

Iowa Master Gardener Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes November 2, 2018



The Iowa State Master Gardener Advisory Committee met Friday, November 2, 2018 at 10 am at the Speer Room at Reiman Gardens.

Those present included:

- Becki Lynch NE MG,
- Ashley Sherrets NE staff,
- Shannon Bielicke, SE staff,
- RoxAnn Rhoads, Central MG,
- Suzette Striegel, Central Staff,
- Lisa Dytrych, SW MG,
- Ann Carter, SW staff,
- Doug Brightman, NW MG,
- Alan Ladd, Regional Director,
- Cindy Haynes, State Staff,
- Susan DeBlicke, State Staff, and
- Richard Jauron, State Staff.

Unable to attend was Katelyn Brinkerhoff, Donald Lewis, and Jeri Bailey. Guest arriving later was Jon Wolseth, ISU Extension and Outreach.

Prior to the meeting, Introductions were by participation in an icebreaker. First time attendees included Doug Brightman. Two of our current members' terms are expiring and we will be looking for members to fill those spots. Thank you to Suzette and Jeri for your service. Suzette is currently the acting secretary and handed over the duties to Ann Carter, who accepted the role.

- A photo release was added to the annual agreement that all Master Gardeners sign year to year. The first time MG's log in to the Volunteer Reporting System after January 1, they electronically agree to the terms of the agreement.

- Summer webcasts were accessed by 35 counties. Winter webinars will cover the topics of Accessibility and Container Gardening, Working with Millennials, and Vegetable Gardening. Cost for these webinars is unknown at this time.
- Demonstration Gardens donated nearly 9,000 pounds of fresh produce to local food pantries to-date. Reports from SNAP-Ed funded mini grants have been received from 26 counties. Around 70,000 pounds of fresh produce have been donated. Mini-grant application opens January 11, 2019. Seven states are planning to replicate our program in 2019.
- National Extension Master Gardener Coordinator Conference was held in Madison, WI in August. Main “take-aways” were:
 - Changing target audience in publications; ie: Removing the term “homeowner”
 - Split the core training into a gardening section and a volunteering section (NC)
 - Train new MG volunteers in active listening, strategic questioning, reinforcing research and getting back to the client
 - Adding a volunteer retreat to local programs to help encourage leadership, project succession, mentor new members, sharing what volunteering looks like, handling difficult conversations
- Current MG Training – 24 counties are hosting in 2018; flipped classrooms have been received positively; 300 trainees; class on campus is tomorrow. Susan shared financial comparison of 2017 and 2018 and proposed a change. Committee decided not to lower the overall fee, but to make the workbook an electronic offering, increasing accessibility, downloadable/printable by participants or offices and as a result an additional \$10 will stay with the county.

Cindy addressed the Hort Inservice and a survey is being sent to county staff to help decide if the Inservice is held in February, August, September or October in 2019.

Jon Wolseth, PhD returned to provide ongoing professional development on the topic of Navigating Differences.

Ashley provided information on the current structure of the Search for Excellence awards selection process and proposed a change. Discussion included the biggest hurdle groups encounter is the measuring of impact of their project. Becki has offered to contact applicants to help them strengthen this area of their application. The committee decided to keep the scoring rubric similar, but not to have to reach a minimum point level to be awarded the recognition.

Susan reviewed the current Iowa Master Gardener mission statement and also read the Minnesota Master Gardener mission statement. Brief discussion followed. Susan will send a document to committee members to allow for comments.

Ashley led a discussion on how best to share local success stories on a state-wide level. Discussion included formal Impact Reports to informal idea generation, share a story, data gathering.

Susan will send a Doodle poll to help in selecting our next meeting date.

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 2 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Carter