

Iowa Master Gardener Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes May 7, 2018



The Iowa State Master Gardener Advisory Committee met Monday May 7, 2018 at 10 am at the Speer Room at Reiman Gardens.

Those present included:

- Becki Lynch NE MG,
- Ashley Sherrets NE staff,
- Jeri Bailey, SE MG,
- RoxAnn Rhoads Central MG,
- Suzette Striegel Central Staff,
- Lisa Dytrych SW MG,
- Ann Carter SW staff,
- Katelyn Brinkerhoff NW 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 was Shannon Bielicke SE Staff. Guest arriving later was Jon Wolseth, ISU Extension and Outreach.

Prior to the meeting, Introductions were by participation in a People Bingo game. First time attendees included RoxAnn Rhoads and Katelyn Brinkerhoff. Sue Jarvis NW MG has stepped down from the committee, a replacement will be found.

Becki Lynch called the meeting to order.

Webcasts were discussed. The three Growing Together webcasts were this winter and are covered by the SNAP-Education funding and free to all counties. The Growing Season webcasts are scheduled for this summer and each county pays \$75 for the three. After six months they are put on the Iowa Master Gardener YouTube channel.

The Growing Together demonstration garden and mini grants were discussed. There are 26 counties funded by the \$90K funds. Additional states (NE, IN, WI, and soon to be AL, MI, VA & IL) are replicating the project.

There are two upcoming conferences. The Upper Midwest Regional MG Conference in Twin Cities June 14-16. It is held every other year and rotates within 4 states IL, MN, Wisconsin & Iowa. The National MG coordinator conference (county coordinators are encouraged to attend) will be August 6-9, in Madison, Wisconsin.

Master Gardener training will be this fall at over 30 locations. All lectures will be recorded ahead, to enable flipped classrooms. There are 11 scholarships for FoodCorps service members. Many counties offer their own scholarships or incentives. Class on campus will be offered November 3 at Scheman Building, with about 40 trainees in each classroom at a time. Non trainees can attend for a \$115 (register with conference services prior).

Many county staff attended the Hort In service in February 2018. A fall inservice may be scheduled in addition to the February one. Timing possibilities include Fruit and Vegetable or Turf field days in August.

There was discussion regarding Master Gardeners being asked to help with school curriculum projects. Consensus was to review the curriculum prior to agreement and see if the task the Master Gardeners are being asked to provide is horticulture education.

Alan Ladd indicated a county had had Master Gardener injured at a community event (not held at the Extension and Outreach office). He emphasized when incidents similar to this happen we are to fill out the incident report and turn it into the insurance company right away even if the injured party does not intend to file a claim. Further discussion indicated the importance of ALL volunteers being screened and approved by the county Extension and Outreach council to be included in the county insurance coverage.

Jon Wolseth, PhD introduced the committee to a few of the activities included in the three-day Navigating Difference professional development course, including the discussion of the Diversity Wheel.

After box lunches were served, the three Search for Excellence (SFE) award applications were reviewed. New SFE resources included a sample application and emphasized the need for multiyear, group projects.

Three applications were submitted. All projects were great multiyear projects with impact. However the committee members did not feel the applications emphasized the project's measurable impacts as the committee felt it should. Motion by Alan and seconded by Katelyn for Pocahontas and Webster county projects to receive the SFE awards.

Consensus was to include "measurable impact" as a topic at the next Hort inservice. More ideas on how to get applicants to have measurable impact within their application are needed. Committee member are encouraged to let Susan know any ideas they have. Passed unanimously.

Next meeting will be Friday November 2 at the same location.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Suzette Striegel, Secretary

After the meeting, Denny Schrock's retirement party was held on campus as he is retiring June 2018. Many from the committee attended the party.