

Missouri State Envirothon Meeting
July 9, 2014
Cole County USDA Service Center
Jefferson City, MO

Attendance: Peggy Lemons, MASWCD; DeDe Vest, NRCS; Theresa Dunlap, St. Louis Region; Paula Champion, SW Region; Dave Fry, KC Region; Andrea McKeown, NE Region; and Sandy Stratman, MASWCDE chairman; Audrey Rayl and Lena Sharp, NE Region.

The meeting began at 10:00 am in the conference room of the Cole County USDA Service Center.

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed, and Paula made a motion to accept the minutes. Lena second and motion carried.

Audrey gave the treasurer's report and noted that 53 of the 114 districts have donated to the State/National Envirothon, with 13 giving \$500 or more. Audrey also revised the format of the treasurer's report – adding more detail and structure for easier review.

Andrea made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Dave second, and the motion carried.

Peggy stated that state employees can donate to charitable causes through the Missouri State Employee Charitable Campaign. In August there is an event in the Truman Building in which not-for-profits can set up to provide information to state employees about their programs. Peggy and Judy plan to have a booth.

Missouri Envirothon Surveys will be sent out to regions again. Peggy only received three (NE, NW, and St. Louis)

The 2014 State competition was reviewed. Committee agreed that it went well. Teams enjoyed the beach ball activity. The most common complaint/request was for more clipboards at the stations. DeDe asked that teams not be released from orientation until testing time. Some teams arrived at stations early and this could lead to the perception that those teams had more time at the first stations.

A brief discussion was held on location for the 2015 state competition. DeDe, Peggy and Judy will look at what's available in Columbia and Jefferson City.

Regions can send in grant requests for the next round, but they must first send in their final reports for the last competition. Due date for final reports has been extended this year to Sept. 1. Two reports have been received – NE and NW. Peggy noted that since most teachers requested more training, she and Judy are asking that regions spend the grant on trainings during this next competition season.

Discussion was held again on providing regional plaques. The committee agreed to go back to the decision to have the regions buy their own plaques and get reimbursed by the state

committee. The plaques should have the logo, the region name and the year; and should be smaller than what the winners get at state. (about a 5 x 7) Peggy noted that there are at least two on-line companies that already have the logo (1,2,3 Awards and Things Remembered). She also will send the logo to region chairs in several formats.

Theresa made a motion to have the regions purchase their own plaques this year with up to \$60 reimbursed by the state committee, and with region plaques being less than 8 x 10 and including the logo, region name, placement and year. Lena second and motion carried.

This topic will be revisited next year.

Fundraising efforts continue. Peggy sent a request to the Department of Ag, through Richard Fordyce. She asked the committee to review a list of businesses to see if anyone has personal contacts at any of those businesses. Regions should let Judy know who they contact from the list. A \$1,000 donation was received from Canon. These gifts were given to all states and provinces this year because there was no national competition, and the National Conservation Foundation decided to share the money throughout the North American program.

The committee discussed an MOU between Mo Envirothon and MDNR for 2015. This MOU will be sent along with the funding request. The MOU outlines the duties required of Judy before and during the national event in Springfield, and requests approval for time and travel. Committee reviewed the MOU and made suggestions.

The committee discussed Rule 5e, which states that it is highly recommended that each team consist of 5 students....and that a 25 point reduction in the total score is received by teams who compete with less than 5. During the last competition, one team placed in the top three with only four members. That team did not receive the reduction in score before the winners were announced. Fortunately – the deduction in score would not have affected the placement of any of the teams, so there was no problem. However – the scoring room must be informed right away if a team registers with less than 5 members, shows up with less than 5 members, or tests without 5 members at any time during the competition. Team guides must be informed of this rule during orientation.

In absence of a national competition this year, Illinois is hosting a 2014 Stewardship Challenge, in which Missouri will participate. The KC Region team will compete with 9 other teams at Loyola University in Woodstock, Ill.

Theresa made a motion to provide \$300 for 2 committee members to travel to Illinois for the Stewardship Challenge. Andrea second and motion carried. Sandy said she would attend and would ask Heather if she was interested.

Peggy discussed items from the recent conference call between the NCF and state/province chairs. She said NCF would like to sign an MOU with the host states each year. Some discussion was had about the MOU, and about funding. They would like the host state to provide all the funding except for the scholarships. There was discussion on host and NCF splitting any profit if NCF gives money also. Paula asked that the committee receive a share commiserate with percentage of funds raised for the over-all event. NCF and committee decided to have the top 5 over-all teams re-present their orals, rather than the top 3 oral scores re- presenting.

Theresa said the next magazine will be much smaller, and asked if committee members had a student, coach or trainer in mind for a spotlight. Peggy suggested starting the magazine after the national competition each year.

Dave made a motion to adjourn at 12:10 pm, Lena second and meeting adjourned.