

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

OSU Extension Meeting Room

Held In Person and via Zoom on Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Attendees: Bill Winfield, Donna DesRochers, Eric Bosler, Jen Harty, Jen Munroe, John Stevens, Mary Corl, Megan Wickersham, Sandi Rousseau, Shari Bosler, Tracy Willett

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

Secretary's Minutes: (Donna) The minutes were approved without corrections. It was noted that the Executive Meeting minutes were not all downloaded in the same format on the CGMGA website. Jen will look at the formatting issue.

Treasurer's Report (Jen) The treasurer's report was presented and approved. Joanne sent word that due to a bank change from Umpqua to Columbia Bank, there was a delay in accessing information. John will meet with Tracy to correct \$100 of expenses paid out and appropriate money to the correct budget line item category.

Coordinators Report (Megan) Thank you to all who coordinated and managed 182 emails in her absence.

Garden Tour The Front Yard Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, September 13th. Flyers are available to pass out in the local area and have been placed at libraries, extension offices and gardens on the tour. Maps are also easily accessible on our website as well as QR codes. There has been a good turn out for volunteers and docents at the gardens. Brad will be added to the Garden Tour team next year.

Showcasing Materials and Booth Set Up Currently there are different presentation and setup approaches for various environments and events. A video demonstration of the table and booth setups with set up options for each venue will be presented to the Board in the winter.

Waterwise Garden It was confirmed that Norma will be involved in the Water Wise Garden despite her stepping down from her role as leader of this project. John Stevens has agreed to be the project leader.

Volunteer Hours and 2026 Registration At the end of September registration for our 2026 classes will start. It was noted that not all volunteer hours for 2025 have been entered but overall the hours look good. A request was made for mentors to reach out to those that need hours and let them know that additional help is needed at El Grito and composting. Ideas are welcome for next year's classes. Both White Salmon and Hood River libraries have expressed interest in classes next year.

OMGA (Eric) A new President Elect has stepped up and will be the 2027 President. Plans for the annual September meeting are being discussed as well as reevaluating chapter expectations from OMGA.

Fish Food Bank (Tracy) The addition of the Sunshine Center has changed the Spirit of Grace Church's perspective on the community use of the property. This led to the discussion about sustainability of gardens and potential funding sources. It was noted that the garden had a successful harvest and is implementing more efficient farming practices under Rachel's guidance.

Lawnmower (Jen) The lawnmower will be checked out and sharpened by CGMGA before listing it as an auction item on the Better World website. Bidders will need to pay the credit card processing fee in addition to their bid. The website also has a place to make a donation to CGMGA. It was agreed to start the bidding at \$50 with a maximum of \$200.

Memorial Tree Project (Shari) Design work with Paul Casal is progressing. There is a file with examples and designs to look at choices. So far the pear design has favorable reviews.

Upcoming Events (Jen) El Grito is a yearly national Spanish celebration and is this Sunday in White Salmon. 400-500 attendees are expected, however, it is not sure how the presence of ICE in the area will affect the event.

Sandi offered to provide additional pumpkins at the Pumpkin Garden Gathering event.

(Jen) Hope Lavender Farm needs help harvesting this Saturday 9 am-2 pm. Instruction and tools will be made available. This is not a Master Gardener event, however, the husband of former Master Gardener Ivy Roulette has ongoing medical issues and would appreciate assistance.

A reminder about the recognition ceremony on November 13th, was announced, followed by a brief discussion about Riverside venue booking and kitchen usage.

Swim Meet Fundraiser (Sandi) The Rotary has agreed to provide volunteers for the Saturday slots. Master Gardeners will need 9 volunteers on Sunday.

Outdoor Garden Landscape Designer (Sandi) The group discussed hiring landscape designer, Matt Farmer, to create plans for the project. They reviewed his proposal, which included a hardscaping design for \$2,200, and decided to proceed with the project. The design will incorporate decking, concrete, and possibly stamped concrete, while avoiding major changes to the oak tree area. Stadium seating and ADA accessibility around the oak tree are options. The design will also provide a material list which will assist in getting future bids for work. The group agreed to use the budgeted \$2,500 for design work and the \$1000 from the Karl Carlson grant. A

presentation to the Board by mid-October is planned, followed by a presentation to the general membership in November. Overall, the project projected costs will be \$25,000-\$50,000, which includes design, material, plants and labor.

Garden Sustainability and Plant Sale The group discussed scheduling an evening meeting in early October to address the sustainability of CGMGA gardens. They also reviewed an email from a Lane County Master Gardener asking for sustainability ideas for their plant sale, noting that Lane County's plant sale raised \$40,000. Other items to discuss will include restructuring our program to attract members. As this is a statewide issue, Megan will reach out at a Conference in Corvallis, Sept 29, for ideas.

Fundraising Limits A question about fundraising limits was asked. Comments indicated that the only limiting factor is IRS rules regarding funds over \$50,000.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Minutes taken by AI and edited by Donna DesRochers.

