

NCF Envirothon Operating Committee Minutes
June 8, 2022 - Virtual Meeting via Zoom

1. Millie called meeting to order time: 12:03pm EST.
2. Brooke Called Roll:
 - a. Committee Members in attendance: Jacqueline Monteith, Becky Geneau, Wendee Dodds, Millie Langley, Brooke Myres, Shonny Nordlund, Carrie Milligan, Debbie Waycott, Kerin Hume,
 - b. NCFE Staff in attendance: Jennifer Brooks, Stephanie Tolar
 - c. Guests: Karla Maldonado (NACD)
3. Approval of February 2022 Meeting Minutes – Kerin moved to approve, Shonny seconded – no discussion – all in favor – motion carried
4. O.C. Membership Update
 - a. Millie - Several vacancies need addressed
 - b. Jennifer confirmed vacancies – 2nd Midwestern seat and 2nd Northeastern seat
 - c. Try to recruit someone at the NCFE Competition
5. NCF Update
 - a. Jennifer – no updates from NCF
6. NCF-Envirothon Program Manager Update
 - a. Registration is in full swing, lots of new people requiring lots guidance
 - b. Actively working with Ohio and New York
 - c. Staying very busy
7. NCF-Envirothon Education Specialist Update
 - a. Stephanie – posted 2022 Ohio study resources for all areas at the beginning of May (over 600 pages)– including part b of current issue – more detailed and site specific
 - b. Collaboration with Ohio committee on test, training, and oral presentation plan is slightly behind schedule but moving along
 - c. Outreach
 - i. Cohosted College and Career Showcase Webinar with University of Delaware, College of Ag and Natural Resources as part of their sponsor package – included speakers from college and Envirothon alumni,

students explored how UofD connects to Envirothon curriculum, values, and goals – most attendees were from NE and MW, recording posted on NCFE YouTube Channel

- ii. iNaturalist promotion during Soil and Water Stewardship Week through NACD eResource highlight
 - 1. currently have 114 members with 1,731 observation of 942 species from 37 states and provinces
 - 2. iNaturalist forestry activity to help with team training and identification skills
- iii. Future competitions – met with 2023 NB Education committee and reviewing their resources. Also, reviewed some materials provided by NY trying to decide on current topic.

8. Karla Maldonado – came on meeting as guest and provided an update – she's working on payments getting processed as quickly as possible, NCFE Competition insurance to be compliant, Jennifer and Stephanie doing a great job!

9. Competition Updates/Presentations

a. 2022 Ohio

i. Wendee –

- 1. Education Committee – getting where it needs to be
- 2. Very comfortable with status with university
- 3. Biggest concern – number of teams we plan to have

ii. Jennifer –

- 1. currently at 45 teams (3 teams unconfirmed)(33 paid)
 - a. Unconfirmed teams- Chinese teams may attend, will confirm tomorrow and Canada team (likely will be able to attend)
- 2. 39 guests registered to attend – including oc members
- 3. Reminders have been sent to teams who have missing registration items

iii. Jacqueline – mentioned that some schools still do not have permission to travel internationally – teacher may try to make it a club to attend

outside of school restrictions – if they are not able to attend they will receive scholarships instead of competition sponsorship

1. Are other international teams going? – Debbie – Nova Scotia was not given permission to travel; Becky – New Brunswick is allowed; Jennifer – Ontario given permission to go; Debbie – Prince Edward Island is attending
- iv. Baby with chaperones discussion – if it is a small baby (under 1) that can be carried and taken places as long as in a single room they can attend in that room
- v. Jennifer –
 1. Host meeting Monday – likely last one – all coming together in the Knick of time; Does Wendee need volunteers? We can open it up to guests if needed, Wendee will let Jennifer know. Advisors tours is a big question being asked...

b. 2023 New Brunswick

i. Becky –

1. education committee – first draft of resources due this week – all but 2 are submitted, WELL DONE to Ohio their group is using materials as examples
2. Committee members and University service manager plan to attend Ohio and serve on CAT team
3. Gathering quotes and watching budget with gas prices
4. All committees at least meeting monthly
5. Plan to drive the route for education fun day to explore the pitstops and route

