

# NFC Envirothon Operating Committee

## July 27, 2019 Summer Meeting Minutes

**Attendees: Committee Members:** Jeff Folger, Wendee Dodds, Millie Langley; Sid Lowrance; Kerin Hume; Shonny Nordlund; Becky Geneau; Jeanne Dryburgh; Lorelle Steach, Barry Burch, Andrea McKeown

**Staff: NACD:** Debbie Waycott; Jennifer Brooks

**Absent:** Tim Reich, Peggy Lemons

**NCF:**

**Guests:** Irval Keer

Steach opened the meeting at 9:11 AM EST.

Roll Call by Folger

**Minutes:** The minutes of the June conference call were reviewed  
Motion to accept as amended by Lowrance, second by Hume: vote unanimous.

### 2019 Event: N. Carolina: Langley

- Everything is under control.
- Volunteer participation is strong. Arrangements for all facets of the event are complete.
- We're ready.
- Fun day on Wednesday. Nine buses have been hired. All participants must take the buses. Hospitality room will be located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Arctic Hall dorm. An additional one will be located in the basement of the Lee dorm.
- The PLT workshop is maxed out, as is the Farm tour.

### NCF Updates: Brooks reported:

- The Strategic Planning process is underway. Check NACDnet.org to see updates.
- Dremmel is working with the new point of contact at the Forest Service to expand the grant from \$19k to \$84K which would include increased funding for diversity grants and outreach for green jobs.
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### NACD: Brooks reported

- The new conservation education hub will be up and running in the fall.
- Pollinator guide will be included.
- TA grants = \$18Mil over four years.
- Summer meeting in Santa Fe.
- Preparing for the Annual Meeting in Las Vegas at Bally's February 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Discussion on date conflicts with the Envirothon and the NACD summer meeting.
- Assisting the NC planning team with the summer event here.
- Visited Nebraska to meet with the NE planning team.
- Attended 8 state and provincial events this year to increase NACD presence and gain knowledge.
- Met with the Nat'l Soil survey headquarters in Lincoln, NE on next year's event. They are eager to assist.

**Public Relations Update:** Waycott reported:

- This will be her last summer event as staff. She will be retiring in December of 2019.
- She gave a re-cap of the program since exit of Canon as a prime sponsor.
- Envirothon, 2014 – NCF starts to pick up the pieces.
- 2018 Idaho - NCF-Envirothon gaining ground, hired a p/t Program Coordinator. Idaho had difficulties getting thing organized, but at the end of the day pulled things together:
- Off campus housing for students? swimming pools, meals/cafeteria etc.
- Off site was a great experience for the students.
- Evaluations were very good as good as Maryland and Montana. Some that stayed at the off-site housing were quite happy to be in that style of living with their students.
- NRCS donation was significant to the program.

What do we want to accomplish?

- Rewarding/Memorable education experience for the students
- Continue to build the strength of the program and promote around the world.

To build strength you need a couple of components, people and money! NRCS has been a great supporter of the program and contributed financially for the last couple of years to each host.

Idaho Envirothon did step up to the plate this year and gave the host NC \$ 1,000.00 and sponsored the cash awards for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> place. Idaho Envirothon should be congratulated for this contribution.

**Importance of Effective Communication** - *To effectively communicate, we must realize that we are all different in the way we perceive the world and use this understanding as a guide to our communication with others.*

**Membership Dues** – 51 States/Provinces plus 2 China = 53 - States/Provinces that paid \$550.00 – Indiana, Missouri, Nova Scotia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, China (2)

Late payments – New Hampshire, Newfoundland, Michigan Non-Payments: Louisiana, British Columbia. Most were paid in Dec-March. The late payments are states and province that are struggling for funds and they basically make sure they are sending a team before they pay their dues.

Funding seems to be an issue for a number of state/provinces - i.e. \$ 1,800.00 USD = \$2,750.00 Cdn.

Late payments of dues but they submit an Intent to Participate – creates issues when trying to plan for the Hosts.

Discussion on using the trade mark name without paying dues. Also an option can be added to the “Intent to Compete” form to pay the team registration at the same time. Those forms are usually mailed out in December. The timely receipt of the team registrations is important for cash flow during the planning process. A participating State or Province can register a team ahead of their event without actually knowing who will attend. How to stimulate early payment of team registrations?

Motion: Team registration will be increased if paid after March 31<sup>st</sup> by an additional \$150.00 by made Nordlund, second by Lowrance

Kudos to Ohio and Maryland for getting their registration submitted quickly and without issues!

Registration Payments – **NCF-Envirothon Policy Page 1 Host Responsibilities # 1**

Pre-registration forms and a non-refundable fee established by the Host and approved by the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) shall be submitted to the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon

office by a date set by the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon (NCFE). ***An additional 50% late fee may be imposed and enforced for registrations postmarked after this date.*** a. Registration Fees for the Annual Competition will be set by the Host

There is always a struggle to get a winning name/photo from the state/provincial representative. Check their social media and website some have not been updated for a couple of years. Perhaps due to change of staff at the state/provincial level? The winning teams/media coverage is posted on the MEDIA link of the Envirothon.org website.

**2019 Statistic forms** – 17 returned forms on file. (Potential Sponsors, and promotion of the program). 2019 Envirothon Statistics would be referred to as “soft statistics”. Quick snap of them:

**40 responses** – 15,323 Students

**FFA** 62.5% Qualifier/25% Qualifier for other groups/2.5%

**Regional** 13,234 Students 48.8% Males 51.2% female

**State** 4265 47%/ Males 53% /Female 997/Teachers

**High School Credit** 4/10% 90%/No 15/more information

**Oral Presentation** 36/95% Yes

**2019 Diversity Grants** – Checks were released early May. Slight hold up on the USFS release of funds. Discussions are ongoing for a revamping the application for the grants and the release of funds. More to be established early fall on the application process. i.e. 50% 1<sup>st</sup> payment, 40% Interim Report 10% Final Report.

