

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Master Gardener Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes for April 12, 2019

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Master Gardener program advisory committee met Friday, April 5, 2019 at Reiman Gardens in Ames. The committee was called to order at 10 am. The group participated in a brief icebreaker.



Members present included Co-chairs Becki Lynch and Ashley Sherrets, Shannon Biellicke, Sharon Jeter, Ann Carter, Doug Brightman, Katelyn Brinkerhoff, RoxAnn Rhodes, Chelsea Martens, John Krzton-Presson, Alan Ladd, Donald Lewis, Cindy Haynes, Susan DeBlieck and Richard Jauron. No guests were present.

Old Business:

- Becki and Ashley were re-elected as co-chairs.
- We welcomed Chelsea and Sharon as new committee members and thanked John for his time on the committee.

New Business:

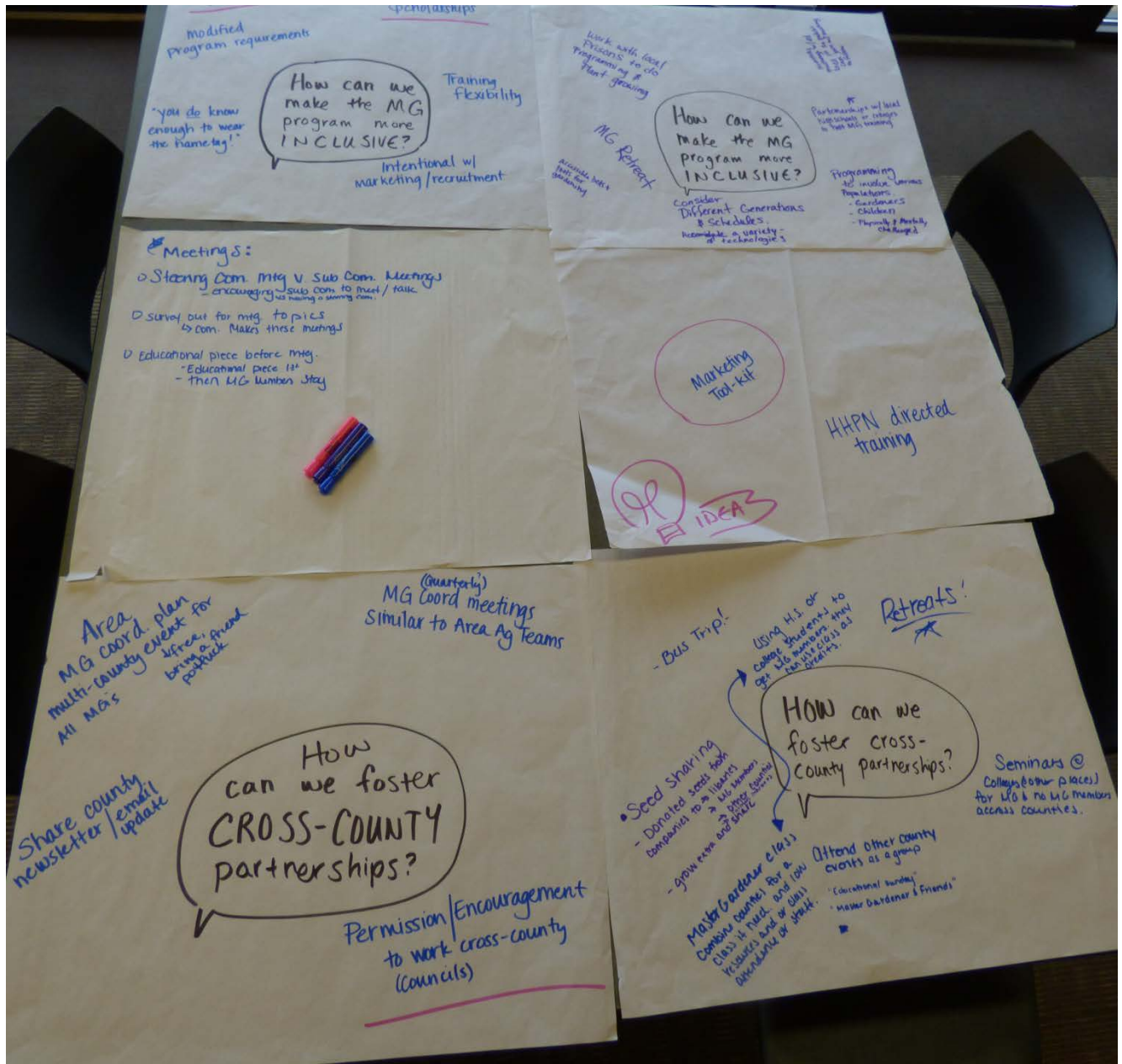
Susan provided information on:

