

**Master Gardener Foundation of San Juan County  
Board of Directors Meeting  
October 12, 2021**

**Present:** Board members Kate Yturri, Nancy Forker, Sandra May, Barbara Orcutt, Dianne Macondray, Lenore Bayuk, Kim Howard, Debbie Young, Sylvia McKenney; Program Coordinator Caitie Blethen; and members Alice Deane, Sandy Ryan, Tony Suruda,

Board Members not present: Julia Turney, Vicki Leimback

This meeting was held via Zoom conference due to the physical distancing restrictions in place at present ordered by Washington State Governor Jay Inslee in response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

**Minutes:** Review and approval of minutes of the July 13, 2021 Board meeting. Motion to approve the minutes, seconded, passed.

**Finance - Nancy**

**Budget**

**Finance committee report**

We have \$57,000 in the bank, \$5,000 more than beginning of the year. Registrations coming through into bank account. Today is last day of registration. Expenses: this quarter we renewed GoDaddy, gave \$100 through San Juan Community foundation as a thank you for the help for the Spring Plant Sale. We put a deposit down for plant materials for Native Plant Sale. We bought Thor Hansen books and donated to WA state MG silent auction.

Finance committee has not met, may meet toward the end of the year. Will plan budget for next year. Will vote on the budget in January.

**Project Updates**

**Native Plant Sale – Jane**

Refer to Jane's write up for the status of the Native Plant Sale.

**Garden Workshop Series - Kate or Judy**

Registrations are in progress, today is the last day to register, then it will close. Webinars are on track to start October 16<sup>th</sup>.

**SJI Demo garden update - Alice or Judy C.**

Alice delegated to other people, Judy, Susan, Diana, new people came on Saturday. Everything is going great. Want to do upgrade to irrigation system, will put in budget. It is wonderful resource for the food bank especially now.

**Orcas native plant garden/school garden update - Tony, Lene**

We did weeding and pulled seeds to sow next spring. We won't need a work party until spring. There have been some voles.

Lopez heritage apple orchard - Barbara

Ongoing activity on weeding. Discussing issues about if the heritage orchard will be a museum piece (treat and maintain as was done in the old days) or do you use modern techniques. There is some maintenance needed on leveling the benches.

## **Program - Caitie**

WSU Covid updates

Every volunteer needs to show vaccine cards, otherwise they will be taken off the roster. Caitie may need some help in coordinating people.

Program committee report – hasn't met recently. Would like to meet in person.

Diagnostic clinic status - Kim and Tony

- Orcas had clinic in July and August. Last week no specimens so cancelled the clinic. There are no more clinics this year.
- SJI didn't open up clinic because of covid. Have been getting some samples from Caitie.
- Plan is to go forward assuming we can have a clinic in 2022.

Newsletter

2022 MG Training

Created a fillable form to sign up for the training. We have some good presenters. These will be on zoom and there will be some social meet ups and clinics. Everyone will have to be vaccinated, it is a 9 week training. Will have minimum of 40 hours of volunteering. Training fee will be \$75 for WSU online and other portion probably in \$300 range plus scholarships. Applications are due in November. Kate will follow up regarding offering some scholarships. Historically it has been a low retention rate for folks getting scholarships. We could try to have a commitment for two years otherwise have to repay the scholarship. Kim will help with interview process. The interview process will be in December.

Farmer's Market – seemed to be a lot of off islanders at the market so might not be the right location for the Master Gardener table. Might be better to locate at a nursery or the demo garden.

## **Old Business**

Update on plans for 2022 SPS –

We don't have plans for 2022 SPS. Alice and Lenore are not participating in the SPS and no one has stepped forward. Maybe we will wait until we can do in person. It is a lot of work and so much more pleasant in person. We will need to let the public know if there is not a sale this year.

Maybe there is a way to grow knowledge and skill with new cohort of trainees. We might be able to generate some new interest in doing the sale. We are limited by not having a reliable greenhouse to grow a lot of plants. We have some money that we could invest in a more reliable place to grow plants. Finding a physical location for the greenhouse is an issue. Need to also think about maintenance of the greenhouse. The fans of the Skagit greenhouse have been

fixed. Maybe if we take a year off, could restart in 2023 in person after a hiatus and rest.

Some counties only do tomatoes and peppers. It would be good to visit other counties like Skagit and Whatcom. In January there will be 5 county zoom for Master Gardeners. Everyone talks about their plant sale and brainstorms ideas. The date is confirmed to be January 13<sup>th</sup> (Thursday). The next Board meeting will be January 11<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday).

25 total volunteer including 10 education (CE) hours is the requirement for MGs, but everything is suspended due to covid. The Garden workshop counts as education hours.

## **New Business**

Plans for Holiday/Winter meeting and request for funds - Lenore and Diana

Diane and Lenore have idea for Holiday December meeting. We could put together little treat bags on zoom so you can open and share. Need someone to coordinate delivery. Maybe \$5 per bag, could be a few hundred dollars. We could have truffles or seed bags. Lenore and Diana will work on and put together a plan to present to the board. Everyone can give suggestions to Lenore and Diana.

San Juan Garden Club has a new president and would like to know if we are going to organize a garden tour.

Tanja Williamson has an idea to work with the school district on native plants and kids (Orcas). Catie may reach out to Orcas folks.

Motion to adjourn and seconded.

Respectfully submitted October 12, 2021.

Sandra May, Secretary  
SJCMGF