- ii. Jennifer – theme is “adapting to a changing climate” with summary, dates, and location on website

c. 2024 New York

- i. Jennifer – Keith Owens and Jennifer went to NY Envirothon and observed the first half of their competition and saw the college - beautiful college, cute town in upstate new York, downtown is being renovated, NY team

very excited and enthusiastic, concerned about funding, NCF is exploring options of how they can help them along,

ii. two requests/questions from NY–

1. top oral presentations – top 3 presentation scores verses overall scores; proposed this compromise – if top preliminary oral presentation teams are not the top three overall scores then that team can represent their oral presentation for exhibition purposes – will not affect score (usually this is not an issue); committee had a discussion of the pros and cons of this compromise. Other potential options include: record and present video during intermission or during other down time, record and post on website as a training resource, recognize the team during the OP presentation announcement. No motion made - committee will readdress at summer meeting.
2. New program policy set in February limiting where the host could have their training and testing site – competition **training** and testing site should not include any state Envirothon program within 4 years of the competition – NY has used the planned training site for many years as a testing site. They would like to still be able to use this area for the training day because they are concerned about cost of buses to go offsite. Testing site will be off site. NY would like an exemption or they will have to find another location to utilize – discussion was had on the pros and cons. No motion made - committee will readdress at summer meeting.

10. Future Host discussion

a. 2025 & beyond

- i. Jennifer – no one is officially lined up for 2025
- ii. Carrie - planning for 2026 in Utah – working with permissions though the powers that be – biggest concern is funding
- iii. Millie – talk it up with future potential hosts

11. O.C. Standing Committee Reports

a. Competition Advisory Team (CAT) - Wendee/Jeanne (co-chair)

- i. No update – Carrie is cochair
- b. Scoring Committee - Kerin (chair)
 - i. No update – will need to grab people for help with scoring once in OH (test givers go through and grade the tests, the committee goes through and double checks and adds things up once exams are available)
 - ii. Jennifer – asked Kerin to include Stephanie in process so she is aware of how it works
- c. Diversity Grants Committee – Jennifer
 - i. \$8,000 awarded for 3 projects – more than \$17,000 in surplus of funds with limited time to spend it – NCFE plans to do a special projects initiative this summer with funds: “New Envirothon’s Programs Diversity Grant” – provide seed money for territories and states that have never had a program
- d. Education Committee - Debbie (chair)
 - i. Debbie - Communicating with Stephanie – reviewing tests
- e. Rules/Program Policies Committee - Millie (chair)
 - i. No report

12. Old Business

- a. none

13. New Business

- a. Be aware of upcoming dates -

Save the Dates:

- 2022 NACD Summer Conservation Forum and Tour – July 16-19, 2022; San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 2022 NCF-Envirothon Ohio annual competition – July 24 - 30, 2022; Miami University, Oxford, Ohio
 - O.C. Summer Meeting – Saturday, July 23, 2022 -> 9-4pm ET
 - O.C. members can arrive on campus on Friday, July 24, 2022 -> if you registered for the 2-day Early Arrival option during the Guest Registration process.
 - State/Provincial/Partner Nation Envirothon Representatives Meeting – Thursday, July 28, 2-5pm -> *need to know if there are any special topic items we should spend time covering. FYI, we have several new representatives.*

***Let Jennifer know by July 1 if you need to attend OC Summer Meeting virtually

Discussion on State Rep meeting on Thursday of Competition

- Jennifer -showcase how Delaware sponsorship has gone and ask if there are other colleges reps know about that may be interested
- Stephanie – update on iNaturalist and other educational programs
- Share fairs talking about how events are run – what works and doesn't work for Envirothon programs
- Send a poll asking what reps would like to see at meeting – possibly have really popular poll items as breakouts throughout the week –
- NCF Envirothon 101
- Information shared with new reps at NCFE registration table to give them info about the week – what they are expected to attend
- Set up categories throughout the room – maybe 4 – that small groups rotate around and have discussions – then have them write ideas on posits and then share about the recap at the end
- Share a slide at the beginning telling people to think about biggest challenge their program has faced and how it was overcome or biggest question they have as a new person – open dialogue

Any other business – none.

Meeting adjourned time: 1:36pm

Respectfully submitted, Brooke Myres