

Meeting: SEMG Advisory Council Agenda
Date: November 12, 2024 **Time: 1:00 pm**
Location: Via Zoom

*Sandoval Extension Master Gardeners educate and serve our communities in sustainable high desert gardening.
Sandoval Extension Master Gardeners envision more sustainable gardens throughout Sandoval County.*

Expected Outcomes:

1. Gather and begin
2. Update from Chair and Extension Agent
3. Standing Committees updates, issues, action requested
4. Finance Committee
5. Update from State Advisory Council
6. Feedback from guests

	Topic	Topic Leader	Process	Preparation/Completion Date
1 a	Gather and begin	Meg Hunn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome and Introductions 	AC: Meg Hunn, John Thompson, Sandy Liakus, Michelle Wittee, Tracy Bogard, Beth Murphy Guests: Madeline Gurney, Gil Mongavaro, Dolores Voltierra, Joan Ellis, Vickie McConnachie, Roberta Frank
1 b	Protocol for Zoom meeting	Meg Hunn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Raise hand to be recognized ● Non-Council members will be automatically muted upon entering – questions and comments put into chat 	
2 a	Update from Chair	Meg Hunn	+graduation celebration plans, sign-ups, and reminders +voting for leadership for 2025	Graduation Nov. 16, we will start at 10 am. Materials needed from the office were discussed.

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			<p>+3rd Quarter Report (pasted below)</p> <p>+Team Fun - project or with Membership committee?</p> <p>+we need to be intentional about inviting interns and SEMGs to leadership opportunities and helping train - leadership rotation is good for all.</p>	<p>Team Fun was with Outreach, there will be a request to move it to the membership committee. There will also be a place for Gil as the administrator for BI to be on the Membership committee. Agenda for the graduation presented. Election for officers to be done one week in December.</p> <p>We have thousands of volunteer hours that will be recorded at \$33/hour(virtual)to explain our importance to the county and the state.</p> <p>The mentors need to work with and identify interns from the past and in 2025 for leadership roles.</p>
2 b	Update from Extension Agent	Madeline Gurney	+ Updates from Extension County Director	<p>Brittany Johnson was hired in November, taking over as County Director in 1/25. An offer for an AG agent is out if accepted they will stary 1/25. New information on civil rights from state recording has been released, it will be easier for us to obtain this information.</p>
3	Standing Committee updates:			
3 a	Communication	Kate Shadock Tracy Bogard	<p>+conversation: change URL for Facebook and Instagram</p> <p>+ Recommends approval of the SEMG Style Guide (for current</p>	<p>There is a transition plan to move our Facebook and Instagram accounts to a new account. A new account is necessary because the old account is outdated.</p>

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			docs/presentations, with older content converted as time permits)	<p>A new page for Facebook and Instagram will be established. Social Media is deemed to be important and we are working on getting this done quickly.</p> <p>Style guide advantages explained by Tracy.</p> <p>Questions: How does it impact our current pamphlets and flyers? We have no decision to dispose of the present printed information. This will all be going forward. We will use the template for present presentations when possible and for future presentations. AC passed the Branding policy proposed by the communication committee.</p> <p>We need a new volunteer to run the calendar Better Impact will record individual hours for next year. The plan is to get all MG veterans and interns familiar with BI so they can do their individual hours on BI</p>
3 b	Member-ship	Mo Casey	<p>+consider enlarging Membership Committee to include volunteers for Better Impact implementation, planning and execution of Graduation Celebration, and Team Fun?</p> <p>+leadership voting timeline</p> <p>+To receive the new 2025 password, 2025 dues and 2024 hours must be submitted by 12/15</p>	<p>Enlarging membership committee. Gil Movagaro as the BI manager. Team Fun as part of membership retention, a team to find more leadership candidates.</p> <p>Voting for the leadership will be in December for one week.</p>

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3 c	Education	John Thompson Michelle Wittie	+41 applicants for 2025 internship; not all can be reached for interviews; applications will remain on the web until Thanksgiving. +mentor training: Jan 9 +intern orientation: Jan 13, classes following	We are graduating 33 interns for 2024. There are 41 applicants for internships in 2025. Applications will be closed on December 1. Mentors are still needed. Report of the state education committee given with emphasis on work improving lectures in 2025, and a program to improve introduction to the helpline for interns and veterans. Gardening with the Masters is continuing with the next several months scheduled. Posting of the classes and times will be done by December.
3 d	Outreach	Sandy Liakus Penny Lindgren	+Outreach chairs met with a team of volunteers who will oversee Helpline beginning Jan 1 +exploring use of AI to consolidate helping logs +RR Harvest Festival - a success! +SEMG -cide policy (pasted below) will be added to the website on Helpline + Policy Pages	Team Managers will start on the helpline starting in January of 2025. There are 8 people who are presently available and trained to do the management. They will assist with assistance for each volunteer and be sure that the volunteers do not miss any questions. AI may be helpful in organizing the Helpline log that may be helpful for new volunteers.

