

Missouri Envirothon Executive Board Meeting
Ha Ha Tonka Room
August 27, 2002

Present: Mary Burt, Rose Marie Hopkins, Carol Hubbard, Peggy Lemons, and Judy Stinson. Absent: Lorna Domke.

Peggy Lemons called the meeting to order soon after 1:00 p.m.

Peggy introduced the first order of business, which was to select a bank for the Envirothon's account. The executive board considers it time for the Envirothon to have separate banking from MASWCD. The expectation is an interest-bearing checking account with no fees and few restrictions and the availability of credit cards. Institutions being considered were Central Bank in Jefferson City and Bank Midwest at Shelbyville. In addition to these two banks, Peggy also spoke with Jefferson Bank but was unable to find a checking account that did not charge fees. After comparing services, Mary moved to open a NOW checking account and regular savings account at Bank Midwest at Shelbyville with one debit card and two credit cards. Carol seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous. The board decided to require one signature on the checking account. Signature authority on the checking account will be held by Carol, Peggy, and Judy. The debit card will be in Judy's possession. Peggy and Carol will have the two credit cards and the limit requested will be \$10,000.

Carol reported a good response from districts in support of the solicitation for the 2005 Canon Envirothon. Checks have been received from the following: Boone \$500; Vernon \$100; Bates \$1,000; and Benton \$1,000. Carol also reported \$1500 from NRCS and \$2000 from Bass Pro have been received for the 2002 Missouri Envirothon. Carol has prepared receipts for all checks received.

There was much discussion about whether the Missouri Envirothon should obtain its own IRS 501(c)3 status or use that of MASWCD. Carol moved to establish the Missouri Envirothon as an independent entity and obtain 501(c)3 status, its own EIN number, and tax exempt status. Mary seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous. Peggy will prepare and submit the appropriate applications and forms.

Peggy presented a letter from the Science Teachers of Missouri asking the Envirothon to present an exhibit at their conference on October 11/12 at Rockbridge High School in Columbia. The Envirothon had taken an exhibit several years ago but was not planning to return as the group wasn't exactly where the board felt the Envirothon would get the most exposure. The format has now changed to include Science Olympian training so the audience has broadened to likely include teachers that would relate to the Envirothon. The fee to exhibit is \$100. The board decided by consensus to skip this year due to scheduling conflicts but to tentatively plan to have a display next year or to present Envirothon training.

Mary raised an issue concerning test writing. In heading up the test writing process, she would like to change the test writers and establish a committee of teachers to go over the tests to ensure the questions are clear. The teachers she has in mind would have no involvement with any Envirothon teams. The purpose is to make sure test questions are site specific instead of more generic. Judy suggested that for the next year or two, bring in new people to work in conjunction with the current test writers who have been doing this from the beginning. This would give test writers that have been involved since the beginning of the Missouri Envirothon a break if they so choose, as well as getting more people involved in the process. Currently, the test questions for at least two sections are written by one person, which not only may place a burden on that person, but will also bring in new perspectives. Peggy shared that National is preparing guidelines for test writing, which will help us have better test questions.

Mary will contact Mike Cook for Soils to work with Dennis Potter. She will also be seeking out others to work with current test writers in the other disciplines keeping in mind the potential to bring other agencies to prevent the test writers from being from primarily one or two agencies. Mary will submit names to the rest of the committee for consideration.

Peggy stated that it is time to develop a list for those planning to go to Maryland to assist with the 2003 Canon Envirothon. Maryland is counting on a big group from Missouri and would like to have the volunteers arrive by Wednesday prior to the beginning of the competition. Names mentioned include Carol Hubbard, Judy Stinson, Rose Marie Hopkins, Mary Burt, Lorna Domke &/or Elaine Callaway, Bill White, Deneen Jenkins, deed Vest, Travis Dinsdale, Lena Sharp, Tina Hovendick, Linda Young, and Peggy Lemons. Peggy is sending notification to the state committee to begin plans regarding 2003 and asking for commitment at the annual board meeting December 1, 2002 at Tan-Tar-A. The best way to prepare for hosting in 2005 is to help with another Envirothon. It appears that Maryland's competition will be the most similar in organization to Missouri's.

Being there was no further business to discuss, Peggy adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Marie Hopkins, Secretary
Missouri Envirothon Committee