

DRAFT NFC Envirothon Operating Committee DRAFT

June 5, 2019 Conference Call Minutes

NCF Envirothon Operating Committee Members: Sid Lowrance (AR), Millie Langley (NC), Wendee Dodds (OH), Lorelle Steach (PA), Jeff Folger (CT),,,Jeanne Dryburgh (NE), Kerin Hume (DE), Jeff Folger (CT)

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

Absent: Barry Burch (MD), Shonny Nordlund (MT), Andrea McKeown (MO)

Steach opened the meeting at 1:32 AM EST.

Roll Call by Folger

Minutes: The minutes of the April 9th meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept as amended by Lowrance, second by Dryburgh: vote unanimous.

NACD Updates: Brooks

- Busy with numerous questions on the summer event.
- She has visited with various state committees, lots of travel.
- She presented at the international PLT conference on Ethon. Good connections were made.
- A draft of a newsletter will be released soon.

NACD Updates: Dremmel

- Sponsor/fundraising – connected with 125 organizations with varying levels of awareness of the Ethon program. Potential sponsors include the Arbor Day Foundation, and EHS. She had a good interaction with the new Forest Service liaison, Iris Valez. She seeks to expand the FS agreement beyond the diversity grant program.
- She would like to meet with State and Provincial reps on increasing partnerships with local and national entities.
- 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 – 49 states/provinces paid. 53 States/Provinces plus 2 China = 55

Intent to Participate – Official 52 submitted. Waiting to hear back from Louisiana and New Hampshire believe Newfoundland will be coming to NC - 4,

State/Provincial Competitions: Ohio and Maryland left for the month of June.

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??

Possible Grant option if we could find some extra money is perhaps offer grants to the state/provinces to update their Envirothon websites/social media etc. ?

2019 Diversity Grants - Checks were released early May.

2018 Final Diversity Grants are due end of June. Jennifer has been in contact with Sue Cummings replacement and moving the file along for the next season. After NC one of the items on the agenda is to revamp the Diversity Grant Application and Requirements. We will need to discuss this further at the OC summer meeting in July.

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.

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

June 4: *18 completed Team Certifications, 19 State/Provinces - No registration on file.*

The remainder have uncompleted team registrations

2 have registered for the Traditional Format for Oral Presentation – TX & MS

Completed Registrations – 9 /PLT Workshop

Background Clearance – Majority have them through their school. A couple of states are working through the process now to have them in place for NC. (ie. Delaware, MS, Nebraska will require assistance from NC State)

Typical calls and changes, changing of advisors/chaperones, costs, shuttle, training schedule for 4 person team, request for invoices, discussion on total invoices. ie. early arrival, single rooms, workshop additions.

2019 Statistic forms – 17 returned forms on file. (Potential Sponsors, and promotion of the program) *“Facts are stubborn things, but **statistics** are pliable.”*

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 - Behind schedule

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

Twitter- Traffic has increased.

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.

“Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.” ~ Mother Teresa

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

Events:

2019 Event - North Carolina: Langley

- The contract with NC State has been signed and the deposit paid.
- Working out the little details.
- Working on completing the event guide.
- Background checks: NC State has a new policy/guidelines. All Advisors will be contacted by the NC State HR Dept. They will run the check as if the Advisors are new employees.
- Finances looks good. She confirmed the contribution from NRCS.
- Smithfield will sponsor the educational fun day on the coast. Aquarium, Fort Macon, etc. No swimming due to safety concerns, SHARKS.
- NCF is preparing the plaques and the prose \$\$.
- She discussed volunteer staffing and integrating folks from future host states/provinces.

2020 Event – Nebraska: Dryburgh

- They are looking forward to the June 18 visit by Brooks and Steach.
- Plans are progressing

2021 Event - New Brunswick: Geneau - .

- Recruitment for volunteers is underway.
- Good cooperation from the University.
- Working on a budget and securing partnerships.

2022 Event: - Ohio: Dodds –

- Venue selection is underway.
- Ohio folks will be attending the NC program to learn about the event.

Committee Reports:

Education Committee: Folger –

- Will be compiling a list of forestry tools: What’s used and what is not by professional foresters.

CAT: Dryburgh

- Compiling volunteers.
- Dodds will take the lead this year.

Scoring: Hume –

- Will coordinate with Langley.

Rules: Steach – discussion at the summer meeting.

New Business: None

Let Steach know about items to include on the Summer Agenda

Next meeting – July 27th in North Carolina.

Adjourn – 2:45 PM