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			+SEMG Info Table items are now stored at the main office (711 S Camino del Pueblo, Bernalillo)	There are tables and information at the Office at the courthouse. Call Elizabeth or Madeline for information on availability of the office.
4	Finance Committee	Beth Murphy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treasurer Report for last month using FY 2023-2024 budget to actual Financial aid applications for 2025 and the budget 	<p>Total Income \$6953.98 Total Expenditures \$4,296.72 October Expenditures -\$1,697.26 Cash Balance - October 31, 2024 \$30,716.95 General Available Funds \$24,435.05 Income is from dues, intern fees, and donation from the Placitas Garden Tour. No questions on the basic report. There are 3 intern applicants who have requested financial aid, and there are potentially 3 additional requests. We have requested NMSU to support us in writing by waiving the \$100 fee.</p> <p>AC approved additional money(\$325) for financial aid applications.</p> <p>The financial fee program is deemed a success and we are planning on continuing it in 2026. There may be changes in how much the intern applicants may contribute to the fee.</p>

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5	Update from State Advisory Council	Julie Rohr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update from NMSU EMG Advisory Council 	There was a notification that veteran MG could obtain hours for education by signing up for the 2024 Master Gardener class for no charge
6	Feedback from guests		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-Council members to provide feedback and suggestions to the Council 	A question about hours for interns. Interns receive all the required educational hours and all the Outreach hours by taking the Master Gardener Course and by working with their team on the helpline. They have an additional 20 hours required.

[Include](#)
[Zoom link](#)
[agenda](#)
[Financials](#)
[Style guide](#)
[3rd Q report](#)

Sandoval Extension Master Gardeners

July, August, September 2024 Quarterly Report

Total SEMG volunteer hours: 3,092 hours

Includes working in gardens, outreach with public, intern training, educational offerings, administration.

Total add'l (non-SEMG, working at a project garden) volunteer hours: 1,400 hours

Direct Contacts (refers to 2-way interaction with the public): 1816

At Garden Projects and one-time events (Harvest Festival, etc): 963

Email Helpline: 44
Corrales Growers Market: 277
On Placitas Garden Tour: 500
Home Visits: 12
School program: 20

Male: 336
Female: 650

White: 400
Hispanic: 134
Black: 44
Native American: 19
Asian: 8
Declined to answer/unable to ascertain: 1211

At Public Education Classes:

85 participants

Of Note:

Garden and Outreach Projects:

Placitas Garden Tour sold about 500 tickets, and SEMGs fielded 300+ questions about plant information, landscapes, watering, vine training, mosquito prevention in rain water harvesting systems, low water grasses for soil stabilization.

New Beginnings Garden SEMGs and PSR clients worked together and harvested more than 65 pounds of produce for PSR clients and staff to take home to eat.

Placitas Elementary School SEMGs gardened with about 20 students in a weekly after school program in the spring, then performed summer garden maintenance and met with school leadership and extension staff about the funding and structure of this program as well as the importance of age differentiation. Note: there is no funding for fall 2024 school year.

Corrales Growers Market SEMGs fielded many questions about watering.

Home Visits SEMGs answered 43 questions covering watering, irrigation, tree shrub care and pruning, bacteria wet wood infection, tree vs turf, aspen cankers, tree root issues, and cicadas.

Corrales Harvest Festival SEMG volunteers helped around 400 people of all ages make seed art. SEMGs also answered questions at the outreach table about tomatoes, composting, appropriate plants for the area, where to find seeds, potting up houseplants.

Seed2Need harvested 25,711 pounds of produce this quarter (total for 2024 27,159pounds). This is less than previous years as a late spring frost killed blossoms on fruit trees.

Gardening with the Masters offered three classes to the public at Loma Colorado Library about pollinators, irrigation, and food preservation.

