

Master Gardener Foundation Of Washington State

Mission Statement: The Mission of the Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State (MGFWS or Foundation) is to support the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program (WSU MGP) in its efforts to provide public education in gardening and environmental stewardship generated from research at WSU and other university systems through education, communication, and advocacy.

Board Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2013

WSU Research and Extension Center
Puyallup, WA

In attendance:

President, Christine Bailey, Benton-Franklin; VP NW Region, Jane Billinghamurst, Skagit; Secretary, Mary-Cathern Edwards, Kitsap and WSU Master Gardener Program Leader, Tonie Fitzgerald. Linda Bergquist, and Sandy Keathley, Whatcom County; Karen Russo, Grays Harbor/Pacific Counties; Janet Mutter, Mason County; Dianne Elledge, Kathleen Eaton and Martha Clatterbaugh, Snohomish County; Mark Clark, Jefferson County; Bob Taylor, Lewis County; Betty Ryan and Virginia Ferguson, Pierce County, Margaret Morris, Yakima County; Claudia Myers, Spokane County; Glenda Jackson, Thurston County; Lucy Claxton and Betty Manes, Cowlitz County.

Via remote video teleconference: Peg Schauer and Fran Hammond of Clark County and Marcia Nelson of Island County.

Guest: Bob Edwards, Kitsap County

1. Introductions

President Christine Bailey called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Peg Schauer and Fran Hammond of Clark County and Marcia Nelson of Island County joined us via remote video teleconference.

2. Additions to, Approval of the Agenda.

Betty Ryan moved to approve the agenda. Patricia Bosh seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

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3. Approval of Consent Calendar

- Electronic Voting—we conducted two electronic votes since our last meeting in October: To approve the Minutes of the October 19th meeting, and to approve the MOA for the 2013 Conference.
- Treasurer's report s showing our bank balance and the year-to-date budget comparison.
- Our financial records have been sent to our accountant to prepare our 2011-2012 tax return.
- A motion was made to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

4. Announcements

Jim Black has joined Mary Shane to publish our newsletter. Jim was the former editor of *Master Gardener Magazine* and is the current editor of *Good Fruit* magazine, and brings a wealth of experience to the table. Mary will be responsible for content and Jim will handle formatting and layout. The February issue of *Seeds for Thought* was their first collaboration. It is a beautiful piece of work.

5. Election of Treasurer

A motion to nominate Margaret Morris as treasurer was made by Karen Russo; the motion seconded by Bob Taylor. The vote to elect Margaret Morris as treasurer was unanimous. She replaces Jill Botvinik who has relocated out of state. (Thank you Margaret!)

6. Appointment of Audit Committee

President Bailey announced the appointment to Eileen Davis-Thorne and Tom Kerns to the Audit Committee.

7. Program Leader's Report – Tonie Fitzgerald

Tonie thanked the MGFWS for writing a letter of appreciation to Dean Bernardo and others at WSU recognizing Tonie's contributions and leadership. The letter, in summary: "Ms. Fitzgerald has taken the Master Gardener Program to an extraordinary new level and we are enormously grateful for her many contributions"

Tonie distributed a few copies of the 2012 Master Gardener Program Report and indicated the report will be distributed to WSU staff. Tonie has taken

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the initiative to market the Program within WSU....with an emphasis that the Program has been developed with scientific research to back up all information provided to MGs. "We are different from garden clubs in that MGs use research-based information." Her presentations to WSU acknowledge that MG Foundations support local MG Programs. The 2012 State MG Program report will soon be on the website <http://mastergardener.wsu.edu>. Tonie wrote the report to include great verbiage and stats that could easily be included in local presentations and grant proposals. It contains lots of talking points.

The website will be redesigned in the near future to facilitate how coordinators and Master Gardeners access diagnostic information and each other.

The MG online training is slated to be reviewed in 2014 (to catch all the debatable points and update references).

Tonie asked President Bailey to write a letter to Governor Inslee asking that he proclaim the week of May 13-19, 2013, as WSU MG volunteer week. She also passed along some information regarding the U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award and asked Chris to research the program and associated costs and report back to the membership.

Tonie will be retiring in July 2013. She and staff are working with WSU administration to plan for a smooth transition. There is hope for an interim appointment to provide continuity until a successor is in place.

