

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Held In Person at the OSU Extension Library and via Zoom on Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Attendees: Anne Gehrig, Bill Winfield, Donna DesRochers, Jen Harty, Jennifer Munroe, Joanne Willis, John Stevens, Kaeley Dawson, Margo Dameier, Mary Corl, Megan Wickersham, Sandi Rousseau, Tracy Willett

Jen called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Secretary Minutes (Donna) Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report (Joanne) The recent Plant Sale exceeded expectations with gross sales of around \$10,000 and minimal leftover plants. Joanne presented the financial report, noting that expenses are not yet finalized. The credit card accounting is more complicated and she may recruit help to sort out charges and receipts. Website hosting charges will be transferred to a CGMGA credit card. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Coordinators Report (Megan) Megan reported that the WyEast Garden project is progressing well, with two visits completed and a third planned to plant peppers and tomatoes donated from the Plant Sale. The importance of providing guidance upfront and developing connections with the participants was discussed. The group plans to bring tomato plants next week, instruct on how to plant them, the importance of soil temperature when it is cool at night and ways to protect the plants from the cold, including using makeshift covers.

The team also discussed issues with aphids on some plants identified just before the Plant Sale. Plant clinics will continue, and a third trainee slot has been added to help manage the workload. An intern funded by OSU will be joining Megan to focus on the FISH garden and help with outreach.

OMGA (Jen) Eric submitted his report. Reminder that grants are due May 15. Also, Joy of Gardening is going strong.

Events and Giveaways (Anne) She reported on the "Seed to Supper" program, which will involve pop-up sessions at food distribution days at FISH. These will focus on container gardening to make it more accessible to those with limited space and resources. Soil and container acquisition were discussed.

(Jen) Successful participation was reported at Dia de los Ninos in White Salmon, where education about pollinators was provided to attendees. Also discussed were plant talks given during the Plant Sale, and upcoming Garden Gathering classes, including a film screening of "Kiss the Ground" at the Hood River Library in July.

Frisbees with the CGMGA logo have been purchased for distribution at summer events and creating custom seed packets for future giveaways was discussed.

Successful Plant Sale and Community Balance

The recent Plant Sale was successful with 431 attendees. Kaeley expressed concern about the checkout process, while Joanne noted that the crowd flow seemed smoother than last year. The team plans to have a debrief meeting to address issues and improve future plant sales, including traffic flow management and photo documentation.

The Plant Sale had high website click rates. There was a brief technical issue that was quickly resolved with the plant list being temporarily unavailable on the website. Margo shared an anecdote about the sale's popularity, mentioning that customers who couldn't get plants from CGMGA were referred to a nearby plant sale, reinforcing involvement with the community. The group reflected on the balance between making money and serving the community, emphasizing that their goal as volunteers is not solely profit-driven.

FISH Garden

Tracy noted the benefits of having more young people involved in the FISH Garden have helped address long-standing issues in their gardens. A lawn mower that was purchased by CGMGA is not being used and can be auctioned or bid on any time.

Publicity

Margo provided a publicity update, highlighting the ongoing volunteer recruitment campaign and increased social media presence. She is looking for a photographer at the upcoming FISH anniversary open house on May 31.

OMGA Educators Grant

Megan and Sandi discussed applying for the OMGA educators grant, with Megan planning to focus on the food bank outreach and Seed to Supper program. Sandi is applying for the Carl Carlson grant to fund hardscape design at the learning garden. Tracy mentioned that signs for the garden, funded by a previous Carl Carlson grant, will finally be installed by the 31st.

Learning Garden Update

Joanne noted plans to grow small sugar pumpkins in the raised beds at the Learning Garden. The irrigation will be completed soon.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 am.
Minutes were taken by AI and edited by Donna DesRochers

