

Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State
Board Meeting Minutes – June 1, 2018
WSU Extension - Wenatchee, WA

Attendance:

Board Members: (in person)

Kathleen Eaton (Snohomish), President	Meralee Nash (Pierce)
John Strong (Yakima), Secretary	Jennifer Marquis (Interim State Lead)
Margaret Morris (Yakima), Treasurer	Carrie Hill (King)
Patricia Bosh (Cowlitz)	Irene Reed (Pierce)
Dode Carlson (Snohomish)	Barbara Raabe (Kittitas)
George Loosier (Kittitas)	Honey Niemann (Jefferson)
Kathy Brenberger (Benton-Franklin)	

Board Members: (who checked in via telephone)

Melissa Evans (Island)	Ronda Welling (Asotin)
Karen Russo (Grays Harbor-Pacific)	Cathi Lamoreux (Spokane)

NOTE: Technical phone problems broke off our connection about mid-way into the meeting.

Guests:

Paula Dinius, Urban Horticulture, WSU Extension, Chelan-Douglas
Debra Benbow Conference Chair, Chelan-Douglas
Craig Lawrence President, Chelan-Douglas MG Foundation
Ken Tolonen (Yakima)

- 1) **Call to Order:** President Kathleen opened the meeting at 10:00 am.
- 2) **Consent Agenda:** Agenda and minutes were approved, with a correction to the minutes, adding Karen Russo as attending by Zoom at the last meeting.
- 3) **Treasurer:** Margaret presented the Treasurer's Report. She also reported that the Presidential awards are expected to arrive in her mailbox this weekend. She asked if it would be best to send them to the Coordinators' meeting next week with Claudia Steen, the Yakima coordinator. Jennifer agreed that was a good idea.
- 4) **2018 Conference:** Debra brought the group up to date on the progress toward the conference to be held in Wenatchee in September. Registrations have been coming in about one or two a day, for a total to date of a little over 70. They expect an uptick in registrations as the early-bird deadline approaches. A new promotional flyer was emailed to all coordinators. George asked what the maximum number of attendees was. Response was about 450. While the forecast for sponsorships was \$15,000, it is now expected to be just over \$10,000. But the drop should not endanger a profitable conference. Photos submitted for the photo conference will become property of WSU, and may be used in future promotional efforts. All submissions will be posted to the conference website as they are sent in. One of the Chelan-Douglas MGs has volunteered to contact an extensive list of gardening-related businesses and organizations around the state to distribute conference promotional material, and solicit auction donations. The list of those contacts, the draft of the conference agenda, Debra's conference report, and budget information are attached as addenda to these minutes.
- 5) **2019 Conference:** Kathleen reported that no proposal has been received to host the 2019 conference. It falls on us, therefore, to decide if we want to announce that no conference will be held next year, or if we want to extend the deadline until after we make a plea to the Coordinators' at their meeting next week, or if we want to offer the option for a county to work with this board in

planning a conference next year. By consensus we decided to extend the decision until after giving the coordinators an opportunity to encourage their local areas to host in 2019. If there is still no proposal by June 30, we will put out the word that, without a statewide conference in 2019, we encourage local chapters to collaborate with neighboring chapters to conduct regional training events.

- 6) **Sharing Success:** Kathleen announced that Patricia has agreed to help coordinate Sharing Success for this year's conference.
- 7) **Nominations:** Kathleen urged the group to volunteer and/or recruit nominations for our new slate of officers. In particular, the positions of President and Treasurer are important since they will be vacated this term. With our new structure, there are also many other offices that need to be filled. State Board representatives AND other local Master Gardeners are all eligible to be elected to any of these positions.
- 8) **State Lead Report:** Jennifer distributed and discussed her Team Leadership Report. The clear thrust of her message is that WSU and State leadership is moving in positive ways to define the direction, priorities and staffing toward building Washington's Master Gardener program into the future. Coordinators will work toward this at their meeting next week; surveys of coordinators, foundations, and county directors are being taken and analyzed to help direct these efforts; and Team Leaders Kropf, Murray and Marquis are committed to these goals.
A copy of Jennifer's report is an addendum to these minutes.
- 9) **Bylaws:** John reviewed the changes proposed to the bylaws, going through them one by one, with discussion about each. In the end, it was agreed NOT to make the proposed change to Article III, Section 4, which implied that affiliate representatives would not have a vote or be counted as part of a quorum. We agree that affiliates should have voting rights.
With that change, Kathy moved and Irene seconded a motion to accept the proposed modifications of the bylaws. Motion was passed unanimously. New bylaws are attached to these minutes.
- 10) The business portion of the meeting was adjourned at noon. After lunch on our own, we met at the Wenatchee Convention Center for a tour of what will be our home for a few days in September!

Addenda:

- 2018 Conference Report
- 2018 Conference Budget
- 2018 Conference Agenda
- Contact List for Conference Publicity
- Team Leadership Report from Interim State Lead
- Bylaws as approved June 1, 2018

Respectfully submitted by

John Strong, Secretary

Kathleen Eaton, President