

**NORTH COUNTRY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS
MEETING MINUTES
28 SEP 2017**

Those present included Deb Studley, Carla TePaske, Yvonne Koch-Proctor, Nancy Reis, Carol Taylor, Donna Amidon, Katie Childs, Sue Reinardy, Vicki Gee-Treft, Tony Webber, Barb Boatman, Terri Johnson, Sheila Squires, Mark Fox, Russ Parker, Terrie Strand, Janet Mangold, Roseann Meixelsperger, and Kevin Schoessow.

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM by President, Janet Mangold.

A motion was made by Nancy Reis and seconded by Tony Webber to accept the August 24, 2017, minutes as printed.

The checking account balance was reported by treasurer, Barb Boatman, as \$2,194.69. Barb will purchase three VISA gift cards in the amount of \$100 each plus fees to give to employees who went above and beyond this summer in getting ready for the Twilight Garden Tour.

Old Business:

- The AAS garden design contest submission was made by Sharon Tarras. Kevin has not yet received results.
- Twilight Garden Tour in 2018 will be chaired by Vicki Gee-Treft who has some exciting ideas.

New Business:

- Russ introduced our guest, John Stensvold, who has volunteered to build new benches and pergolas in the display garden area. Tony expressed his concern over using wood treated with arsenic. A motion was made and seconded to allow John to build the pergolas and benches for the garden and was encouraged to use his own imagination. Motion carried. Currently there are eight benches. A suggestion was made to also build two leopard benches.

- The slate of nominees for 2017-2018 are as follows:

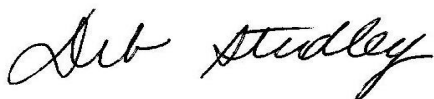
Term Expires:

President:	Donna Amidon	September, 2018
Vice-President:	Carol Taylor	September, 2018
Secretary:	Roseann Meixelsperger	September, 2019
Treasurer:	Sheila Squires	September, 2019
Directors:	Russ Parker	September, 2018
	Vicki Gee-Treft	September, 2018
	Tony Webber	September, 2018

- A motion was made by Janet Mangold and seconded by Barb Boatman to accept the slate of officers as presented. Motion carried. A motion was made by Deb Studley and seconded by Terrie Strand to accept the director nominees. Motion carried
- Tony suggested that the board meet this fall to discuss changing term expiration dates for directors so their terms don't all expire at the same time. Maybe secretary and treasurer terms should also be staggered. By-Laws would need to be updated.
- Sue Reinardy explained her responsibilities as our WIMGA representative. Katie Childs is willing to be an alternate with Sue to represent our local MG association.
- Volunteer time sheets were due to Lorraine by September 15th to allow Kevin time to submit his yearly report to UW-Extension.
- The annual accomplishment reports for each county in the NCMGV area are being completed by Sue Reinardy and are due November 1st. Please provide her with details of MGV work in your county.

- Information on how to acquire more education hours is being included on the www.northcountrymgv.org website.
- Vicki Gee-Treft would like to expand the following areas:
 - More signage in the garden.
 - Add a speakers' bureau.
 - Assist Head Start with starting a raised bed garden.
 - Assign MGV's to individual plots in the demonstration garden to be responsible for planting & weeding.
 - Complete MGV work in more than Washburn County.
 - Provide MGV training in the spring of 2018.
 - Invite the public to the pot luck in October as a way to find more people interested in taking the training.
 - Get the new transfer members from other counties involved.
 - Update our photo display board used for events – showcase the different aspects of MGV, not just pictures of the gardens.
- Kevin asked that our group become more pro-active as his responsibilities are changing due to staff retirements and those positions not being funded going forward; therefore, he will not be able to devote as much time to the group as in the past.
- Yvonne suggested designing a banner highlighting MGV training and activities to use during events to publicize our work.
- Sue reported that we get more than 100 unique visitors every week to the website. The Ag. Station Facebook page also draws interested people. We could add links from our website for people who do garden blogs. Sue recommends instituting a social media chairperson. This could be discussed at the fall board meeting. Janet is willing to service on the committee.
- Russ announced a School Garden Initiative which will be held at the Spooner Elementary School at 4:15 PM on October 12th. All schools in the Burnett, Sawyer and Washburn county area will be invited. The purpose is to target teachers, staff and community members to use school gardens as outdoor classrooms. The panel will include Amy Young, Terry Day, Jean Strom, Russ, and Regional Coordinator Veronica Justen of the School Garden Network.
- Russ would also like to present a wine making workshop in November or December with assistance from Mark Fox. Grapes will be harvested at the demonstration garden the first week of October and can be seeded and frozen. Other berries will also be used. The offering could possibly be included as a Community Education opportunity.
- Kevin reported on hosting students from the Birchwood Charter School on September 28th. More information is on the Ag. Station Facebook page at www.facebook.com/spoonerag.
- Carla Te Paske shared that she won a recent Volunteer Vibe question by saying that she wished she had done more research on a specific plant to find out that it was invasive and overtook her garden.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 PM.



Respectfully submitted,
 Deb Studley
 Secretary