

SEMG Advisory Council Date: June 13, 2023

Time: 1:00 pm Location: Via Zoom

Advisory Council in attendance: Meg Hunn, Penny Lindgren, Mo Casey, Sandy Liakus, John Thompson, Kate Shaddock, Julie Rohr, and Joan Ellis

Agent: Rachel Zweig

Guests: Ginger Golden, Eydie Frances, Kevin Konetzni, Sam Thompson, Teresa Harner

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Meg Hunn.

2a - Transition to Jan - Dec calendar year conversation + Corrales Garden Tour - and new focus for SEMG: Sustainable gardening practices

Meg stated that 2022 interns are to pay dues at the end of 2023; 2023 interns' dues are included in their Intern fees (they will begin paying end of 2024). Mo reiterated that to vote, a member needs to be current only with dues (or intern fee).

Corrales Garden Tour. Small cards for tour goers to pick up were created from the Sustainable Garden Practices checklist created by Linda Walsh and Kirstin Browning Mezel and team. There were questions about how tour goers interacted with the check list. Mo suggested handing the check list to tour goers at the beginning of the tour and having a possible prize for them to ID elements on the checklist.

Sandy would like feedback and asked if the four-fold pamphlets were handed out at the grower's market or other events (yes) and is seeking feedback from our volunteers on the public reactions to these materials. Penny said that Corrales Mercantile was provided some and has distributed all of them. Sandy used the pamphlet as a tool to educate HOA members in Placitas.

Kate asked for attendance numbers at the Corrales Garden Tour and indicated that the afternoon attendance was light compared to previous years. She indicated that there were no pamphlets at the Farmstand by the afternoon, assuming they were all distributed in the morning. Meg is going to provide CGT attendance numbers, and solicit feedback from CGT volunteers about the Sustainable Gardening Practices checklist.

2b. + Updates from Extension Agent + update Health Commons Project +office update +Sandoval County Fair Aug 4-5

Rachel is seeking volunteers for SEMG table at the Sandoval County Fair August 4-5. Looking for ideas to reach more people for SEMG, and for entries in the fair competitions, and if the volunteer opportunity is set up on the website.

Regarding computers, The IT person at NMSU can work on the computers at the office if they are deemed property of NMSU. There was a discussion of the pros and cons of

that, since they are used primarily for Advanced Gardening with The Masters presentations, and printing labels for seed packages. It was proposed to compare this option with a local service, like the Geek Squad - and to solicit advice from Tracy Bogard and Scott Lake.

Health Commons Garden has two potential co-chairs. They will need to submit a New Project Plan and budget to Outreach before beginning.

Meg asked about office protocol. Rachel indicated that the outer office door is kept unlocked, so that materials are available to SEMG (not public), and that the office door and membership cabinet are to be kept locked.

Rachel went to the train the trainer event at the Agri nature Center and recommends going to tomorrow's session.

3a Membership Mo Casey provided membership data (copied at end of notes) 2023 Life Member recognition will go to: Sandra Liakus, Donna Popp, Anne Tellez, Sam Thompson, John Zarola

3b Communication Kate Shaddock reported that they have filled open roles with new members. Scott Lake is working to transition Tracy to be webmaster. Meg expressed much gratitude to Scott for his work over many years to keep our website running and helpful! Kate would like to thank the members who recommended columns. She plans to write one to introduce the new members of the communications team. Meg reported that the web review on 6/8 consisted only of Tracy and Meg - there will be future opportunities for feedback and suggestions.

3c Education. + 2023 Intern Graduation/Certification: plans for fall event +Intern Application process for 2024 +Videos of SEMG Projects for 2024 intern class

John Thompson said there is a tentative date of 10/21/23 at 1:00 pm with an alternate date of 11/5 at St Francis Episcopal Church in Rio Rancho for graduation. Discussion of Potluck with Pereas providing main course. Sharon Walsh is coordinating venue. Kate is to order aprons for 35 new graduates.

Regarding the project videos, Rachel suggested a short (2-5 minute) video, and is requesting Outreach to get those from the project coordinators. The plan is to show one or two of these videos to the 2024 interns with each weekly training zoom call, so that they are familiar with future volunteer opportunities. There were multiple suggestions that the registration for the intern program start earlier, and that we target specific areas even earlier. The 2024 program start date is set for January 15, 2024, and will go from Monday to Monday, with video and training materials being made available Sunday evening.

There was also a suggestion that some of the field trips for the Mentors and Interns be scheduled on the weekends to accommodate those that are working during the week.

Sam Thompson indicated that she was contacted by Lynda Garvin about sharing the videos created for Advanced Master Gardener classes with MGs in other NM counties. There was discussion on this which included key points of Stipend, Independence, credit, and access. It was decided that additional information was needed before a final decision could be made - Sam will take the requests to Lynda.

3d Outreach: +Publicity - local newspapers +Project requirements - policy doc +Info to recruit new SEMGs for 2024 (and in outlying areas)

Penny reported that they got the approval from Rachel on the Sustainable Garden Practices Checklist. Regarding New Projects, she proposed a New Project Request Form with parameters, types of projects we can and cannot do, and expectation of behaviors for Master Gardeners.

Sam has been in contact with the papers, Sandoval Signpost and Corrales Comment. They have each offered us a bi-monthly column. They are looking for a group of people who write and edit articles. One article has been published. An article about watering trees in the heat was requested from Sandy.

Penny stated that a google folder has been started for ideas about recruiting new SEMGs - Meg will send link to AC.

Outreach worked on a draft: Approval Guidelines for SEMG Projects and Volunteer Activities. Meg will send out to AC for email comments and approval. To be posted on website once approved by AC.

Articles in local papers re Intern Program to include volunteer requirements.

4 Treasurer Report for last month using FY 2022-2023 budget to actual • 2023-24 budget will be finalized and voted on in the July meeting. The cut-off for budget requests is technically the end of June. In July we will be voting on the budget.

5 Update from NMSU EMG Advisory Council.

Sandy Liakus stated that several counties are transitioning representatives. Julie Rohr will be taking over for Sandy. The State Council will start meeting every other month instead of every month. Josh Sherman is the new agent for Valencia County. We are looking at other programs for Volunteer Management Software. CERVIS Tech was on a trial basis.

EMG training feedback. Waiting for synopsis of feedback, so far good feedback from Mentors. Lynda Garvin is still looking for training committee volunteers. They are planning public-facing courses next year after Master Gardener training starts. The public-facing courses will not have the volunteer requirements.

At 2:48 Meg wished Good Travels to Sandy and Ginger going to International Master Gardeners' Conference, and anyone else traveling for vacation and ended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Ellis

## Membership Report – June 2023

Active Members - 152

22 Life Members

17 are on Leave Of Absence

Inactive Members - 158

Resigned Members - 78

Deceased: 13