

Board Meeting Minutes – October 24, 2014

Vancouver Hilton
 Vancouver, WA

Attendance:

NAME	TITLE-COUNTY	NAME	TITLE-COUNTY
Christine Bailey	President – Benton	Jane Billingham	VP-NW – Skagit
Kathy Brenberger	VP-East – Benton	MaryJo Christensen	VP-SW – Lewis
Betty Ryan	VP-Metro – Pierce	Margaret Morris	Treasurer – Yakima
Nicole Martini	MG Prog Lead - WSU	Bob Taylor	Lewis
Sandy Atkinson	Thurston	Sharon Ballard	Pierce
Linda Bergquist	Whatcom	Patricia Bosh	Cowlitz
Lorraine Fritsch	Klickitat	Candice Gohn	Jefferson
Janet Mutter	Mason	Marcia Nelson	Island
Karen Russo	Pacific /Grays Harbor	John Strong	Yakima
Judy Callahan	Skagit	George Frey	Pierce
Lucy Clayton	Cowlitz	Phyllis Collins	Cowlitz
Fran Hammond	Clark	Karen Palmer	Clark
Dean Sutera	Clark	Ken Tolonen	Yakima

Officers	WSU	Guests
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1. President Chris Bailey called the meeting to order at 10:00 am sharp.
2. Fran Hammond, VP of Clark County MGF Board, welcomed the assembled group and introduced the Clark County team planning the Annual Advanced Education Conference for 2015, to be held in Vancouver next September.
3. Dean Sutera, team leader for the conference planning, introduced a member of the Vancouver Hilton Sales Dept., who led us on a tour of the hotel and conference facilities.
 Upon returning from the tour, Dean presented the conference plans that have been completed so far. These included the scheduling of various conference rooms for all the events, a nearly complete list of seminars and presenters, and a tentative schedule for the four days of the conference. It was clear to all that a lot of work has already been done. All were impressed, and are confident that we will have a great conference next year.
4. President Chris asked for agenda additions. She called for the addition of Nicole’s report. Betty Ryan moved and Marcia Nelson seconded a motion to add Nicole’s report to the agenda. Motion passed.
5. Marcia Nelson moved and Patricia Bosh seconded a motion to approve the consent calendar. Passed.
6. Nicole Martini rose to give her report.
 - a. She began by congratulating Pierce County on a very successful conference last month in Tacoma, and also thanked Clark County for the planning they have accomplished for the coming conference.
 - b. She also thanked outgoing president, Chris Bailey, for her four years of exemplary service.
 - c. She continues to work on the Volunteer Satisfaction Survey of MGs statewide. Expect completion by end of year.
 - d. A revised volunteer handbook is now posted to the website. Minor changes include stating a minimum age for volunteers of 18 years, and a dog policy, necessitated by WSU policy.

- e. Nicole is working with authors of the MG training manual. Each chapter is to be peer-reviewed. Expect the new manual to be released in the spring of 2016, after peer review is complete.
 - f. She presented Washington's online training of MG volunteers to the American Society for Horticultural Science.
 - g. Washington Dept. of Natural Resources has expressed an interest in funding an online training in Urban Forestry, and making it available to Master Gardeners. It will qualify for Continuing Education credit, and completion will earn certification in Urban Forestry. Expect that perhaps sometime in 2016.
 - h. Linda Bergquist asked about the video "*Put the Child First*", and how that will be made available to veterans who haven't yet seen it. Nicole will send the link to coordinators. She is also encouraging "viewing parties", and noted it will be part of the online training next year, complete with a quiz and a 100% pass requirement.
7. Elections: Nominating Committee Chair, Kathy Brenberger presented nominees, one by one, for President (George Frey), Secretary (John Strong), and Treasurer (Margaret Morris – re-election). No other nominations were offered. In turn, each candidate was elected unanimously.

