MASTER GARDENER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES November 3, 2021

The meeting of the Extension Master Gardener Advisory Committee was called to order at 9:00 am, by Candice Hart. The meeting was held via Zoom. Also in attendance were: May Bach, Bruce Black, Sally Cook, Heather Coyle, Barb Dahlbach, Debra Fearn, Sarah Fellerer, Jennifer Fishburn, Pat Gunnerson, Brittnay Haag, Nancy Kreith, Jenny Lee, Judy Panico, Gwen Podeschi, Burke Travis, Sarah Vogel, Jennifer Warren, Jane White, and Vicky Wyffels.

- 1. Introductions were made. All open Advisory Committee vacancies have been filled. Minutes from the August 18 meeting were approved.
- Dr. Travis Burke has been named Assistant Dean, Agriculture/Agri-Business Program Leader and replaces Dennis Bowman on this committee.
 Travis told us his team is working on 8 initiatives, including open meetings on December 7 on Regenerative Agriculture and December 10 on Climate Change. Welcome, Travis.
- 3. All on-line 2021 MG training has been moved to Moodle. Everyone who did their training prior to 2021 (on prior platforms) has been added to Moodle, enabling them to access the training sessions and finish their training, if needed.

On-line MG training is taken by individuals who want to become Master Gardeners (volunteer) and individuals who only want to learn the horticulture knowledge (non-volunteer). The volunteers require background checks and additional paperwork while the non-volunteers do not. Confusion exists because the course is currently named Master Gardener training even though the non-volunteer trainees don't intend to become MGs. We're looking to rebrand the on-line training to be a path to becoming an MG, similar to how Wisconsin has Foundations in Horticulture for everyone. Additional training would be needed after this "foundations" class, along with background checks, additional paperwork, etc., for anyone who wants to become an MG. This rebranding is targeted for spring/summer 2022.

- 4. Hybrid training also uses Moodle for the on-line component. It allows trainees to pick and choose videos and articles. There is also a live zoom session each week with a Hort educator and several local, in-person training workshops. Hybrid training will be offered again in winter/spring 2022.
- 5. Mastering Urban Tree Health and Tree Identification advanced training has been delayed due to covid. More workshops planned for 2022 with open registration targeted for February 1, 2022. The training is transitioning to Moodle. The grant has been extended through 2022. Purchases of supply kits, including reference books and measuring tools, for participating counties, is still planned.
- 6. There is an open request for a state-wide MG program marketing plan, including state-wide promotional materials. No timing when this will start. We are still in transition to the new MG apparel website. The new vendor has had some issues and the website is not yet functional. No timing as to when this will be available.
- 7. The volunteer time tracking tool (VCMS) is being replaced by GivePulse but probably won't be available until sometime in 2022. The new system will provide more options, better reporting, more categories and maintain flexibility. Washington State just started using GivePulse and will have volunteers record their hours in both VCMS and GivePulse until comfortable with new system. When it launches here, total volunteer hours will transfer from VCMS to GivePulse but not old details.

All volunteer hours are needed in VCMS by December 31 to be in state totals.

- 8. The KMGM applications are due by November 22, 2021 and will be announced January 31, 2022. We will discuss the applications at our next meeting. Possible ways to award money is to use a percentage allocation based on overall rating and/or let lower scores fall out of the allocation pool.
- 9. The 2021 State MG Conference was attended by about 200 people. The keynote was very well received. The 2022 conference is planned to be inperson, with the location reserved and working on lining up speakers.

- 10. There is a plan to send out a survey to all MGs at year-end, including hours, training, how do they like to get their volunteer hours in, etc. Karen Winter Nelson is helping with the data analysis part of this project. The results may change the number of volunteer and continuing education hours required for Interns and MGs.
- 11. Revising the MG manual will be a long process. Travis is willing to bring on an extra staff person to help with the revision. Candice is working on the position description for this project. Funding is in place. New chapters will be added, such as Invasives, Pollinators, and Climate Change. The Pest Management book will also be updated but probably not for another year or two.
- 12. No changes to the advisory board calendar or committee's bylaws other than replace "Skype" with "Zoom."
- 13. Other Business Next year there will be monthly CE opportunities geared to MGs rather than general public and will be more in-depth.

Candice will send out a newsletter to all MGs in December.

Bruce Black suggested Gardening Indoors or Houseplant Identification could be good topics for Speaker's Bureau or MG presentations and could be quite advanced. He will work with Candice to develop ideas.

All MGs got 1 year of service for 2020 due to covid. For 2021, Program Coordinators should be flexible. There won't be a state-wide decision.

14. The next meeting will be held on January 12, 2022 from 1:30-3:30 pm via Zoom. We hope to return to an in-person meeting on May 4, Zoom on August 17, and in-person on November 2, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 11:38 am. Respectfully submitted by Judy Panico, secretary.