Lengthy discussion re: communication between the County Programs – what's happening in your County? – and between the Foundations- what's happening in your Foundation?

8. Conference Report, Pasco – Chris Bailey

President Chris Bailey gave the financial report for the 2012 WSU Master Gardener Advanced-Education Conference held in Pasco. Total income was \$38,664.43 and expenses were \$28,923.21, resulting in a profit of \$9,741.22. The conference Memorandum of Agreement calls for profit under \$10,000 to be split with 75% going to the host county and 25% to MGFWS. Therefore, MGFWS will receive \$2,435.31. An additional \$2,126.94 was earned by the State Foundation for the raffle.

9. 2013 State Conference: Everett - Dianne Elledge and Martha Clatterbaugh

The conference dates are September 26, 27 and 28 2013. Please refer to the website www.wa-mg-conf.org for information and to register. Discussion occurred re: which day/evening to hold the annual meeting and presentation of awards. A motion was made to combine the Forty-Year Anniversary Program and the awards ceremony for the Friday evening banquet. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Further discussion: Thursday evening may include brainstorming, hors d'oeuvres, no host bar, sharing ideas, the annual meeting and a 'poster session'. The "Search for Success" presentations have been rebranded as "Sharing Success".

10. 2014 Conference -- Virginia Ferguson

The 2014 Conference is scheduled for the third week in September at the Murano Hotel in Tacoma. The Murano is rated as a five star hotel. Pre-conference tours are scheduled for Thursday morning, to include: the downtown Farmer's Market, the Seymour Conservatory, and Fort Nisqually "pioneer garden". Thursday afternoon will focus on MG function, processes and MG needs. MGs are on their own for Thursday dinner and are encouraged to dine at a variety of local restaurants and peruse the downtown Art Walk. The Friday night banquet will be held in the Murano ballroom. Tours available on Saturday afternoon include a visit to Pt. Defiance Gardens, Gig Harbor MG Gardens and perhaps attending the Washington State Fair in Puyallup.

11. Van Bobbitt Scholarship – Martha Clatterbaugh

The Mary Robson Scholarship is \$1000, awarded to a student enrolled in the Agriculture Dept. at WSU. WSU determines the recipient of this scholarship.

The Van Bobbitt Scholarship is \$1000, awarded to a high school senior or a student entering college/university for the first time as a full-time student to enable him or her to pursue study in horticulture or one of its related fields. The MGFWS Scholarship Committee determines the recipient of this scholarship. A person may receive the scholarship only once.

Discussion occurred re: the restriction of the Van Bobbitt scholarship to someone entering college for the first time. More and more students are returning to school to finish a degree or certified program, or start a new line of study. (the example was that of those returning to Certified Horticulture Programs at various community colleges). It was unanimously passed that the

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Van Bobbitt wording is now changed to: The Van Bobbitt Scholarship of \$1000 is offered to a high school senior or other student to pursue the study of horticulture and its related fields.

12. Dependent County Renewal, San Juan County – Chris Bailey

Background: The criteria for continuing dependent county status was approved by the Board in February 2012. We said when a dependent county has annual gross income of \$10,000 or more for three consecutive years, the Board has the authority to recommend that they apply for their own IRS 501.c.3 designation. San Juan County became a dependant county in 2009 and they have progressed to that point in earnings. Jody Burns, who is San Juan's representative to our Board, and President Chris Bailey, have been in communication. She is aware of the criteria and has begun work on obtaining the 501.c.3.

Discussion occurred. Betty Ryan made a motion recommending San Juan County applies for their own non profit-organization designation from the IRS. Kathleen Eaton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Travel Reimbursement Survey – Chris Bailey

Results of the survey (do your counties reimburse travel to the State Foundation meetings?). Out of 26 counties, 11 reimburse their board representative in some way; 7 do not and 7 did not reply. If your County did not respond, please provide the info to Chris via e-mail.

Reminder: Future Meeting Dates and Locations

June 21, 2013 – Ellensburg
September 26, 2013 - Everett (Annual Meeting)
October 18, 2013 – Pierce County

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Betty Ryan and seconded by Bob Taylor, followed by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary-Cathern Edwards, Secretary

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