

Iowa Master Gardener Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes November 3, 2017

The Iowa State Master Gardener Advisory committee met Friday, November 3, at 10 am in the Speer Room at Reiman Gardens.

Those present included:

- Ashley Sherrets, NE staff
- Becki Lynch, NE MG
- Jeri Bailey, SE MG
- Shannon Bielicke, SE Staff
- Lisa Dytrych, SW MG
- Ann Carter, SW staff
- Kellie Solberg, NW staff
- Megan Will, Central MG,
- Suzette Striegel, Central Staff
- Alan Ladd, Regional Director
- Cindy Haynes, State Staff
- Denny Schrock, State Staff
- Susan DeBlieck, State Staff
- Richard Jauron, State Staff, and
- Donald Lewis, State Staff.
- Unable to attend were Sue Jarvis, NW MG. Guests attending included Laura Irish, Lina Rodriguez-Salamanca, Laura Iles, and Mike Dytrych.

Prior to the meeting, Introductions were by participation in a People Bingo game.

Megan Will called the meeting to order. There was discussion of which members had terms ending; three members who had not completed two terms agreed to serve another (Ashley Sherrets, Shannon Bielicke, and Alan Ladd). Megan Will has completed two terms and was presented a Lifetime Member certificate. With Megan leaving the committee, there is need to elect two co-chair positions from existing committee for 2018. In the upcoming newsletter, application will be available to fill Megan's (Central MG) committee position (it will close December 30).

Denny Schrock announced he will be half time in the upcoming spring semester, and retiring June 2018. Starting in 2018, Susan DeBlieck will likely serve as interim Master Gardener coordinator.

Growing Season webcasts were prerecorded and viewed by 38 counties this summer. Participating counties paid for each webinar they viewed. This winter's webinars will be funded by SNAP-Education grant and free to counties. Specific food security topics will be related to partnering across Extension and will be recorded soon, to be available in February.

Iowa has 27 participants attend the International MG conference in Oregon (July 2017) including Denny and Susan. June 2019 IMG Conference will be in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. National MG coordinator conference (county coordinators are encouraged to attend) will be August 6-9, 2018 in Madison, Wisconsin. Master Gardeners and county coordinators are encouraged to attend the National Extension Conference on Volunteerism in spring 2019.

Search for Excellence (SFE) award projects are being featured in monthly MG newsletter. SFE applications are due March 15, 2018. Application and mock application (created by Thabisa Mazur) are on the Iowa Master Gardener website. Showing the project's impact is key to an application's success. Counties are encouraged to reach out to past awarded counties as mentors. Counties are encouraged to apply and highlight the same projects in county stakeholder reports. County stakeholder reports are encouraged to be shared, including with local legislature representatives. Master Gardeners are also encouraged to attend Extension's legislature visit day or community legislature representative's forums.

ISU Extension and Outreach Horticulture In-service date for 2018 has not yet been staff. Surveys will be sent to staff statewide to help determine when to hold the in-service.

2017 training has 319 trainees at 29 locations (plus a prison location with 22 inmates). Average pre assessment score is 58/100. Post assessment score needed is 70/100. Evaluations indicated MG Training Class on Campus was great but Plant Pathology had too many samples for the time allotted. Six counties are using flipped classrooms with many counties doing partial flipped.

Laura Irish presented the Growing Together project posters and answered questions about the posters she presented over the donation gardens and food donation surveys of participants.

Box Lunch was served.

There is need to support the garden help lines that counties manage. Lina Rodriguez-Salamanca and Laura Illes from the ISU Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic asked committee if we felt a closed Facebook would help Master Gardeners with their client inquiries.

Master Gardener training budget was reviewed. Iowa MG training is lower in cost and requires fewer volunteer hours than other Midwest states. Some state have daytime training only. There was discussion of no need to raise the training fee at this time.

A SWOT discussion was held regarding Master Gardener training

Strengths – Thoroughness, High Quality, Archived recordings, Class on Campus, Current volunteers as ambassadors

Weakness – Too much information covered in 3 hours, Small class numbers, Volunteer opportunities in some counties, Lack of diversity of trainees, Logistics, Aging volunteers, County staff turnover

Opportunities – Flipped classroom, Pre/Post assessment as evaluation tool, 2018 Extension council elections, Matching volunteer projects to MG volunteers, 2019 is forty year anniversary

Threats- Core groups of MG's push out new interns,

Next steps: Use flipped classroom resources, start training earlier (application due August 15, 2018).

Suzette agreed to be secretary in 2018. By consensus, we elected new chairs for 2018: Ashley and Becki.

Next meeting will be April 13, 2018 at the same location.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Suzette Striegel, Secretary