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**Education Focus Area Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 6, 2016 at 1:00 pm  
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL**

**Present:**

Sondra Baker  
Terry Bogner  
Lee Bunting  
Valerie Keener  
Barb Klinger  
Jerry Snodgrass: Chairperson  
Matt Hanauer  
Tom Byers

**Absent:**

Don Beisiegel  
Dave Dornbush  
Gerard Fabrizio  
Randy Molitoris  
Joe Rothermal  
Debbie Ruff  
Scott Tomkins

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

**Approve Agenda-** Motion: Barb Klinger 2<sup>nd</sup>: Terry Bogner Approved: All

**Approve Minutes-** Motion: Barb Klinger 2<sup>nd</sup>: Terry Bogner Approved: All

**Partner Reports**

*Valerie Keener- IDNR*

There is still no state budget so the IDNR is doing what they can with what they have. One bit of good news was that all of IDNR's grant money for field trips was granted and used in schools around the state.

**Old Business**

**2016 Envirothon Report-** Sondra Baker reported the winners for the state Envirothon competition were students from Richland High School. A newly participating school, the Chicago Lab School, also participated and placed second, one point ahead of Neoga High School in third place. A separate team from Richland High School also won the FFA competition. Sondra brought up the possibility of having home school teams competing in the future and that rules may have to be amended in the near future to take them into account.

New Sponsors for this year were listed in the packets handed out to members of the committee, along with profit and loss forms.

**New Business**

**Summer Conference Awards**

(These were discussed and voted on at the beginning of the meeting)

**George McKibben Scholarship**

The George McKibben Applications were deliberated closely and it was decided that Shaye Harre was the only eligible application and she will receive the scholarship. It was stated that the rules for eligibility need to be clarified to make it clearer that the scholarship is intended only for juniors and seniors in college, not high school.

**Teacher of the Year**

There were two applications for Teacher of the Year, one for each category K-8 and 9-12. Each of these applicants will receive the title.

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**Teacher of the Year K-8: Susie Lillard    1<sup>st</sup>: Lee Bunting    2<sup>nd</sup>: Terry Bogner    Approved: All**  
**Teacher of the Year 9-12: Sally O'Leary    1<sup>st</sup>: Lee Bunting    2<sup>nd</sup>: Terry Bogner    Approved: All**

However, Susie Willard is a non-traditional educator. She's a retired teacher who returns to teach lessons to students when asked. The current policy states that this award may be won by "any educator...K-12". In this case, Susie was elected to receive the award, but no DNR funds usually given to winners.

#### **Envirothon 2017 Registration Cost**

Unfortunately, with the cost of the campground rising, the current rate for high schools to participate is no longer sustainable for the districts. There was discussion about raising the fees by what amount and over what time period.

**Motion: Raise fees for high schools participating in the state Envirothon for 2017 from \$100 to \$250 total.**

1<sup>st</sup>: Barb Klinger    2<sup>nd</sup>: Terry Bogner    Approved: All

Study materials for future years will be moved completely online for the schools to print for their teams.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 pm.

Motion: Barb Klinger    2<sup>nd</sup>: Terry Bogner    Approved: All

*Minutes By: Matt Hanauer, AISWCD IUM/Watershed Specialist*