



DRAFT Meeting Minutes
of the
**Coalition for Conservation
and
Environmental Education**

10:30 a.m.
April 12, 2010
Public Works Building, Bismarck ND

Members Present:

Dr. Clarence Bina – Lewis & Clark Wildlife Club
Glenda Fauske – ND Forest Service-PLT
Dr. Christina Hargiss – North Dakota State University
Diane Olson – Envirothon Coordinator
Carol Peterson – NRCS RC&D
Scott Schaffnit – State Historical Society of ND
Bill Sharff – ND State Water Commission-Project Wet
Christy Smith – ND Department of Health
Ted Poppke – ND Department of Health
Wendy Wollmuth – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Vice-President Christina Hargiss called the regular spring C2E2 meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Hargiss explained Dr. Marilyn Snyder retired from her C2E2 presidential position, which coincided with her retirement from the State Historical Society. Glenda Fauske volunteered to take the meeting minutes since the secretary/treasurer could not attend.

Hargiss gave the official welcome and we went around the room and gave introductions as we had a new guest, Ted Poppke from the ND Department of Health.

Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes of the regular fall C2E2 meeting were approved as circulated.

Treasurer's Report

Hargiss went over the treasurer's report. As of March 31, 2010, our checking account had a balance of \$27,517.91 and our total account balance (does not include in-kind) was \$78,046.07. Wendy Wollmuth moved we approve the treasurer's report. Scott Schaffnit seconded it. Motion carried.

Sheyenne-James RC&D Report

Peterson reported the RC&D donated \$500 to the 2010 Envirothon.

Un-Finished/On-Going Business

Dues

Earth Day (or annual spring C2E2 meeting) is targeted as the time of the year when the annual membership dues should be paid. Several in attendance submitted their checks and some asked to have an invoice sent so payment could be made. Membership dues can be sent to Sarah Tunge, % ND Forest Service, 1037 Forestry Drive, Bottineau ND 58318.

Soil Cards

Fauske reported the cost of printing the soil cards has been exceeded and several soil cards had been sold while at the spring State Science Conference. We have about 600 soil cards left to sell, which will be all profit for C2E2.

Science Olympiad Picture Frames

Fauske did get approval at the fall 2009 meeting to purchase picture frames for 2010, but forgot to follow-up with this effort this spring. We'll begin recognition next year in 2011.

Science Fair Ribbons

Fauske reported many of the regional Science Fairs are consolidating and so instead of purchasing 13 ribbons for recognition of outstanding environmental projects, C2E2 is down to purchasing only 9 ribbons. We will be giving a ribbon and \$50 US savings bond to the State Science junior and senior winners in May.

Fauske shared a letter, photo and report thanking C2E2 for their ribbon and recognition from Nicholas Knoblich of Ashley Public School.

National Youth Science Camp

This is the tenth year the Governor has appointed Fauske, on behalf of C2E2, to select two outstanding high school seniors for the National Youth Science Camp scholarships. Seth Grundstad of Williston High School and Wyatt Mack of Hope High School were selected as the two delegates from North Dakota. The governor's office made the official news release on March 3, 2010.

NEW BUSINESS

2010 Envirothon

Olson reported we will have 21 full teams and 2 alternate teams at the 2010 competition. We will have new Envirothon pins with a buffalo on it and T-shirts, which were paid for by a grant from the Bureau of Land Management. We are in need of a golf cart to use at the competition. The one we have traditionally borrowed from the Crystal Springs Camp is no longer available. Fundraising is going well and enough volunteers have been secured. Bank Forward will be giving money to the Envirothon now instead of savings bonds to the winning team members. The NDASCD employees are donating about \$1,400 to help the winning team with their expenses to the national competition. The ND Envirothon does pay their registration fee. The C2E2 members felt students still need to raise some of their own money towards the trip as it gives them ownership.

Following our ten year anniversary of the Envirothon, the State Envirothon Committee will draft a survey while at the state competition this spring that can be sent to everyone involved (coaches, volunteers, judges, etc.) asking for input on what we could do to improve the competition to get more teams involved, what we might do to get the teams to stay until the end when awards are given out, how we might reach out to other schools to start a team, what tools would be useful in outreach and gaining interest (videos, brochures, etc.), are they satisfied with the location, etc.

Hargiss indicated she was approached by the NDSU Extension Service 4-H staff. They wanted to know if any of the Envirothon students went on to pursue natural resource careers. Hargiss applied for an EPA grant to do a survey last year and we did not get the grant. We would like to secure this information ourselves, but no one has the time or funds to do it presently. It is something we will continue to seek funding for.

Fauske reported she was approached by them, too, but in regards to possible use of the 4-H camp at Washburn if they renovated it. She told them the Envirothon would be interested in utilizing the facilities because of its central location if the facilities were up-graded and renovated to hold about 175 people.

Clarence Bina report the YMCA camp at Garrison had not been kept up and was in bad need of repairs, too. He indicated they have moved their wildlife camp to Camp of the Cross, which is close by the YMCA camp at Garrison. Unfortunately, neither one of these camps would hold the Envirothon numbers.

40th Anniversary of Earth Day

Smith, Wollmuth and Sharff gave an update on the 40th anniversary events being planned for Earth Day at the Armory in Bismarck. Students from the sixth grade will be brought in during the day for educational sessions by a variety of agencies and organizations, and the doors will be open to the public from 2:30 – 7:30 p.m. A variety of items (light bulbs, tote bags, trees, etc.) will be given away, there will be a lot of exhibit booths, speakers will give presentations in the auditorium, and a variety of hands-on learning activities for kids will be held. Christy Smith prepared an Earth Day proclamation for the governor and included C2E2 as a sponsor!

A representative from the regional EPA office in Denver is planning to attend (Christine Vigil) and she will be handing out special 40th anniversary educational materials.

C2E2 Scholarship Funds to Winning Envirothon Team

The State Envirothon Committee had Peterson investigate the financial standing of C2E2 and the possibility of providing some scholarship funds to the winning team at the state Envirothon competition. Peterson checked with the financial advisors and they recommended we wait until we had enough funds to cover the cost of three state competitions prior to considering giving scholarship funds to the winning team. It costs about \$52,000 to run the Envirothon program for one year.

Election of New Officer

C2E2 wishes to thank Dr. Marilyn Snyder for her leadership and participation in C2E2. Best wishes for a wonderful retirement were expressed by all the members. Hargiss moved up to the president's position, Tunge moved up to vice-president, and a unanimous ballot was cast by Wollmuth for Glenda Fauske to serve as the secretary/treasurer. Diane Olson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Next Meeting/Educational Training/Tour

The Bylaws were reviewed and they state two regular meetings must be held each year (one in the spring and one in the fall), with one taking place in Bismarck where the majority of members reside. By consensus, the group agreed to have the fall meetings always in Bismarck. In an effort to eliminate some meetings, by consensus the group agreed to have the spring meeting at the camp where the Envirothon competition would be held. Those that can't drive there can join via conference call.

The fall educational/training suggestions included a tour of the Outdoor Wildlife Learning Site (OWLS) at the ND Game and Fish headquarters or going to the wildlife refuge 35 miles southwest of Bismarck. If any members have other suggestions, please forward them to the president. The Executive Committee will check and make arrangements for the fall meeting.

The meeting concluded at 12 p.m. A tour of the biomass project between the North Dakota Forest Service and City of Bismarck followed at 1 p.m. for those interested in attending.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda E. Fauske

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ND Forest Service