

**Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 10, 2016
UW-Extension Office
6:30 P.M.**

1. Call to order – Amy Boettcher, President
In attendance: Nancy Spak, Nina Logan, Lori Kempen, Mary Jane Griffin, Ellen Terwilliger, Amy Boettcher, Deb Spickler, Dick Lienhardt, Carla Pelzl, Erin LaFaive
2. WIMGA Update – Ellen Terwilliger
 - a. The WIMGA Board had asked whether any of the MGA organizations might be interested in hosting the State MG Conference in 2018. Our board members felt we needed more information before making a decision. Ellen will report back with more details and will also check with the Dunn and Chippewa County MGA's to see whether they might be interested in co-hosting the the conference with ECAMGA.
 - b. WIMGA Questionnaire: WIMGA asked that MGA organizations complete a questionnaire about services offered to their community and concerns about the UW-Extension changes. Our responses are summarized below:
 - Primary services the ECAMGA provides: Ask a Master Gardener Booth at the Farmer's Market and in the Extension Office; Ready Set Grow Garden Seminar every February; Youth and Community Gardens and Demo/Teaching Garden at Extension office.
 - Do we anticipate continuing our services: Yes
 - Top 3 concerns regarding UW-Extension changes: Having to share our Hort educator with other counties; Less availability of Hort Educator due to shared position; Loss of a mentor for local MGV's.
 - How is our local County Board responding to the proposed changes? They are confused and looking for answers; they are wondering how this will work with other counties and how financing will be taken care of.
 - How might the proposed changes be positive for our county? There might be better coordination with other county extension programs; the Hort Educator might have fewer areas to focus on instead of having to cover so many responsibilities.
3. Minutes of February board meeting: approved with following corrections:
 - a. Ellen sent Susan Mertens a list of plant sale reminders (plant prep, labeling, etc.) to forward to our MGV's before the sale.
 - b. Upcoming events: Beaver Creek Plant sale date: May 7th (the Saturday before Mother's Day); June 12th – Plant Sale; also, two garden tours in June; October- Kristina Beuning (Sunbow Farms CSA, speaking on “Honeybees on our Farm”).
4. Horticulture Educator report – Erin LaFaive
 - a. CVTC Foundation received the ECAMGV \$1000 gift for their horticulture program with thanks.
 - b. Horticulture Therapy Training for MGV's presented by Mike Maddox had 18 attendees. It went well. Pictures are posted on Facebook under Michael. R. Maddox
 - c. Prairie Ridge Learning Center wants to install hoop houses for gardening education programs. On March 11th, Erin and several MGV's met with them. Erin will help them lay out the plans, and MGV's will assist with teaching the students about gardening.
 - d. The Chippewa Valley Sustainable Festival (non-profit) is September 17, 2016. Erin is on the board. They will be looking for presenters for various topics.
 - e. Level I MGV training begins next week on Thursday evening. 18 trainees are signed up. Three are receiving MGA scholarships.

5. Education Committee Report: Nina Logan, Lori Kempen
 - a. Seminar – 225 attended. Final bill payments and financial summary will be taken care of after Treasurer Ede Strand returns.
 - b. 2017 Seminar:
 - Several MGV's are interested in making a quilt to raffle off at the next winter seminar. A license will be required. The board approved of the project.
 - The Education Committee would like to try some new topics for the next seminar. One suggestion was a program for senior gardeners -- maybe yoga and exercises for the back.
 - c. Nina suggested MGV's start herb seeds for the sale. She will provide lists of companion and pollinator plants to go with the herb seedlings.
 - d. Monthly meeting presentations for the remainder of 2016:
 - March 22 – Erik Kessler from Beaver Creek Reserve
 - April 19 – Kathy Stahl from Prairie Enthusiasts, on Invasive Species
 - May 17 – Andy Heren, Gary Mathis, Gardening with Heirlooms
 - June – Plant sale the 12th, and two garden tours in June
 - July 19 – Chad Zutter, Elk Mound Seeds, Improving Soil Health with Ground Covers
 - August 30 – Catherine Emmanuelle, Preserving Harvested Food
 - September – not yet determined
 - October 18 – Kristina Beuning, Sunbow Farms CSA, Honeybees on Our Farmer
 - November – not yet determined
 - December – Christmas Party

6. Old Business: The audit of the treasurer's books has been completed.

7. New Business: None

The next meeting is April 14, 2016. Dick Lienhardt motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Lori Kempen. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted
Carla Pelzl, Secretary