Vice President for Metro Region: Usually voted on by counties within the VP's region; however, the Metro Region has only two counties. King County does not have a representative on the State Foundation board, and Pierce County's representative is the nominee for the position. Taking these circumstances into consideration, President Chris thought it best to have the board vote as a whole. Sharon Ballard was the nominee, and was elected unanimously.

Chris thanked all outgoing officers and committee chairs for their service, and the list of new Standing Committee Chairs was read:

- a. Audit – MaryJo Christensen, Lewis County
- b. Awards – Kathleen Eaton, Snohomish County
- c. MG of Year Selection – Kathy Brenberger, Benton County
- d. Communications – Open
- e. Conference Site Selection – Chris Bailey, Benton County
- f. Directory – John Strong, Yakima County
- g. Finance – President George Frey and Treasurer Margaret Morris
- h. Historian – Open
- i. Newsletter Managing Editor – Mary Shane
- j. Nominating – Kathleen Eaton, Snohomish County
- k. Scholarships – Sandy Loskill, Pend Oreille County
- l. Sharing Success – Patricia Bosh, Cowlitz County
- m. Sunshine Coordinator – Betty Ryan, Pierce County
- n. Webmaster – Mary Shane

Patricia Bosh indicated that Phyllis Collins will act as co-chair of Sharing Success.

- 8. The updated directory will be emailed out soon.
- 9. The Audit Committee report for the year 11/1/2012 – 10/31/2013 was read. There were no anomalies or exceptions, and the treasurer was thanked for her excellent work.

10. Treasurer Margaret Morris presented the proposed budget for the year beginning 11/1/2014.

There were questions and a discussion about the budgeted expense item for "Conference Education Money to Host" (\$3,000). George Frey announced that Pierce County's initial calculations show an estimated \$5,500 will be coming to the State Foundation from the 2014 conference proceeds. Typically, the proceeds from one year's conference are rolled into the next year under this budget line item.

Karen Russo moved to change this item to \$5,575 and approve the budget. Betty Ryan seconded. Candice Gohn offered an amendment to the motion, to make the amount equal to the actual moneys when they are received from Tacoma. Kathy Brenberger seconded and the amendment was passed. Then the original motion, as amended, was passed unanimously.

More discussion ensued about the financing of annual conferences. The host county is entirely at risk. The State Foundation provides only the money earned from the previous year to assist with the educational component of the conference. Sponsorships are the key to ensuring financial success, particularly when eastern Washington counties host the conference, since experience tells us those are less well-attended.

Fran Hammond suggested that the State Foundation contribution should be negotiated as part of the MOA process when applying to host a conference. Bob Taylor suggested that a complete review of the policies surrounding this topic should take place.

11. George Frey reported on the results of the recent Advanced Education Conference, held in Tacoma. His report is an addendum to these minutes.

There was a suggestion that workshop presentations be made available via the web (in the "cloud") for future conferences, since it was found to be very difficult to get them in time to load onto flash drives.

12. The 2015 calendar of board meetings was set:
 - a. March 20, 2015 in Cowlitz County
 - b. June 26, 2015 in Yakima County
 - c. September 17, 2015 at the conference in Clark County
 - d. October 23, 2015 in Pierce County

13. Chris proposed that nomination documents for annual awards be required to be in electronic form. The cost and trouble of duplicating and distributing hard-copy nominations to the judging panels is prohibitive and awkward. Sharon Ballard moved and Betty Ryan seconded to make this requirement. Motion passed.

14. The criteria for the Media Award need to be reviewed. It sometimes happens that professional media persons compete against novice volunteers. Patricia Bosh and Kathy Brenberger will establish new criteria. Marcia Nelson will assist that committee.

15. Dean Sutera thanked the group for visiting, and encouraged us all to begin promotion of the 2015 conference in Vancouver.

16. Sharon Ballard moved to adjourn. Seconded by Karen Russo and passed. Adjournment at 1:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

John Strong, Secretary

George Frey, President

Attachments:

Treasurer's Report
2014 Conference Review

