

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Held on Zoom on Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Attendees: Buzz Umphlet, Cheryl McKay, Donna DesRochers, Eric Bosler, Jen Harty, Jen Munroe, Joanne Willis, John Stevens, Marcy Hasegawa, Margo Dameier, Megan Wickersham, Sandi Rousseau, Shari Bosler, Tim Wear

Jen M called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. She shared that her father is seriously ill and living with her family, which may impact her availability. She asked that any messages be sent to her text. Tim Wear is also available for CGMGA business.

Secretary's Minutes (Donna) The minutes were approved with no corrections.

Coordinators Report (Megan) Nothing has changed with State and County Budgeting changes that affect Oregon Extension services. Margo will keep the message on social media. The secure Volunteer Hub registration process was discussed. Some members still need to complete their forms. Remember to do the final step: "Respond to Opportunities" to complete your registration. Washington members will have a second step to complete the background check. An updated membership list will be available in April.

FISH Fund Raiser (Margo) Methods of collecting fundraising donations were discussed. When offering a community class, there was discussion regarding the collecting of donations at the door and online. It was noted that our policy has a \$2000.00 limit for EC expenditure approval without a membership vote. **It was approved to match up to \$1000.00** at the March 7, Tree Health class. Jen will set up a donation collection mechanism online.

Treasurer Report (Joanne) The Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted. Transitioning from credit cards back to debit cards was discussed. Currently Jen H, Tracy and Joanne have credit cards. Reconciling the credit cards is very time consuming. It was noted that John is very good at reimbursing expenses with a quick turn around time once expenses are submitted to him and Joanne. **It was approved to go back to using debit cards.** Joanne will set up the debit cards and put together a guideline for usage.

Recognition Committee (Sandi) The revised wording establishing criteria to recognize deceased member contributions on the Memorial Tree was discussed. Factors include impact within the organization, involvement in projects and participation in governing. **It was approved to form a Recognition Committee and to accept the wording as submitted for CGMGA Policies.** When Paul Casal gets back this Spring, he will get back to work on the Tree design.

Field Trip Planning (Marcy) Marcy and Lisa have offered to organize field trips, which will showcase local businesses and farms in addition to bringing value to Master Gardeners. Ideas include Tumbleweed, Flowering Farmhouse and Three Hammers. Locations would be vetted for sustainability as well as being in line with the MG program. It was suggested to meet with Beth Flake about previous field trip experiences and historical low attendance issues before continuing.

Signage and Branding (Jen H) We want to be proud of what we offer and can be creative as well as use OSU's Branding Guidelines for signage. The difference between decorative and educational signage was discussed. Standardization is important regarding font size and readability as well as following OSU branding guidelines for logo with trademark, color, etc for educational signage. An Accessibility statement also needs to be on our main signs. LeAnn Locher is a good resource for accessibility requirements for signage.

Waterwise Garden (John) He met with the Hood River Librarian regarding the future of the garden. The Library will contract with their existing maintenance company to take over the garden, with our input on care. MG will focus on education and plant clinics at the library as well as continue to make plant selection and QR signage for the garden. The Library and Educational committees will work on signage. Several "mini conversations" are planned during the summer/fall at plant clinics. After creating and working on the garden for so many years, it is bittersweet to give up its care.

Tool Lending Library Anne Gehrig is in charge of this project. It was noted that we should continue our support for this project. It is not in the budget this year and we should consider adding an amount next year.

Publicity (Margo) The Media crew will roll out their work soon.

Note (Megan) We should celebrate our model of working through issues. Solutions are found in ways that are not overwhelming to players and should be a good example for the state.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Minutes taken by AI and Donna DesRochers.

