

Meeting Minutes
NCF-Envirothon Operating Committee Meeting
May 4, 2023

Action item of committee underlined and bold

- Attendees: Millie Langley (chair), Wendee Dodds (vice chair), Brooke Myres (recorder), Mark Hedge, Becky Geneau, Carrie Milligan, Ashley Melvin, Shonny Nordlund, Megan Grimes, and Debbie Waycott. Staff present: Jennifer Brooks and Stephanie Tolar.
- Call to Order – Roll Call – quorum present
- Approval of February 2023 Meeting Minutes - motion to approve as long as location is added to the top by Shonny – Megan seconded – all in favor – **motion approved**
- O.C. Membership Update
 - Welcome Megan Grimes and Ashley Melvin to the committee.
 - Nomination for at-large seat – Kelley Farrar – motion to accept nomination to move forward to NCFE Board – seconded by Debbie – discussion – she will be a great addition – has 15 years experience with watersheds – very social media savvy – all in favor – **motion approved**
 - Nomination will be submitted to the NCF Exec Board for final approval at next meeting held.
- NCF Update
 - NCF held a Spring Fundraising campaign to coincide with Earth Day.
 - looking into having a campaign that is peer-to-peer related, social media based, more network based to make fundraising teams
 - Full BoT meeting next Thursday (May 11) at 7pm
- NCF-Envirothon Program Manager Update
 - We currently have 52 Envirothon program members - with China and Singapore each allowed to send up to 3 teams to the annual competition, the max # of teams at the 2023 event could be 58, but that is unlikely to happen due to travel restrictions and overall cost of airfare.
 - 2023 registration forms, event guide, and 5 subject area study resources for the 2023 competition are now online.
 - Program Member Flag Inventory – Recently inventoried all the state/provincial flags and updated several that were stained/torn, as well as purchasing a few new handheld poles and new poles/stands for the 4 country flags to be on display in July. Plan to replace a number of flags and poles each year so that they are all updated over the next couple years.
- NCF-Envirothon Education Specialist Update
 - All study resources are available on website.
 - Working on 2023 tests, OP scenario, and training plans.

- 2024 – current issue announced! “Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future”
- Key topics and learning objectives for 2024 (released Fall 2023) working on these.
- Still working on National Standard correlation of materials.
- Competition Updates/Presentations
 - 2023 New Brunswick – presented by Becky
 - Update on 2023 planning
 - Meeting with full host committee this weekend and walking test site on Saturday
 - 15-passenger vans are NOT available for rent in Canada, mini-vans/SUVs will be only option for teams, book EARLY!
 - Info on tours and shuttles will be released soon!
 - Reviewed virtual map of M.A. campus
 - No A/C, bring fan
 - Teams need to consider their phone plans to make sure they work in CA
 - Sched app will be used and send out push notifications (new this year)
 - 2024 New York – presented by Jennifer & Stephanie
 - Reminder, the team registration fee will go up to \$2,300 starting in 2024
 - 2024 CI theme and corresponding blurb now online
 - Staying in touch with Blanche/NY on progress, fundraising, etc.
 - Education: Stephanie working with education committee
- Future Host discussion
 - 2025 & beyond:
 - Still no host for 2025, need to develop a plan in case no one volunteers
 - Would like to plan a Reps meeting for end of May/early June to answer any questions about the 2023 event, but also discuss what it means to be a Host.
 - Biggest hurdle being total cost the Host is asked to raise.
 - Would NRCS be willing to offer \$125K as a dedicated host grant (mentioned Astor Boozer discussion)
 - Could NCFE draft a letter to give to state reps to give to state NRCS to advocate funding
 - Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife, what other federal agencies could be great partners
 - Poll of OC for Reps meeting date: May 31, 1-3pm ET selected.
- O.C. Standing Committee Reports

- Competition Advisory Team (CAT) – presented by Wendee
 - Wendee will not be able to attend 2023 event, Carrie to ask as CAT lead during the 2023 competition. Small group to meet immediately following this meeting to discuss plans.
- Scoring Committee – Ashley Melvin to serve as committee chair and be lead on site during the 2023 competition.
- Diversity Grants Committee – presented by Jennifer
 - 2022: projects wrapping by 7/1/23
 - 2023: See attached DG report
 - Total of 13 applications, 7 approved for funding (total of \$25,400 in funds)
 - 2024+: working with Alice Cohen to develop the next year agreement
 - Stephanie will be transitioning into the DG staff lead beginning with 2024 cycle.
- Education Committee – presented by Stephanie
 - no new committee activity
- Rules/Program Policies Committee – presented by Millie
 - Review of O.C. Guidelines * – *see attachment for proposed revisions*
 - Motion to approve revisions was made by Megan and seconded by Mark - **motion approved**
- Old Business – none at this time
- New Business – none at this time
- Next Meeting – Saturday, July 22, 9am - 5pm in person in New Brunswick, Canada