

Master Gardener Advisory Board Meeting – April 5, 2023

In attendance: Lori, Steven, Linda, Sam, Cindy, Kate, Doug, Sue, RoxAnn, Dan, Cindy Kaycie and Sherry

Absent: Chelsea Llewellyn

RoxAnn presides over the meeting

Welcome new members – Dan, Kate, and Kaycie

Minutes approval from the last meeting – Sam and Lori move, and all approve

Replacements for Advisory members – recruitment through Master Gardeners in NW and Central will apply through Qualtrics – applicants discussed at Fall Advisory meeting

Staff – done through regional directors (Sam's area) with recommendations from staff so that it can be discussed at fall meeting.

Committee guidelines

Alicia shares her screen with edits (see attached) some changes discussed and voted were:

Meeting held in spring in fall (not Nov and April) with spring meeting held virtually

Ex-officio membership paragraph has 3 ISU staff and 1 Regional Director – Sam moves to delete “ex-officio members” at least one representative from ISU E&O – always have an odd number on committee. Discussion on voting of ex-officio members Doug raises the question if those ex-officio members count as voting committee members and part of the majority.

Guests – open to MG public? Currently any Master Gardeners and Coordinators are invited to attend these meetings. Sherry suggests that others attend by invitation only.

Grammar changes noted as well (Alicia has final/updated doc)

Operation of committee – no mention of rules of order – do we need more detail? A simple majority of members (50% plus one).....moved by Sam and Doug seconds

Sam moves that all members of the committee (except state coordinator) are allowed to vote. Alicia as her role as state coordinator votes only in the need as a tie-breaker. Dan and Steven seconds motion. Sam mentions that those on the committee have a stake in the program and offer input to improve the program – as such their voices should be heard in voting.

All votes are in favor

Operation of the committee: Sam moves that at least 3 master gardeners be present for quorum. Lori seconds. All approve – motions carries.

The state master gardener coordinator is an ex-officio means the position and only votes in ties.

“Two campus based staff, one field specialist, and one county services admin” are members of the committee....for discussion of ISU campus based staff...Sam moves this change second by Cindy Hutcheson – all approve and motion carries

Some discussion of what counties the regions comprise and if we should adjust the regions. Purpose of the map was discussed – all kept the same.

Committee offers input on campus-based staff based on expertise and priorities of the committee. Final decision of membership is approved by the committee vote. Verbiage on Regional directors offers input also changed. State coordinator helps recruit and recommend campus staff based on priorities

Sam moves to vote on approval of document and Sue seconds. Motion carries – all approve

Application review and voting – SFE

One application with a Qualtrics link

Alicia goes over what the SFE award is about for new members. How it aligns with national SFE awards.

A coordinator recommends a simplified process as this is overwhelming for some Master Gardeners. Linda mentions that most Master Gardeners are not aware of the award and not asked to apply. Sherry suggests that county coordinators help with the process and match the deadline with county award programs in November. Kate suggests that November/December deadline aligns with county stakeholder reports. Sam suggests that Master Gardener County Coordinators help encourage Master Gardeners to submit their projects for awards to be recognized by others in and out of Iowa.

One application – Dubuque Mowing to Monarchs discussion

Current threshold higher than 75%

Comments:

Well-written. Good job with measuring impact over several years.

Great application from ease of application and originality from Doug with a high score. So many resources available to urban areas compared to rural areas.

More links back to ISU in documents in resources in assisting in training the public to use ISU E&O materials recommended

Vote in Qualtrics by Friday the 7th.

Recognition Level Awards

250 hours level award needed? Discussion of what the counties do for additional recognition of master gardeners in their county. Steven mentions the county level recognition at a banquet and pictures put into the local paper. Doug mentions that this is important for the counties to have some local awards at 50 and 250 awards. Lori asks if there is a mention of this possibility in the handbook. Sam mentions that county coordinators can encourage to offer other awards at 50 hours and 250 hours. Several on

the board want to know what other counties are doing to recognize their MG volunteers. Alicia mentions sharing information with coordinators in CyBox.

Standard template form certificates that the counties can use were discussed. Recognition of Master Gardeners varies from county to county. Should this information be reported back to the state coordinator? Can there be a county template that doesn't include recognition at the state level? Sherry suggests this template be more open so that the county could decide if the coordinators have 50, 100, 250, or outstanding community involvement... one with hours and another with open title. Committee requests a template for counties to use one for other to use at their discretion. Sherry moved and someone seconded. Motion carries.

Lifetime MG – change year from 10 years to 7 years – number of hours kept the same. Sam mentions that our demographic might be better served if lifetime status is completed in 7 years versus 10 years. Alicia notes that this means they must complete over 200 hours per year for 7 years versus over 150 hours each year for 10 years to achieve 1500 hours total. Effective in 2023 ...in May with 2023 hours. Sam moves that starting in May 2023 lifetime mg status at 7 years and 1500 hours. Motion carries.

Active MG vs non-active status at Lifetime MGs. Active MGs even if Lifetime status must be background checked. Motion that background checks required for Lifetime Master Gardeners - Steven moves and Sam seconds. Motion carries.

We are also requesting that they record hours for county tracking amendment added Kate moves and Doug seconds. – Motion carries.

MG Scholarships

No guidelines associated with scholarships awarded. What are the priorities for these scholarships? Alicia suggests these scholarships be \$100 to cover the amount for the state. State scholarships are not meant to replace county scholarships. We are currently selecting low income, more diverse audiences for these scholarships. Kate suggests that they write an essay on why they should be given to them for a scholarship. Sherry asks if MG must pay a part and the county can refund them after the completion of training. Motion for written procedure for guidance on the state scholarship awards. Alicia will come up with and get committee input and votes. Sherry asked for examples from other states.

AEA update

We are set up with an account in the portal. Next steps will be to upload materials into the portal. Hopefully accreditation for the program for fall.

Next Meeting

Doodle poll for tentative date in late September or very early October. ANR Professional Development is October 10-12.

Alicia is printing some name badges without last names as some MGs are not comfortable with them in public. The committee approves of this measure as it is requested on a case-by-case basis but does not intend to change the overall policy.