- Winter webinar webcasts were used by 34 counties. They will be added to the YouTube channel in June.

- Upcoming growing season webinars will cover the topics of Ecology Plus Diversity, Give Your Garden Wings, and Gardening FAQ. These will be approximately 1 hour in length and cost counties \$75 for access to all three.
- Growing Together Mini-grants: 22 projects are being funded in 2019. This is down, but that is due to several past applicants having established sustainable projects without this grant. Seven states are replicating our program in 2019.
- Conferences:
 - National Conference on Extension Volunteerism – Billings, MT held May 13-17
 - International Master Gardener Conference – Valley Forge, PA held June 18-21
 - Looking ahead:
 - Master Gardener Coordinator Conference hosted in Tennessee in Sept 2020
 - International Master Gardener Coordinator Conference hosted by Virginia Tech in 2021 and Kansas State in 2023
- 2019 MG Training Updates
 - Susan has created 2019 MG Training Guide that covers flipped classroom ideas, attendance policies and FAQ
 - Currently revising the MG Training Resource Guide. Extras from 2016 are for sale in the ISU Extension Store for \$10
 - 2019 MG training resource guide will be available as an e-book and also printed in 2019
 - Workbook will be offered as an e-book
 - Class on Campus will be October 19, 2019 at Scheman Building in Ames. Non-MG trainees can attend for \$115
- 2018 MG Training Class on Campus
 - Overall, the cost ended up being comparable to past years, since less money was spent on IT services during live webinars.
 - 21 people paid \$115 to attend the class on campus.
 - Parking, registration services, sit down hot lunch, sound system and walking distances were listed as positives as the change from campus building locations to Scheman Conference Center.
- Working with ISU Foundation to be able to accept donations to offer MG Training Scholarships

Cindy gave an update on the Hort Inservice held in February. Many liked that it was hands-on and held on the day before ISU Extension Annual Conference.

The committee formed three groups to discuss and share how we can make the program more inclusive and ways to increase cross-county collaboration.



OLD BUSINESS:

The group was given the single Search for Excellence application prior to our meeting. Scores were shared. Brief discussion was held. The application was awarded the 2019 Search for Excellence award.

The committee also discussed ways to get more applications and reasons groups don't apply. County Coordinators should encourage MG volunteers to apply, as it effects funding in some instances as well as promotes local and state activities.

Ashley shared that she applied for a grant and to build a traveling plant and insect diagnostic kit to use for training.

Ashley also shared updates on improvements to the Volunteer Reporting System.

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- Progress tab has been edited to mark volunteer milestones (500, 1000, 2000 hours of service levels)
- Skills and interests entered by the volunteers will be searchable
- Verifying hours- now have choices of “approved/pending/denied”
- Mobile devices will have easier access

Susan would like a couple smaller counties to pilot a program using Qualtrics for volunteers to record their volunteer and continuing education hours without logging into the VRS. Ann and Chelsea volunteered to pilot the program in 2019.

Continued discussion was held on the Iowa Master Gardener Mission Statement.

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Master Gardener volunteer program uses research-based horticulture and gardening knowledge and practices to educate people and coordinate projects that promote healthy communities.

Shannon moved, Becki seconded. Vote carried.

Susan will send a Doodle poll to help in selecting our next 2019 meeting date.

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Carter