

Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State
Board Meeting Minutes – June 2, 2017
Kittitas County Event Center, Ellensburg, WA

Attendance:

Board Members:

Kathleen Eaton (Snohomish), Int. Pres.	Bob Taylor (Lewis)
John Strong (Yakima), Secretary	Ronda Welling (Asotin)
Margaret Morris (Yakima), Treasurer	Meralee Nash (Pierce)
Candice Gohn (Jefferson), VP Peninsula	Sandy Atkinson (Thurston)
MaryJo Christensen (Lewis), VP SW	Dode Carlson (Snohomish)
Al Call (Skagit)	Kathy Brenberger (Benton-Franklin)
Karen Russo (Pacific-Grays Harbor)	Chris Allen (Island)
Lorraine Fritsch (Klickitat)	George Loosier (Kittitas)
Patricia Bosh (Cowlitz)	

Guest:

Linda Williams (Klickitat)

- 1) President Kathleen opened the meeting at 10:00 am and George welcomed the group to Ellensburg.
- 2) MaryJo reported that the internal audit conducted by her and Bob was completed. No anomalies were found. They recommend that a report on the status of the Endowment should be made regularly to the board. It made sense to include that as part of the treasurer's report. Also, it is recommended that a distribution list of donors be maintained, and used for reporting out to them and for possible future solicitations.
- 3) Margaret presented the Treasurer's Report. In response to a question, she noted that the CD that will mature in July will be cashed out, and the funds held until after the conference. Depending on conference income, and budget needs, new investment of those funds will be decided at that time.
- 4) Kathleen noted that an audit of the 2015 Conference in Vancouver was never resolved, due to insufficient records. We have officially abandoned the possibility of completing it. In future conference MOAs, specific financial reporting requirements will be spelled out.
- 5) Endowment - -
 - a) Kathleen reported that the endowment balance currently is approximately \$17,000.
 - b) The GoFundMe effort will be successful only if we can utilize social media to promote it. All counties and board members are encouraged to get the word out through their social media accounts.
 - c) Patricia reported on the research she has done, seeking large foundations that might accept grant proposals for our endowment. The Gates and Buffett foundations do not accept blind requests. Several websites have a lot of information about possible donors. They include wa.grantwatch.com, [guidestar nonprofit](http://guidestar.org), usfundingapplications.org, and others. She recommended that some web-savvy individuals be recruited to mine these and other sites to determine the best organizations on which to focus our appeal. She also shared some articles about abusive "non-profits". Margaret pointed out that there will be a breakout session at September's conference about grant-writing.
 - d) Linda Williams shared that we must be ready to show how our grant requests will show measurable results, and that including benefit to rural communities is important to many grantors.

- e) Al reported on his research into other state foundations and their fund raising activities. Utah and Idaho have no state foundations to support MG education. California also has no foundation. Their state Extension MG office conducts regional trainings funded by an endowment. See attachment for more about their endowment. Oregon has a state MG “Association” that conducts annual trainings. Usually the trainings are held on college campuses. They are funded by conference registration fees, and an assessment by the state association on each of the local MG programs. That levy is calculated as a flat rate per active master gardener. The Oregon representative to whom Al spoke is Marsha Sherry. She was very helpful, and even offered to attend one of our meetings to speak about how their statewide organization works.
- 6) John reported on the upcoming Advanced Education Conference in Yakima, scheduled for September 20 – 23. To date there are about 75 registrations. Counties with over 5 persons registered so far include: Lewis, Pierce, Snohomish, and Yakima. Counties that have had good participation in the past, but which so far have only one or less registered include: Pacific-Grays Harbor, Mason, Walla Walla, Spokane, King, and Clark.
- 7) Awards: Dode reported we have 12 nominations for MGoY, 2 for the Ed LaCrosse award, and none for the Media award. The committee has decided to extend the nomination deadline for the Media award until July 1, 2017. Because of an inquiry, we discussed whether a former MGoY winner should be eligible for a second nomination. Karen moved and Kathy seconded a motion that a person may be awarded MGoY only once in a lifetime. Motion passed.
- 8) Scholarships: Sandy indicated that she has an application for the Van Bobbitt Scholarship. Because of some miscommunication, it was unclear if the scholarship would even be awarded this year. We cleared up that issue and accepted the application from Thurston County. Kathleen will take care of the Mary Robson scholarship. Discussion ensued about improving the publicity about our scholarships. The application period begins January 1st each year. All representatives should put the word out well in advance to schools in their counties, appealing to counselors, students and parents to submit applications.
- 9) Sharing Success: Patricia announced that applications will go out soon for counties to display at the Thursday evening reception at the Conference in Yakima.
- 10) Conference Raffle:
- a) MaryJo presented the three choices for logoed hats, that we will wear when selling raffle tickets during the conference. Al moved and Meralee seconded a motion to buy 48 hats. Each of the board members will purchase one for themselves, and the remaining ones will be sold in the Marketplace at the conference. A signup sheet was provided for us to order our choice.
 - b) George noted that Kittitas County has agreed to organize the raffle items as they arrive in Yakima, and assist in the management of the raffle on site. Yakima County’s treasurer will oversee the distribution of tickets and collection of moneys for the raffle.
- 11) Bob asked for input from counties about whether local foundations purchase liability insurance, and if so for what amount. His county is thinking about increasing theirs from \$1M to \$2M, and he wants to know if the increase is warranted. There is a mixture among the counties of insurance coverage. Some don’t have it; most have Error and Omission insurance for their officers. Most who have liability insurance have \$1M coverage. Bob indicated their insurance is through Liberty Mutual and that the premium is about \$250 for \$1M coverage.
- 12) Al asked if we have had communication with King County, to encourage them to designate a representative to this board. Kathleen and Dode reported that they intend to go to one of King County’s meetings to propose that. There are no meetings scheduled for the summer season.
- 13) Kathleen asked if counties have a policy restricting dogs at their plant sales. It seems that none of us do, nor have we experienced any problems with dogs.

