

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

OSU Extension Meeting Room

Held in Person and via Zoom on Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 9, 2026

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

Jen M called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

Secretary's Minutes (Donna) Correction to revise Cheryl to Cheryl Rice in Propagation Guidelines was noted. The minutes were approved with correction.

Treasurer's Report (Joanne) In July, Joanne sent out an email requesting approval to officially request \$8,500.00 from our available Gorge Community Foundation grant funds. The action was approved. The monies have not yet been received. The treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

OMGA (Eric) Joy of Gardening was a success and will happen next year. There is a good team in place to assure it continues for many years. Dr. Gail Langellotto and Sherry Shang did a presentation on Friday evening in the dorm which focused on the work of the Garden Ecology Lab.

Awards: The OMGA Karl Karlson grant check has been deposited. Thank you, Sandi, for continuing to submit successful applications.

Treasurer: OMGA is looking for nominations for treasurer.

Outdoor Learning Center (Sandi) John Fraser (Stamp the Earth) will set up the concrete forms and re-pour soon. John will have to pay for more rebar and labor to prep the site. Hood River Sand has agreed to compensate Stamp the Earth with a lifetime concrete discount. The rock for the water feature has been selected and is being drilled. The water feature kit has been ordered and Mellow Electric has been contacted to put in a GFI. Both the water feature and GFI need to be installed before the re-pouring can start. The target date for completion of the project is this fall.

Grants: Visit Hood River grant for \$7,000.00 and OMGA grant for \$1,000.00 have been received.

Native Plant Order: (Margo) An order has been submitted. Concern was noted regarding the order of 845 plants at approximately \$3,000.00 that is over budget and was not coordinated with the Plant Sale Committee prior to ordering. Margo and Joanne will align the order to the budget, contact the Plant Sale Committee and improve the ordering process for future orders.

Education Outreach (Jen H) The recent Garden Gathering Food Preservation class was well received and will be repeated in Hood River on August 22. A fresh pie was

given away plus recipes were distributed to attendees. A Propagation class will be on September 19 and 22.

Field Trip: Thank you was extended to Marcy and Lisa for organizing the recent and well attended field trip. The September field trip is considering a coffee shop meet up.

Coordinators Report (Megan) Megan is preparing for the upcoming Garden Tour and is not able to attend today.

Social Media (Margo) The crew is doing well and planning is underway for the 25th Anniversary Celebration. The first committee meeting will be this fall and it was noted that there will be lots of opportunities for all Master Gardeners to volunteer.

Recognition Evening (Jen M) The Adult Center venue has been confirmed for November 4th and a deposit check will be sent. The cost is \$200.00 - \$250.00 for 100 plus people. A kitchen is available at no extra charge for non-cooking use.

State Award: OSU Extension has taken over the OMGA award nomination of members who demonstrate state-level commitment. Jen H volunteered for the local selection committee and needs others to join, which could include garden leaders.

FISH Garden/ Church (Cheryl M) The Spirit of Grace Church is closing and the Alliance Church is in talks to take over. This could affect the garden, workshops, Seed to Supper Program and other activities held on site. The current pastor will stay on for one year to ensure a seamless transition. Jen M will contact Megan to provide an update at the next meeting.

Leadership Recruitment (Jen M) Now and in the past it has been difficult to recruit a president-elect. Sandi shared a successful strategy used by Oregon Masters Swimming. They used an email appeal which yielded 8 new board members from 12 responses. Other ideas included forming a nominating committee from past presidents/officers, each executive member reach out to at least one potential recruit for a leadership role, create clear job descriptions, stress that there is an existing support system in place, connect with members at classes in small settings, appeal to all members, set up a Google Form for collecting interested parties, and emphasizing a president elect has time to shadow for a learning year. Megan can include nomination reminders in several consecutive Monday updates. Jen M offered to stay on as President one more year to allow more time to recruit a successor.

Budget Committee Eric, Cheryl M, Buzz, Joanne and Jen M volunteered for the committee.

Raised Beds (Joanne) There is an abundance of green beans available for picking. The marigolds are crowded and need thinning plus the cucumbers did not climb as expected.

Next Meeting: September 9, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 am. Minutes taken by Donna DesRochers and AI.

