

NFC Envirothon Operating Committee

July 22, 2017 Summer Meeting Minutes, Emmitsville, MD

Attendees: Committee Members: ,; Jeff Folger; Jessica Kaknevicius; Patricia Pohrebniuk; Wendee Zadanski; Millie Langley; Sid Lowrance; Lorelle Steach; Dana Collins; Kerin Hume; Shonny Nordlund; Ron Hellstern; Jeanne Dryburgh

Staff: NACD: Debbie Waycott; Melisa Augusto; Carly Burton

Absent:; Tim Reich

NCF: Peggy Lemons;

Guests: Irval Keen, Diane Olson

Langley opened the meeting at 10:04 AM EST.

Roll Call by Folger

Minutes: The minutes of the June conf. call were reviewed
Motion to accept by Steach, second by Hume: vote unanimous.

NCF Updates: Augusto reported:

- Melisa introduced Carly Burton from Kentucky as the part-time Programs Manager.
- Reviewed the Ops Comm member expiring terms.
- Rich Duesterhaus will no longer be involved with the NCF and Ethon. He will be handling other tasks for NACD

Public Relations Update: Waycott reported:

- She announced plans to retire as of December 2018.
- 54 teams participating which include 2 teams from China. 86 guests have registered with 75 staying onsite.
- Still need more communication between Regional reps and the State/Prov rep.
- The front page of the website has been changed back to Event news. Suggest a FAQ on the website.
- Discussion on issues with registration. Internal vs external process changes
- Team listing and pictures posted on the website
- Social media: has been active on May, June, and July. Both Twitter and Facebook have contained info on the Maryland event.
- Host committee communications: Recommendation – Create a standard event guide with host specific info plugged in.
- Host guide: strive to follow the dates listed for task items.

Accessibility for All Participants:

- The Maine student accommodation has been addressed.
- The student's Mom will be present at training day and will accompany the student on the periphery.
- Access to all phases of the training session may not be possible.
- Trainer will make every reasonable accommodation to allow the student access.

- Note-taker will only stay with the student.
- An announcement will be made to all advisors.
- The NCF will meet with the student and caretaker prior to the start of the competition to discuss agreed upon guidelines.

Transgender:

- Discussion – Add to registration form.
- Recommend a policy be set by the NCF
- Motion to seek legal counsel by Pohrebniuk, second by Nordlund. Vote unanimous.

Review of the Role of the Operation Committee:

- Guidelines were adopted in 2014
- Steach reviewed items of the policy.
- Members are responsible for communication with Reps within their region.
- There is a need for members to take a bigger role in local communication regionally.
- Discussion on delivering a consistent message.
- There is a request for a letter from the NCF to State/Provincial reps to explain the line of communication thru the regional reps.
- Suggestion on making the website easier to determine the regional contacts

Committee Reports:

- ED Committee: Hellstern:
Hellstern submitted proposal comments on Current Issue community projects.
Made contact with the National Wildlife Foundation to explore possible partnership.
He presented an outline of a project based scenario to be incorporated in the oral presentations.
Discussion on pros and cons.
Possible voluntary competition sponsored by NCF with a prize.
Use a project program to parallel the academic competition but still be Envirothon.
Possible Middle School as well.
Motion: Recommend to the NCF to develop an Ethon community service project separate from the academic competition either individual or team based: by Kaknevicious, second by Pohrebniuk. Vote unanimous.
- CAT – Pohrebniuk reported:
Volunteers will meet at 9AM on Sunday to review training and testing sites.
- Scoring: Hume:
Meet after Thursday's State/Prov. Rep meeting to start scoring.
- Rules and Regs.: Pohrebniuk
Suggested changes to minor guests were reviewed – add that chaperones for minor guests cannot leave campus w/o their minor.
Motion: Recommend to the NCF to adopt the suggested changes to the rules and regulations by Steach, second by Lowrance.
- Logo: Folger, no report.
- Discussion on Advisor and chaperone participation. Where there are two advisors present, and a chaperone is also present to fulfill the requirement for supervision for both sexes, the two advisors would be allowed to attend all advisor functions.

2017: Maryland – Burch reported:

- Site review is available to all.
- All testing and training stations will have shade recycle containers and water available
- Lunch on-site will be available for the students at the training and testing stations.
- Opening ceremony review
- Fun day – group photos at the Lincoln memorial, then drop off at the National Mall for 6 hours. Then off to Sandy Point State Park for sea food and burgers. A life guard will be on duty for swimmers.
- Two locations will be used for the oral scenario training. The oral scenarios will be given to the teams on the bus ride back.
- Medical at all of the sites.
- The final three oral presenters will be videoed..
- Friday supper in the cafeteria, then go to the awards ceremony.

Future Competitions:

2018 Event: Idaho: No Report

2019: North Carolina – Langley reported:

- NC presentation on the Thursday meeting.

2020: Nebraska – Dryburg reported

- The Nebraska Conservation Districts have pledged \$280K so far

2021: No Report

Other Business:

- Thursday meeting: invite guests to speak first. Possible “Kahoots” presentation.
- Strategic Planning outline was presented by Kaknevious

Adjourn – 3:57PM