- 14) Meeting was recessed for a delicious lunch provided by Kittitas County.
- 15) After lunch the meeting was reconvened to discuss the Advanced Education Conference.
- a) Kathleen announced that Chelan County has submitted a proposal to host the Conference in 2018 in Wenatchee. The Conference committee met over lunch today and recommends accepting their proposal.
The Chelan County proposal was extensive and impressive. John noted that he has attended conferences in the Wenatchee Convention Center in the past, and that their facility is very good, and can amply accommodate our group. Also, the community there is attractive and offers a lot. Al moved and Patricia seconded to accept, and it was passed.
 - b) We decided have our board meeting in Wenatchee in May, when we hope to tour the facility. Kathleen and Chelan County representatives will arrange the date.
 - c) After some discussion, it was agreed that a “Raise the Paddle” solicitation for the Endowment would likely NOT be successful at this year’s conference in Yakima. Kathleen will plan a brief presentation at the conference to explain the Endowment to attendees, and an opportunity to donate will be made available.
 - d) Ronda suggested that a table in the Yakima Silent Auction area be made available for items donated specifically for the benefit of the Endowment. John said that he would take that up with the Yakima Silent Auction team.
- 16) Long term conference planning
- a) Al recommended following a plan similar to Oregon’s conference planning... There is one person permanently responsible for planning the logistics of their conference, and another responsible to recruit speakers/instructors. We have already decided to add another officer to our board: Executive Vice President, who could take on that Conference responsibility.
 - b) Linda mentioned that smaller regional trainings might augment a state-wide conference. The Whidbey Island workshop is an ideal example of that kind of event.
 - c) Location of future conferences: If we move to a conference planning process that is conducted largely by designated individuals, rather than hosted by local counties, the location of conferences would not need to move around the state as much. On the other hand, part of the appeal is the opportunity to visit other parts of the state. We recognize that centrally located cities are more convenient, and would likely to attract higher attendance than sites on the periphery of our state. It is recommended that we explore college campuses as possible locations. They might be less costly, and may provide a more attractive environment.
 - d) Clearly, there is a lot to think about, and the conversation about long-term conference planning will continue as our main responsibility.
- 17) The productive meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

John Strong, Secretary

Kathleen Eaton, President

ATTACHMENT

Begin forwarded message:

From: Missy Gable <mjgable@ucanr.edu>
Date: June 5, 2017, 10:18:34 AM PDT
To: "albacall@aol.com" <albacall@aol.com>
Subject: RE: MG Endowments

Hi Al,

Endowments are tough – I'm in the process of considering a new one now to support county Master Gardener programming. We have a couple of endowments that were created for specific county-based MG programs (e.g., an endowment only to be used for our program in Alameda County). For those endowments, volunteers in the county solicit from themselves/family members/etc. to increase the principle annually. Those drives typically bring in a modest amount and the endowments are very slow to grow. Most have an annual payout of less than \$2,000.

The endowment that funds our statewide office is the result of a gift in trust from one individual who was passionate about ornamental horticulture. The endowment has a singular source – the gift that UC received in 1970. The principle is substantial and the payout is enough to support the statewide office as well as a competitive horticulture grant program.

Best of luck to you – don't hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions.

Thanks,
Missy

Missy Gable
Director, UC Master Gardener Program
Co-Director, UC Master Food Preserver Program
University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources



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