Santa Ana Pueblo Teaching Garden SEMGs worked at weeding and 'discovering' the garden, hosted a 'brainstorming' session to consider how the garden can be used to teach the public AND how the garden will teach us. Tour of the garden given prior to the Advanced MG course that Mike Halverson offered to SEMGs about Native Seed Collecting.

SSCAFCA Pollinator Garden. Pollinator planting was delayed until spring 2025 due to irrigation issues. 20 people attended a Sept field trip for SEMGs and guests.

Family Practice Garden harvested 2,782 pounds of produce this quarter (3,517 pounds for 2024) and delivered to the St Felix Food Pantry in Rio Rancho.

Sandoval Seed Swap and Share provided 500+ packets of seeds (saved and packaged and/or rescued from retail outlets) and provided these for various SEMG Outreach tables including the County Fair, Garden Expo, Library Classes, Seed Swaps, Harvest Festival

Indoor Plant Care at Sandoval County Offices SEMG volunteers maintained 105 house plants, including tropicals and succulents, for the public to enjoy in an open-space terrarium

Rio Rancho Water Wise Garden at this city park, SEMG volunteers field many questions from the public while they are working to plant, mulch, deadhead, etc.

Sandoval County Historical Society DeLavy House The garden here receives visibility during monthly SCHS lectures as well as other events at the DeLavy House.

Placitas Library Garden was featured on the Placitas Garden Tour, SEMG created and maintains a plant database to educate the public, and provided three newsletter articles to the PCL newsletter.

Committee Notes:

Education Committee: Completed EMG certification requirements for 33 interns, planned 8 classes for public and for SEMG continuing education, preparations for 2025. 2024 Mentor/Intern Teams covered 10+ weeks of Helpline Questions.

Advisory Council: Will adopt Better Impact volunteer management software in 2025; developed a 'Style Guide;' skipped August 2024 meeting; planning graduation for November 2024.

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Sandoval Extension Master Gardener Policy on Advising on Pesticides, Herbicides and Other '-cides'

Since most Extension Master Gardeners do not have a pesticide license for use or spraying, from a legal standpoint, the Extension Master Gardener should not be recommending ‘-cides’ when you are giving information and representing SEMG.

Even if an Extension Master Gardener has a current pesticide license for use or spraying, it is recommended to follow the strategies outlined in **Integrated Pest Management *(IPM)** in advising clients while representing the NMSU Extension Master Gardener program:

1. **Identification** – Make sure the correct insect or pathogen is identified.
2. **Cultural** – Provide best practices for keeping plants healthy to withstand disease/insects through proper placement in planting, maintaining surrounding areas, rotating crops, effectively irrigating, fertilizing, etc.
3. **Monitor** – Regularly scout for pests, signs of damage, or disease caused by pests. Catch the problem early.
4. **Mechanical Control** – Hand remove, vacuum or wash off the pest. Use row covers and traps to exclude pests at different stages.
5. **Biological Control** – Advise on natural enemies of the pest. Maintain surrounding areas to promote natural enemies of the pest.

Ask the question, is a chemical ‘-cide’ necessary? For example, is it one insect, a few or several? The same question can be asked about weeds. Is a fungal or pathogenetic infection localized or systemic? What is the aesthetic or economic value of the tree, shrub or fruit/vegetable crop? Can the client handle a certain threshold of loss or unsightliness?

6. **Chemical Control (Referral)** –

If an NMSU publication or other State Extension publication exists, the Master Gardener can share that publication with the client including if there is a chemical pesticide recommendation that fits the identification of the pest.

Advise clients to read and follow a product's label instructions for the health and safety information and the efficacy in application. Remind them following the instructions is not a choice, it is the law.

The NMSU Extension Master Gardener program position is for limited or no pesticide, herbicide or fungicide use because it is less expensive, and has protective benefits to the environment. There may be times to recommend a chemical '-cide', but it should be the last resort in the IPM strategy. That recommendation should come from a licensed pesticide holder/advisor within the NMSU Extension Service, such as the County Agent or Specialist.

*For more information on Integrated Pest Management, refer to NMSU Publications:

H-176: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Strategies for Common Insect Pests of Trees in New Mexico
https://pubs.nmsu.edu/_h/H176/

H-169: Using Insectary Plants to Attract and Sustain Beneficial Insects for Biological Pest Control
https://pubs.nmsu.edu/_h/H169/

H-172: Backyard Beneficial Insects of New Mexico
https://pubs.nmsu.edu/_h/H172/

H-174: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Strategies for Common Insect Pests of Trees in New Mexico
https://pubs.nmsu.edu/_h/H174/

