



Master Gardener Foundation

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Minutes of the MGFWS Board Meeting

June 10, 2021
Zoom Call

In attendance: Al Call, Angela Grady, Barbara Raabe, Bob Taylor, C-J Nielsen, Candice Gohn, Cathi Lamoreux, Dave Hofeditz, President Don Enstrom, Elaine Chapman, Erin Landon, Gorja Johnson, Irene Reed, State Lead Jennifer Marquis, John Strong, Karen Russo, Kate Yturri, Kelly Rupp, Kitty Lundeen-Ness, Margaret Morris, Patricia Bosh, Paul McKenna, Ruth Monahan, Sharon Golightly, Susan Yeager, Melody Westmoreland, Patty Peterson.

At least 15 chapters were represented, establishing a quorum.

OPENING:

The meeting was called to order by President Don Enstrom at 10:00 a.m. The Secretary confirmed the presence of a quorum. Minutes and Agenda were adopted without changes or additions.

Don briefly reviewed the main topics of importance in the meeting today, and made his first of many appeals for members to help recruit a new Treasurer!

WSU Extension Update:

Jennifer expressed her gratitude to State and Local Foundation Boards, and to all Master Gardeners for their support through the challenging times we've faced, and for the great help provided her since taking the position as State Lead.

She shared her personal vision, which has guided her from the very beginning:

"Cohesive statewide program with a positive WSU culture and with highly trained, competent, and engaged volunteers who:

- *Know and understand the WSU Master Gardener program's purpose.*
- *Know, understand and are able to explain how WSU Master Gardener supports the educational mission of WSU, Extension, and the community.*
- *Support WSU Master Gardener by sharing a compelling and impactful story.*
- *Serve as a household name and a go-to resource in the communities where they provide education and support.*
- *Are empowered to develop, implement & evaluate mission and vision achieving programming."*

In the past two years, five teams of emphasis have been in focus. The last of those, "Telling Our Story" has been the main thrust. She stressed the importance of the last point of her vision, particularly getting the word out to our stake holders and our communities. With everyone working together and in support of this vision, we are seeing that indeed, "The Whole is greater than the sum of its parts!"

Cooperation and working together has improved us all. Examples of this include how different chapters have shared successes with one another, improving plant sale results, learning to write better ByLaws, and more.

As the 50th anniversary of the founding of Master Gardeners approaches in 2023, the nation will be looking to Washington, the birthplace of Master Gardeners. Planning is underway for a terrific celebration, culminating in our AEC2023.



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Don commented that we will know we have succeeded when county governments fully support us. Jennifer supported that comment by pointing out the phrase “fully supported” in the state MG Vision:

Highly recognized, diverse and fully supported, WSU Master Gardener volunteers are the go-to resource for communities seeking research-based, innovative solutions for their ever-changing horticulture and environmental stewardship needs.

Treasurer’s Report: With no Treasurer, there is no report. Don’s second chance to appeal for a new treasurer. There are many important tasks that are being either left undone, or done by others who may not have the expertise. Vital that we find a volunteer. Certainly, there is such a person among our nearly 4,000 MGs statewide.

OLD BUSINESS:

AEC 2021:

Hurray! Registration opened a week ago, and we have a good start. C-J estimates about 20% of our expected attendees have already registered.

We continue to have good support from our instructors. All but one, who has retired, are still with us.

A tour company in southern California has made a great donation of several virtual tours. The value of those qualifies them as a Platinum Sponsor, and the tours offer wonderful value-added for conference attendees.

Social Enterprises, whom we have hired to manage all production of the conference, continues to perform very professionally for us. They have a team of specialists who are in contact with us regularly in all areas. Currently, we are negotiating an added service... that of external marketing. Success in that area could greatly improve our outreach, not to mention additional revenue!

C-J thanks everyone who has had a hand in the planning.

Pursuant to a question, C-J will make sure the silent auction donation form is on the website.

AEC2022:

Happily, most of our AEC team has offered to continue their roles into the conference for 2022. However, a director for that event is still needed. John introduced Melody Westmoreland, who is the immediate past president of the Yakima MG Foundation. She has a background in management, and experience leading a conference in her past profession. Melody has offered to volunteer for the AEC2022 Director. John moved, and Patricia seconded a motion to accept her offer and appoint her for that role. Motion passed unanimously.

Our triad of conference leadership is now complete for the 2022 term. We will have C-J as past director (2021), Melody as current director (2022), and Kathy Brenberger as upcoming director (2023).

2020 Awards

Patricia Bosh named her committee, who are awaiting nominations for all state awards for the program year 2020. They are: Kathy Brenberger, Kitty Lundeen-Ness, Candice Gohn, Karen Russo, Jo Tuom, and Dode Carlson. They have scheduled a meeting for June 17th at 1:00pm. The deadline for nominations is July 1st.

Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State-A 501(c)3 Charitable Organization
Providing Support for the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program
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All of the state winners for the past two years will be recognized at AEC, as well as the current year. Patricia reminded us that, while an individual can win one of the awards only once in a lifetime, they can be nominated any number of times. Also, Master Gardener of the Year criteria call for a nominee to have contributed outside their local chapter. And the Ed LaCross Award may be presented to a non-MG.

Don pointed out that the Presidential awards (originally known as Points of Light) are awarded based on hours served. The cost of the pins, certificates and delivery is borne by MGFWS.

Fund Raising:

Don reported that a quality Case Statement needs to be developed to help us recruit quality donors. It must clearly spell out the purposes we will support with donations to both the endowment and the agency fund. It must tell the WHY!

Our primary goals for these funds are to support AECs into the future, and to endow a professorship at WSU.

He asks for people interested in writing that statement to email him with their interest in participating on a committee to do just that.

Financial Review

Endowment / Agency Fund

Liability and D&O Insurance

Corporate Documents (ByLaws, Policy & Procedures, Articles of Incorporation)

These four important areas are awaiting continuance. Filling the role of Treasurer will greatly help them move forward!

NEW BUSINESS:

Open Positions:

Don took this fourth opportunity to address our need to find a Treasurer!

He then introduced Patty Peterson, who is Secretary at the Pierce County MG Foundation. Patty has a background in IT Management, and has offered to fill the role of Communications Director for us. Karen moved and Paul seconded a motion to accept her offer, and to appoint her to that role. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Committee Meetings:

The officers are meeting most third Wednesdays. All board members are welcome to attend these meetings. If you would like to attend, contact one of the officers who can forward the meeting information to you.

Annual Board Meeting:

This meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening September 30th as part of the pre-conference activities. Since we do not have elections this year, the meeting will be primarily social, and a chance to recruit MGs to become part of the state Board.



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GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Don pointed out that while we are making good progress on the ten priorities of MGs, an eleventh one presents itself for MGFWS to take leadership in: Corporate Governance Training.

Al suggested that, as our role as a state board has become more complex, perhaps we should meet more frequently, so as to stay more current and involved. Much discussion ensued, with most comments very much in favor of meeting six times annually. One idea that met with universal agreement is to vary the meetings between virtual and in-person. By consensus, it was agreed that, at our annual meeting this year, we will schedule six meetings for 2022.

Jennifer noted that just as we adjourn, a new official COVID policy from WSU Extension is in our inboxes.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

John Strong, Sec.

Don Enstrom, Pres.