

**NORTH COUNTRY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS
MEETING MINUTES
25 JAN 2018**

Members present included Donna Amidon, Cindy Lawson, Carol Taylor, Sheila Squires, Janet Mangold, Russ Parker, Vicki Gee-Treft, Carla TePaske, Katie Childs, Pam Davies, Sue Reinardy, Kevin Schoessow and Roseann Meixelsperger.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM by President, Donna Amidon. Donna welcomed all and spoke about our AAS theme for 2018 "Get Social in the Garden", and how that can apply to our many events and activities.

Meeting minutes from Oct. 26, 2017 were reviewed. Motion to approve by Carol, second by Vicki; motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report as of December 2017 was distributed and reviewed by all. Sheila reported the 2017 year ended at \$1,792.05. Sheila commented on the 2018 budget process – she has reviewed the last two years and categorized revenues and expenditures, keeping them in relation to committees. There is a concern by the Officers and Directors as the Plant Sale is our sole revenue provider. Requested that if members are donating items vs. asking for reimbursement, that they let her know so that it can be acknowledged.

Old Business:

- Katie attended the WI Master Gardener Association (WIMGA) in West Bend last Fall. She asked to give a full report at a future meeting on that conference. Kevin spoke of opportunities for local associations to help with conferences. Sheila stated our Association pays for our WIMGA Dues.
- Carol stated the Plant Sale Committee has had a few meetings getting ready for the sale. The sale will feature pollinator plants as well as tomatoes and peppers. Seed starting for the sale plants will be part of the new master gardener class training this Spring.
- Vicki requested that anyone needing name tags let her know as she will soon be placing the order.

New Business:

Committees: Officers and Directors have been meeting to clarify and redefine our committees. Handouts were provided to all attendees of Committee summary descriptions and are attached to these minutes for your review.

- The committees are now:
 - Teaching and Display Garden/AAS/TGT/Meet Me in the Garden – Vicky envisions subgroups for these events
 - MGV Training – Sue stated this will have a Level 1 focus. Schedule is Tuesdays, April 3 – June 19th from 6:00 – 9:00 PM. Sue stated the press release has gone out and is also on our website. We currently have 14 people interested from Washburn County, and 4 interested from Barron County. Maximum class size is set at 15, but it could go to 20. Sue sent in the training notice to the State. Need people on the committee to act as facilitators. For example: when they split the perennials around the building, it needs coordination. These volunteers will lead hands on activities to reinforce the module content. Training posters were taken by those attending to distribute in the community. There was discussion on satellite locations, but no action was taken.

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- Marketing and Publicity – Kevin is the chair for this committee. Use Social Media and press releases. Kevin encourages our local association to have more autonomy from the UW- Extension, due to staffing constraints. MGs need to get information to Sue for the Website; Lorraine for Facebook; and to Kevin for press releases. Kevin detailed the broad impact the press releases have both locally and statewide.
- Children and Youth Programs (includes school gardens, mini MG garden, and children's garden) – Russ stated they expect to hold another Mini Master Gardener program with Bashaw Valley Greenhouse, who should host this event again. Roseann added that part of the program this year will be for the Mini MGs to plant seeds in the Ag Research Garden's raised beds. They will also label the plants and learn how to plant and care for them. That will lead into the planned children's gardens events for this summer. Vicki stated the Girl Scouts for the 5th and 6th grades have expressed interest in being involved.
- Signage – Russ stated there is a concerted effort to get out signs real time. Need input on signs required for events in the gardens. Want to have signs when the plants are seeded. Carol and Vicki volunteered to help.
- Seed Starting, Saving and Plant Maintenance – Carol and Russ have been working on this process. Need volunteers. Trying to determine how to preclude seed diseases. Could give a presentation at training and Meet Me in the Garden. Carol stated that plant maintenance starts with plants for sale and in the garden.
- Plant Sale – Please see Carol's comments in "Old Business"
- Communications to Public and Members (includes handbook, website, and newsletter) – Sue stated there are 155 unique website visitors weekly. This week of those visitors there were 488-page views – 109 of those on our training page. Sue stated this year Google Calendar will be used to keep us on track and let others know all that we do. Sue asked that MG's give her input for the website. Sue also volunteered to train on the use of the online Google calendar. Discussion on combining Communications with Publicity and Marketing – no action taken. Sue and Katie advised the Midwest Conference, covering IA, WI and MN will be June 14th to June 16th. Sue went thru the months for handbook activities and will have that ready soon for our members. Sue noted a copy is placed on the website without our members' personal contact information.

Volunteer Opportunities: Vicki stated the need for a Community Event Coordinator, Speakers Bureau, Horticulture Inquiry Volunteers, and Training Supporters. Please see Vicki if you can volunteer or need more information.

WIMGA Rep: Sue is our rep. Local representatives are selected by each member Association to represent their Association in all official business about WIMGA – they are the one recognized contact person for their Association. If an Association feels a need to have an alternate, the Local Representative can forward all the information to the alternate. Sheila volunteered to write up a description of our local representative's duties from the WIMGA descriptions provided by Sue for our purposes.

Educational Opportunities: (online)

Plants plus series: <https://wimastergardener.org/article/shade-and-light/>

Social Media training <https://sites.google.com/a/extension.org/social-media-resources/welcome>

Adaptive Gardening tool kit for teaching a class: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3KN30pwrQM>

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Other: Kevin stated the Seed to Kitchen is open to getting participants to evaluate products. Kevin stated the Seed to Kitchen needs more volunteers to deliver surplus to Food shelves. The UW- Extension will be hiring two staff people. Kevin's job responsibilities are expanding. Appreciates the direction our group is going on in taking on more responsibility.

Photo Release UW-Extension Policy was discussed. If needed, especially if a recognizable face, there is a form on our website. Kevin stated there is a You Tube video that can be viewed on this subject – requested we add this as an agenda item for a future meeting.

Discussion on options for members who can't attend meetings: WisLine Anytime Service can handle up to 50 phone lines. Other options are Google Hangouts; Conference Calls; and Skype. Sue moved to use the audio polycon and pay \$3/line/hour to the UW-Extension for the WisLine service. Russ seconded. Motion carried unanimously. In the future, members who cannot come to meetings can listen to the meetings live via WisLine (by phone). All you must do is contact Lorrain (715-635-3735) in advance of the meeting and she will give the member the number to call and the code to enter so they can listen in to the meetings. This option will be added to all future agendas as an investment in our membership.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Vicki; second by Carol. Motion carries unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann Meixelsperger
Secretary