

NFC Envirothon Operating Committee

April 9, 2019 Conference Call Minutes

NCF Envirothon Operating Committee Members: Sid Lowrance (AR), Millie Langley (NC), Wendee Dodds (OH), Lorelle Steach (PA), Jeff Folger (CT), Shonny Nordlund (MT), Jeanne Dryburgh (NE), Andrea McKeown (MO),

NCF Members: Debbie Waycott (NS), Peggy Lemons (NCF), Laura Demmel (NACD), Jennifer Brooks (NACD)

Absent: Barry Burch (MD), Becky Geneau (NB), Kerin Hume (DE)

Steach opened the meeting at 10:33 AM EST.

Roll Call by Folger

Minutes: The minutes of the February 2 & 3 meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept as amended by Lowrance, second by Langley: vote unanimous.

NACD Updates: Dremmel

- The Next Generation Institute is still in the planning stage. It will launch in the fall of 2019. NCF will develop an advisory committee. The plan is to have seven participants from each NACD region. Ray Ledgerwood will act as facilitator for future presentations.
- Funding: Continued sponsor solicitation. Cabot Creamery has an interest, possible in-kind assistance. She asked for inspirational stories to include with a sponsor request.
- No report on Operations Committee vacancy recruitment.
- Working on an annual report – hope to finalize for the San Antonio meeting.

NCF Updates: Brooks

- Future host guide revisions are a work in progress. They will revise the host timeline to be consistent with the MOU for Nebraska.
- Diversity Grants: the 2019 \$\$ have been disbursed. They are busy wrapping up the past projects and getting final reports. More work needs to be done to collect metrics to quantify benefits.
- Brooks will be visiting various State and Provincial events starting this year.
- She will attend the PLT international conference in Little Rock to widen outreach and visibility of the program.

Public Relations Updates: Waycott.

Membership Dues – 48 states/provinces have paid. Six states have paid \$ 550.00. Indiana, Ohio, Nova Scotia, Missouri, Pennsylvania West Virginia. (\$18,400.) NH, Michigan, BC, NL, Louisiana

Intent to Participate – Official 52 submitted. China (+1), Louisiana, NL New Possible 55 teams. Louisiana – competition is April 13 after the competition they will confirm participation in NC.

State/Provincial Competitions: March - 4, April - 20 May - 24, June - 2

Diversity Grants - 2019 Diversity Grants have been awarded. Jennifer/Laura met with Sue Cumming in March on continued funding. Sue Cummings is officially retired now.

	Request	Awarded
USA		
Missouri	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Arizona	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Texas	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Virginia	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00

New Brunswick – Awarded \$ 1,500.00

We are having discussion on revamping the application for the grants and the release of funds. i.e. 50% 1st payment, 40% Interim Report 10% Final Report.

Registration – Registration went **LIVE** March 15, 2019. This was to accommodate the states having competitions in March.

State coordinators will receive an email a few days prior to their event to help explain the registration process. And, remind them to submit their 2019 statistics.

Advisors - Option to get a single room \$ 100.00. Students do not have this option. Once they select Advisor the option for the single room pops up.

Required Registration Questions:

- Single Room/Advisor Yes/No
- Early Arrival Yes/No
- PLT Workshop Yes/No
- Oral Presentation Format Traditional/ Power Point
- Training Schedule - Yes/No

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Required Team Certification Questions: As the state/provincial coordinator have you discuss all the above with your team and the appropriate payments are being submitted. There will be a charge for the PLT workshop \$20.00 /per advisor. This money will go directly back to the NCF-Envirothon program. It is hoped that the cost of the workshop will be covered by the state/provincial coordinator as thank you to the advisor(s). (\$500-600.00)

State/Provincial coordinators should be talking with their teams regarding the oral presentation format and making sure they have filled out the training schedule.

Each registration form Teams/Guest has the costs at the top of each form and a statement on the refund policy. Deadlines for registration etc.

Request the Operating Committee to please contact your states within your region and discuss 1. Registration, 2. Early Arrivals 4. Payments 5. The importance of submitting their

2019 Statistic forms. (Potential Sponsors, and promotion of the program) “*Facts are stubborn things, but **statistics** are pliable.*”

Website

Process of totally re-doing the website using Word Press. The current website is done in Joomla and is difficult software to work with and requires lots of codes etc.

The current website has over 600 pages way too many pages. But, it was the only source of marketing that the Envirothon program has from 2014. It was suggested by some of you that we include various items to help with the marketing. i.e. Smithfield Foods, the early days they wanted proof of what the Envirothon was and the number of students involved. Hence the Local competition pages.

Launch of the new website - Behind schedule

Starting and Maintaining a Program – Useful?

- We are going to move some of the top menu tabs i.e. currently the first tab is Competition, first tab will change to ABOUT, then Competition.
- Fact Sheet – needs to be redone?

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**

2019 Envirothon Statistics- The request has been sent out, and when we send out the registration email there is a reminder there also for people about their statistics.

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 i.e. listing of past Envirothon competitions and Current Topics.

Twitter- Traffic has increased.

List-serve – Reminders for people to follow up on Social Media.

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

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.

Events:

2019 Event - North Carolina: Langley

- \$135K on hand with some outstanding pledges. NRCS has pledged \$\$ as well.

- There has been a change in the volunteer coordinator position. Volunteer recruitment is going well, including the judges.
- Field sites: Contingencies for severe weather are being planned for. (Tornados and T storms).
- The state specific study resources are being finalized and will be sent to Waycott for listing on the web site.
- Tests are being finalized.
- Judge training will be done in advance with additional judges on hand if needed.
- The PLT workshop will be held on sequestration day for Advisors. The focus will be on GIS resources. 30 attendees will be the max with a \$20 fee collected to insure attendance. This will be paid at registration.
- The contract from NC State has been received and is being reviewed. NC State is requiring background checks for volunteers. This will be clarified.
- Necessary rooms needed for various tasks and events have been acquired.

2020 Event – Nebraska: Dryburgh

- Various internal committees are meeting to plan tasks.
- They received the MOU from the NCF. Brooks and Steach will be visiting the site in June.
- They are also working the University on severe weather contingencies.

2021 Event - New Brunswick: Geneau - No report.

2022 Event: - Ohio: Dodds - No report.

Committee Reports:

Education Committee: Folger – no report

CAT: Dryburgh

- She asked for Ops Comm members who want to volunteers to contact her.

Scoring: Hume – no report

Rules: Langley – no report

New Business:

- *Discussion on quorum issues with current Committee vacancies, and challenges for recruitment: Committee members' expenses to attend the winter and summer meeting can be a limiting factor. Could member travel expenses be a possible sponsor item?*
- Competition guidelines for future hosts: Discussion on the amount of resource material that can be disbursed for student study. The consensus was 100 pages per station (double sided) max. To be further discussed/finalized in June.
- # of videos or # on minutes of video? Determined at the next meeting.
- Web site links: any website links being required must be saved as a pdf in case the web site disappears.
- Are the station test content percentages still current? Discussion in June.

Next meeting – Early June.

Adjourn – 12:10 PM