

Missouri State Envirothon Meeting
Thursday June 18, 2009
USDA Service Center, Jefferson City, Mo.

Attendance: Peggy Lemons, Cole County SWCD; Deneen Jenkins, Greene County SWCD (Southwest Region); DeDe Vest, NRCS-Springfield; Judy Stinson, DNR; Regina Knauer, MDC-Central Office; Theresa Dunlap, St. Charles County SWCD (St. Louis Region); Rachel Griffin, Ripley County SWCD (Southeast Region); Wilma Carlyon, St. Francois County SWCD (Southeast Region); Tina Hovendick, Benton County SWCD (Central Region); Travis Dinsdale, MDC (Northwest Region); Lena Sharp, Monroe County SWCD (Northeast Region); Chuck Shroyer, MDC (KC Region).

Meeting was called to order at 10 am in the USDA Service Center in Jefferson City, with all regions represented.

Minutes from the March 25, 2009 meeting were reviewed and presented for approval. Judy made a motion to approve, Tina second. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Report presented by Deneen. Discussion was held on the need to close the money market account and transfer that money into checking. Additional discussion on not renewing the CD when it comes due and to instead move some of that money into checking in order to allow the program to run smoothly over the next year. CD would be renewed at \$20,000 less in July 09.

Report was reviewed. Committee agreed to further discuss moving money among accounts later in this meeting as upcoming financial needs are addressed.

Theresa made a motion to approve Treasurer Report as presented. Rachel second. Motion carried.

FFA Convention Booth: Peggy and Judy had a booth at the FFA Convention. They spoke to several people about the pilot project between FFA and Envirothon, and distributed Envirothon DVDs and brochures.

Interface B Conference: Nancy Snider, MDC, and a member of the St. Louis Regional Committee requested via email the state committee's approval for her to present Envirothon topics at the conference. Karen Armstrong of MDC will be helping. Theresa made a motion to approve Nancy's presentations at the Interface Conference. Lena second. Motion carried.

MEEA Conference: Nancy Snider requested via email, the committee's approval for her to arrange for forestry topic to be presented at the Missouri Environmental Educators Association Conference, Oct 16-18 in Springfield, Mo. She also asked the committee if they would like to have a booth (\$75). After some discussion, the committee decided not to spend the money on the booth, and to accept the offer to have Envirothon DVDs and brochures on a corner of the MDC booth. Lena made a motion to allow the committee to put materials on the MDC table, and to approve Nancy's presentation of Envirothon

topics at MEEA. Tina second. Motion approved. (The committee agreed that, if possible, someone from the Southwest Region could assist with this event, and represent the State Envirothon)

Exhibit Materials: Discussion was held on the need for more professional-looking presentation displays. Judy found a display banner housed in a carrier that pulls out like a window shade. The cost is \$300. Also, Regina offered to have two banners made for the State Envirothon by MDC. There would be no cost for these. Rachel offered to work on the design of one of the banners from MDC. Wilma and Regina agreed to help Rachel with the banner design. Rachel made a motion to order one of the pull-out displays, and to accept Regina's offer for the MDC banners. Chuck second. Motion carried.

Advisor Qualifications: Discussion was held concerning a question from Howard County SWCD about an agency member being a coach/advisor. After discussion, Judy made a motion to allow all agency employees to be advisors as long as they don't serve on the regional committee or have access to regional test materials... and to add this to the rules. Wilma second. Motion carried.

Rules Change: Judy read a rule change and discussion was held. Change is: "Any team, team member, team advisor/chaperone or resource people associated with a team discovered on, near, or around the test site or testing stations one week prior to the competition may be subject to immediate disqualification." Theresa made a motion to accept the rule change as read. Lena second. Motion carried.

Assistance to Regions: Peggy thanked all regions for quickly returning the student participation report for Canon. This report will be made each year. Financial grants to regions will continue. Regions need to send Deneen their reports on how the last grants were spent before next year's money is sent out.

Discussion on Existing Funds: The committee looked at the financial needs for the coming year and discussed moving funds from the CD to regular checking to cover expenses. These expenses include the financial grants totaling \$3,500 each year. In addition, plaques and medals for the regional teams are approximately \$1,000.

Access to more funds is also required to cover state competition costs, and sending the winning team to national. After discussion, the committee agreed to move some money from the CD. Lena made a motion to transfer \$20,109.13 out of the CD into the checking account when the CD comes up for renewal next month, and to reinvest the CD at \$35,000. Chuck second. Motion carried.

Discussion continued concerning the money market and its slow or no growth. Tina made a motion to close the money market account and move funds into checking. Judy second. Motion carried.

The committee then discussed hosting a Canon Envirothon in Missouri in 2015. Members are to bring ideas to the September meeting.

2009 State Competition Review:

Bridal Cave tours were great success.

Linda Young and Bill Bohnert received plaques for retirement. (Mary Burt received a retirement plaque in April '09)

Judy said we were short on volunteers.

DNR paid for the tents, tables, and chairs.

MDC paid for lunch and water.

One problem at current issue station – Rain in the morning caused the soil survey to be set under the table, and consequently the first teams did not use the survey. One question was thrown out.

Peggy reported that evaluation comments included the complaint that teams had a long time to wait for scores. The committee will discuss having a one hour activity during that waiting time at future competitions.

2009 Canon event:

Team Registration – Done. Deneen made a motion to pay the \$800 registration fee for team and advisors. Judy second. Motion carried.

Polo Shirts for team – Theresa made a motion to pay for the team and advisor shirts. Lena second. Motion carried.

Trade items – many committee members brought trade items. Additional items can be sent to Judy by the end of July.

Rental Car and Snack Items: Rachel made a motion to pay for a rental car for Peggy and Judy once they arrive in North Carolina, and to pay for snacks for the team during sequestered period. Chuck second. Motion carried.

2010 State Competition: To be held in April at Runge.

2010 Canon Envirothon: To be held in Merced, Calif., just outside Yosemite, July 31-Aug. 7.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009, at Cole County SWCD office.
Judy made a motion to adjourn, Chuck second, and meeting adjourned.