield or Prairie Fork Wildlife Area at Williamsburg. The decision on 2004 will be made as soon as possible after the Canon Envirothon Executive Committee announces the oral topic for that year. Peggy will make the appropriate contact with Lincoln University to reserve the farm for 2003.

**New test coordinator.** As Sarah Minor is leaving NRCS and moving to Louisiana, there need to be several responsibilities reassigned. Sarah acted as the test coordinator, was responsible for public affairs, and was the committee secretary. Rather than having one person do all these functions, it was decided to divide the duties. Mary volunteered to be the test coordinator for a year. Rose Marie will be the committee secretary. Peggy will ask Lorna to be responsible for public affairs.

**2002 national competition attendance.** Peggy announced that it is time to notify the Canon Executive Committee who from Missouri will be attending and requesting duty assignments. Peggy discussed various jobs we need to cover in anticipation of hosting in 2005 including scoring, the war room, teaching, and other duties.

**2005 logo.** Judy has talked with Renee Baumgardt, a DNR graphic artist, about working up some design proposals for Missouri hosting the 2005 Canon Envirothon. She shared the logo submission from one of the students from several years ago to use as a starting point for 2005. Renee also has the designs used from the last several years of competitions. No design will be reproduced until receiving approval from the Canon Envirothon Executive Committee.

**Other business.** Linda brought forward that she is aware of several requests to hold regional competitions in the fall rather than in the spring. Teachers have explained that spring is extremely full with so many end-of-the-year activities and there are fewer activities in the fall. This seems to especially be true in rural areas due to FFA competitions, which might give more teams opportunity to participate. Training could be an issue since there would be little time from the beginning of the school year until a fall regional competition. Judy asked the teachers during their training at the 2002 competition about holding regionals in the fall and all but three or four wanted to stay with spring dates. This is another issue to be discussed at the full committee meeting at Tan-Tar-A.

Peggy asked about purchasing polo shirts for the winning team. Rose Marie will order them now in Sarah's absence. The design will remain the same as in the past as there is no time for a new design. Rose Marie suggested we check with Union Star for their school colors before selecting a color.

**Next meeting.** The next meeting will be held at Tan-Tar-A at 6 p.m. on December 1, 2002 in conjunction with the Training Conference unless something pressing comes up. Committee members will be advised to eat dinner prior to the meeting.

Being there was no further business to discuss, Peggy adjourned the meeting at 3:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Marie Hopkins