

**Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 8, 2016  
6:30 PM**

**1. Call to order:** Amy Boettcher, president

Members present: Ede Strand, Dick Lienhardt, Ellen Terwilliger, Nancy Spak, Nina Logan, Lori Kempen, Mary Jane Griffin, Carla Pelzl, Erin LaFaive, Amy Boettcher, Susan Mertens (Plant Sale Chairperson)

**2. Plant Sale Update:** Susan Mertens, Plant Sale Chairperson

Susan reviewed information from Bernie Williams of the DNR about jumping worms. The DNR is not making recommendations to garden groups on whether or not plant sales should occur. Groups hosting plant sales should inform their members what steps to take to minimize the chances of selling plants that may be infested. After discussion, the board voted to hold the June plant sale. We will provide necessary information to our members, to the public (via various media), and will advise members who know they have jumping worms in their gardens not to donate plants. Susan was thanked for her report.

**3. Minutes of November meeting:** Carla Pelzl, Secretary

The minutes were approved as written.

**4. Treasurer's Report:** Ede Strand

The December bank statement was not yet available. The book balance as of December 8<sup>th</sup> was **\$13,171.14**. The ending fund balance for 2015 was \$10,112.00.

Ede distributed the budget worksheet. She asked that it be added to the January agenda and that board members please review the worksheet before the next meeting.

**5. Horticulture Educator's Report:** Erin LaFaive

Erin has been taking care of the Financial Assistant duties until that position is filled. The new Financial Assistant will be announced shortly after Christmas. Then Erin can plan for Level I Training. Jerry Clark, Chippewa County Educator is planning to do training every other year. One possibility would be for Erin to provide Level I Training alternate years. The Level II (Advanced Training) will be a Master Composting course delivered online.

Erin's two interns will be completing their internships at the end of this current semester (in December). A new intern will be starting as Erin's writing assistant.

Erin will be on the Larry Meillor "Garden Talk" radio program on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**6. Ready, Set, Grow winter garden seminar:** Nina Logan, Lori Kempen, Education Committee

This year vendors will be able to set up in the dining area as well as the hallways, so the seminar committee is seeking additional vendors. The registration brochure is printed and will be available to the public at a number of area businesses. Our members are encouraged to place brochures at businesses they frequent.

**7. WIMGA Update:** Ellen Terwilliger

- All Master Gardener Volunteers will be required to take a background check (will be available online).
- The 2016 Annual Accomplishment Report of the UW-Extension MG Program is available for review at <http://wimastergardener.org/files/2016/03/2016-WI-MG-AnnualReport.pdf> It includes information about programs around the state and the dollar value of MGV hours donated, number of hours donated by Wisconsin MGV's, and the total number of Wisconsin MGV's and new 2016 trainees.
- Eau Claire County, along with Chippewa, Dunn, St. Croix, and Barron, will host the state Wisconsin MG Conference on September 21-22, 2018 at the Lismore Hotel in Eau Claire. Nancy Spak and Ellen will coordinate that effort and next year will be asking for additional MGV's to help with planning.
- WIMGA is actively working on a three-year strategic plan. Ellen is working with a group that will develop guidelines for a multicounty or multistate MGV conference, develop an MGV Speaker Repository, and develop networking strategies for helping struggling MG associations.

**8. Motion:** Carla moved that we thank Amy Boettcher, our outgoing president, for her service on the Board of Directors. Seconded – Dick Lienhardt. Motion carried.

The next Board Meeting is January 12, 2017, at 6:30 PM. Suggestion was made to continue the tradition of meeting at a local restaurant. Erin will make reservations at the Seahorse Inn, if available, or at another location if necessary.

Motion to adjourn, 7:40 PM – Lori Kempen

Second: Ellen Terwilliger

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carla Pelzl, Secretary