**Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association**

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Held via Zoom and In-Person on Wednesday, August 14, 2024

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 11, 2024, Zoom and In-Person

**Attendees:** Bosler, Eric; Bosler, Shari; Corl, Mary; Dameier, Margo; DesRochers, Donna; Harty, Jen; Hogie, Leanne; Rousseau, Sandi; Stevens, John; Wickersham, Megan; Willett, Tracy; Willis, Joanne

**Treasurer’s Report** (Joanne): Joanne sent out the Treasurer’s Report. In July she renewed a CD for 6 months at the current market rate which is a little lower than in the past. It was approved.

**Secretary’s Report** (Donna): Changes to the July minutes have been incorporated. The minutes were approved.

**Coordinator’s Report** (Megan) It is busy with visiting groups: two groups of Florida Master Gardeners, a WSU group from Olympia, and Clark County Master Gardeners scheduled for Sept 26. People are coming and it matters. The groups had lots of favorable comments. Margo is doing publicity on the visits.

Extension funding will be on the ballot in November under the HRC Safety Levy. The message should be: Funding the HR County is funding HR County Extension Service. It is important to be proactive and visible for public awareness to keep the MG’s program funded in the future.

HR Fair had a low turnout–decent number of contacts spread over the three days, but mostly kids and not focused on garden education. We will take a year off and review other events to attend. Trout Lake Fair was more successful with 60-70 contacts, and it was great to get information to outlying areas.

Walmart donated $1000’s of dollars in seed packets. A Thank You card will be sent. It is very windy at Plant Clinics there so we should look for other events to partner up with Walmart.

Joanne will redesign and order more thank you/note cards.

WyEast Vista Raised Bed Garden is going well.

Megan will be out of town attending meetings in Santa Fe, Aug 25-30.

Twelve gardens will be featured at the HR Heights Front Yard Garden Tour on Sept 7. It is in partnership with OSU Family/Community Health, Snap Ed, Master Gardeners, Soil and Water, Streets Alive and Thrive. We need MGs to help greet visitors in the gardens.

Online Plant clinic questionnaires are getting set up with QR codes.

Trainee participation has dropped off even with many opportunities to volunteer. Lots of back injuries, illness, life issues and folks are tapped out with a busy life. This is a good time to check in with your trainee.

**September Fall CGMG Meeting** (Jen) The goal is to keep it a social meeting, a chance to build rapport and confidence in the program as well as keep it fun and educational. Jen will explore options for a location and put it together. Speaker ideas included: MG of Year and Behind the Scenes recipient’s sharing stories and project leaders talking for 2 minutes about the successes of the year.

Past social gatherings did not have the best attendance. It was suggested that an early announcement in March of the September Fall meeting would be a good way to get it on the member's calendar.

**OMGA Report** (Eric) Funding or lack of funding is a big issue in several counties. Josephine County is one example. It is hard to get funding again once it is lost.

**Committees:**

**Fish Food Bank** (Megan) Tracy Willett deserves a medal for battling all the weather and irrigation issues. Congratulations on outreach efforts getting the community involved and welcome. We are still waiting for a grant from the National Conservation of Irrigation Districts.

(Tracy) This has been a good year with volunteers, despite problems with growing food. Composting is moving along. The tomato and pepper tasting event is put on hold.

**Outreach** (Jen) August’s educational outreach had 12 attendees. Future events: September-Seed Saving Workshop, October-Tool Sharpening at Fish Food Garden. The Latino Outreach event is Sept 15. A website meeting is tomorrow.

(Leanne) At Radio Terra they had technical difficulties that are getting resolved. A conversational style format is working well. The group is currently doing 30-45 minutes of the 60 minutes scheduled time. Future topics are what’s happening in the garden, hot/cold weather gardening, and fire wise information. Spanish questions that come in may be a good resource for the program. The group would like to schedule guest speakers and answer call in questions but need technical assistance to do a good job. Google Translate is very helpful for sending out information. Plant clinic forms in Spanish can be linked with the English one. Raices and The Next Door were suggested as places to drop off forms. Shari asked for an article for the newsletter.

She is currently looking at land plots for next year’s gardens. The garden behind Rosauer’s is doing good.

A PSA for the radio show and an ad on BiCoastal regarding the funding ballot measure in November were discussed. It was again noted the message should focus on funding the Hood River County Safety Levy funds HR Extension Services.

(Jen) Mercado Farmers Market in Odell has requested a booth and a presentation once a month. CGMGA did attend pre-covid so maybe next year.

**Publicity Report** (Margo) A photo of Florida Master Gardeners with our own MG’s was submitted to the local newspaper.

**Memorial Team** (Shari) Nothing to add beyond my report. I’m still making connections with Paul Casal, Don Perry and Nick Peters. This is not a rush project.

**Executive Committee Positions** (Jen) The procedure for selecting members of CGMGA executive committee was discussed. The newsletter may be a way to publicize open positions and welcome the public to attend executive meetings. Joanne will write an article.

John sends out congratulations to Shari, Camille and contributors for such a nice newsletter.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:09.

Minutes were taken by Donna DesRochers.