**2019 Event Page** – **LIVE** July 22, 2109. Link on the homepage where daily newsletters and daily photos will be posted. The Event Guide is there and TBA links top three, score sheet etc.

**Gender Neutral – Registration: Gender Identity** Example - *Gender-inclusive housing is a policy that affords all Cornell students the option to live on campus with whomever they choose, regardless of biological sex, gender, or gender identity. Please scroll down to learn more about the history of gender-inclusive housing at Cornell.*

**National Conservation Foundation Envirothon Annual Competition is offered and operated on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, origin, sex, age, marital status or physical/mental challenges. All team and participants will be treated with the utmost of respect and fairness.**

Discussion on gender identification issues: The consensus is to accommodate.

Motion: The Host must anticipate and accommodate for gender issues and a “self describe” check-off box will be added to the registration form. Made by Nordlund, second by Hume. Vote unanimous.

**Background Clearance –**

Policy? Next year Nebraska will require us to provide the school with the names of all participants and they will do their own background clearances. Is this common practice in the US?

**Language Policy Page 3 - # V**

Official Language English shall be the designated official language of the NCF Envirothon. If at such time, a team qualifies to participate at the NCFE that English is not their first language a formal request, no later than thirty (30) days prior to the event, may be made to the NCFE to provide the following:

1. Study materials and documents in first language

2. Written field tests and answer keys in first language
3. Oral presentation scenario provided to the team in first language and English Page 4 of 4 – NCFE Program Policies - Adopted July 29, 2015 4. Bilingual judges or translation services in order for delivery of presentation in their first language. NCF and State/Province sending a non-English speaking team may negotiate the expenses and needs for translation services for these teams. All language scenarios other than English will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the NCFEOC.

**Website** – Current Website 2019 Competition page updated with new teams and media announcement. While doing this updating the “page in progress” which hopefully will be ready to launch soon. It has been on the back burner somewhat with all the competitions, registrations, registration page updates. etc. Launch of the new website - Early September

**Hall of Fame:** Request for Nominations has been sent out – Deadline JUNE 15, 2019. New award for educators/advisors: **The Wave of the Future Award**

**North Carolina Host Committee - Ongoing Daily** – State Specific Resources to be posted by April 15, 2019. Working with the group to get this in order and posted

**Social Media: Facebook** – Muddy Monday, Tree Tuesday, Wild Wednesday, Throwback Thursday. Twitter- Traffic has increased.

Request: Minutes from the Winter/Summer meetings - Will be send these out?

*Positive Echoes of Envirothon continue to ring on and the great work that everyone does in their own special way.*

Break – 11:35 to 12:45

### **Rules and Regs review:**

A full review was made the Rule and regulations pertaining to the Event. Revisions will be discussed at the State/Province Rep meeting on Thursday.

Eligibility changes will be made by the whole Operating Committee within an appropriate time frame.

### **Host Guide Review:**

- Oral Presentations moving forward: trending toward use of PowerPoint for visuals.
- Background Clearances: Level of review? Who makes the decision? To be determined by the Host. Include on the Host Check List.
- Code of Conduct certification for volunteers was reviewed and will be used for future events. To be re-visited at the winter meeting.
- Immunization reporting, is it required? Can't require.
- **Housing policy:**
- Students should not be housed with students from another school. Should this go into the host guide? No, leave it as is, handle on a case by case basis.
- Competition resource guidelines for the host: the committee reviewed the recommendations for the host guide. Motion: “approve the recommendation with changes on #2-a, should to shall and limit the number of videos to 10 for all stations” made by McKeown, second by Nordlund. Vote unanimous.
- Caution should be taken to publicize the specific location for event with an eye on security of the locations.

## **Committee Reports:**

- Diversity Grants: Look to expand the program with new amounts.
- CAT: Dodds reported: Instruction have been distributed to volunteers. The group will meet on Sunday to review the training and testing areas.
- Scoring: Hume reported: Six volunteers are needed to check scores on Thursday and Friday. Tests will be available on Tuesday night and Thursday at Sullivan Hall.
- Education: Updates of the Study guides will take an effort to determine if the content desired by the Committee should be changed, or just have the existing references established to new links.

## **Future Competitions:**

### **2020: Nebraska** – Dryburg reported

- July 26 through August 1.
- The PowerPoint option will be used and be the only option. The scenario will be released to participating States/Provinces prior to the event. Teams will bring a completed presentation to the event. Discussion will take place at the Rep meeting on Thursday.
- Travel into Omaha or Lincoln airports.
- Downtown campus. Student and advisors in traditional dorms. Volunteers in suites.
- Training objectives will be available in the fall.

### **2021: New Brunswick:**

- Sackville campus. July 25 to July 31
- Reviewing training and testing sites.
- Current Issue: Climate change.
- Fly into Moncton – shuttle to campus.

### **2022: Ohio**

- Undecided yet on a location.
- Persons from the planning team are present this week to learn the ropes.

## **Other Business**

Tasks for the week:

Registration – meet at 11am at Lee Hall

Opening and Closing Ceremonies – Steach, greeting

Closing - Gene Schmidt Master of Ceremonies

Scholarship \$\$ for 1<sup>st</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> places

Smithfield – 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup> place

Idaho Ethon – 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place

Soil Health institute – 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> place

NASCA – 8<sup>th</sup> place

Training requests for early arriving teams: Help host handle requests

There is one nomination for the Operating Committee

Conf. Call via doodle poll in September.

Winter meeting in Las Vegas – February 8 and 9 at Bally's Hotel

**Adjourn – 4:30PM**