

**Meeting: SEMG Advisory Council**

**Date: January 9, 2024**

**Time: 1:00 pm**

**Location: Via Zoom**

Expected Outcomes:

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

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Topic Leader</b>	<b>Process</b>	<b>Preparation/Completion Date</b>
1	Gather and begin	Meg Hunn	Welcome and Introductions	AC members Meg Hunn, Mo Casey, Sandy Liakus, John Thompson, Julie Rohr, Beth Murphy, Penny Lindgren, Tracy Bogard, Michelle Wittie Visitors Joan Ellis, Kevin Konetsky, Deborah Vickie McConahee, Teresa Harmer, Ray Iturraide
2a	Protocol for Zoom meeting	Meg Hunn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Raise hand to be recognized</li><li>● Non-Council members will be automatically muted upon entering – questions and comments put into chat</li></ul>	

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2b	Update from Chair	Meg Hunn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1) Election completed: Chair Meg Burkel Hunn, Vice Chair Penny Lindgren Treasurer Beth Murphy</li> <li>● 1) Meg and Penny met with the Extension office in December. Reporting of hours will be quarterly. It is best to use the El Zocolo office as much as possible so we can keep the space.</li> <li>● Friday there will be a trip to the Fairgrounds in Cuba with Steve Lucero, MG and Mike Halverson to work on the Sandoval County fairgrounds restoration project</li> <li>● The extension office suggests we could do more outreach by working with the 7 Sandoval county 4-H groups and the Soil Conservation Offices. Rachel has left and the position will be listed. Estimated time for replacement is 1-2 years.</li> <li>● Question: can we use El Zocolo for meetings where we serve food? Can we use El Zocolo? Does the Extension <b>Chair will check on these questions.</b></li> </ul>	

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3a	Standing Committees updates and issues - Membership	Mo Casey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 181 Active members</li> <li>• 25 unpaid 1 resigned, rest will be placed on inactive status on Jan 22 when the password is changed.</li> <li>• 181 inactive they will be removed from list if they have not paid for 3 years, 84 resigned 16 deceased</li> <li>• 31 life members</li> <li>• Mo would like to move the inactive members to google docs (Tracy)</li> </ul>	<b>-Notice of Dues Overdue was posted on the Members landing page 1/9/24 (Tracy)</b>
3b	Standing Committees updates and issues - Communication	Kate Shaddock Tracy B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask An Expert decisions? Discussion of how to word the ASK function to contact the Helpline. Suggestions, Ask an Extension Master Gardener, ‘Garden questions?’ <b>Outreach to decide and contact the webmaster.</b></li> <li>• Any more projects ready to be published on the new Projects Page (working towards getting out of the spreadsheet)? Please send info to <a href="mailto:webmaster@sandovalmastergardeners.org">webmaster@sandovalmastergardeners.org</a> If you need a video, contact John Thompson</li> <li>• Still to post financials (Beth has provided the information)</li> <li>• templates for Word, Powerpoint and Excel - to be published on website</li> </ul> <p>Communications committee can always use volunteers and they can work remotely!</p>	

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3c	Standing Committees updates and issues - Education	John Thompson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2024 intern program. 41 interns and 22 mentors. Interns are .75% female, .25% male. They are younger 15 of the 40 are employed full or part time.</li> <li>● Intern program is going smoothly</li> <li>● Monthly Gardening with the Masters is scheduled at Loma Colorado library The November class was well attended with program attendance on weekend programs often better. Attendance has been promoted by the Loma Colorado Library.</li> <li>● New opportunities for Advanced Classes: Restoration classes for the Cuba project. Directors of the Albuquerque Backyard Refuge program and director of Ciudad SWCD program have met with our Advanced Classes committee to work on ideas for next year.</li> <li>● Thanks to Education Committee for work done on Intern Program, and to Tracy for her excellent work on the</li> </ul>	-

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3d	Standing Committees updates and issues – Outreach	Penny Lindgren Sandy Liakus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussion of present projects including Restoration of County Fairgrounds, Placitas Elementary School gardening project,</li> <li>● Discussion of the change in volunteer hours as to how they are counted, where they can be done. (See enclosed proposal)</li> <li>● Can the Advisory Council give guidance on where and what type of projects can be included.</li> <li>● Discussion included MG volunteer approval for projects outside of Sandoval County including Cancer project that has been approved by the state extension and approving hours for working for projects that do not approve MG hours. How do we count hours for Sandoval County to report to the commissioners?</li> <li>● Do we run a risk of losing our volunteers to other counties? Suggested that our MG hours would be in Sandoval county?</li> <li>● Communication committee is another opportunity for volunteer hours that can be done in the evening when the MG has time.</li> <li>● work on some ideas as to how this would work and bring them back to the next Advisory Council</li> </ul>	email ideas to....

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3	Update from State Advisory Council	Julie Rohr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December 11 last meeting. Next date for State Advisory Council is February.</li> <li>State MG manual is being revised and should be ready in 2025.</li> <li>a class for Master Gardeners that will emphasize administration and organization along with horticulture.</li> <li>Junior master gardener training course is in the works, this for anyone who works with children or the 4-H. This course is to be on line.</li> <li>Statewide meeting proposed to be done by Los Alamos in September of 2024, Will there be time to organize this meeting? not conflict with the Placitas Garden show.</li> </ul>	-
4	Finance Committee	Beth Murphy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>November and December done together. donations of \$1500 from the Placitas garden show 2023, donations from life members who paid their dues when it was not required.</li> <li>Michelle stated that Kiwanis may have some money for projects in Corrales. Contact Michelle before the next meeting if project funding is needed</li> </ul>	-
6	Feedback from guests		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	-

**12/12/23 Meeting between Extension Office and SEMG**

Present: Steve Lucero, Madeline Gurney, Rachel Zweig, Penny Lindgren, and Meg Hunn

#### Calls and requests to Extension Office (EO)

EO will forward garden questions to Helpline

Helpline volunteers please include EO on responses to these queries, esp when a specialist is consulted, and results from plant / soil samples, esp if they show a pathogen.

EO will forward presentation requests from Pueblos and Libraries to SEMG

EO requests that SEMG alerts them of upcoming public events, fliers, and changes of Venue

EO will forward to chair courses offered by other counties and agents

Rachel suggested a return to quarterly reporting - she will do the 2023 year-end reports

Reports due March, June, Sept, Dec to County Commissioners and NMSU

Include activities, # contacts, programming, pounds of produce, website hits, etc

Demographics too. These reports justify funding (funding thru NM, USDA, and Sandoval County)

#### Connections with EO

Reach further into Sandoval thru the seven 4-H clubs, esp thru workshops  
(good opportunity for weekday evening volunteering)

Soil and Water Conservation Districts - we could have SEMG fliers / info and even publicize MGs present on certain days for plant clinics, etc.

#### EO suggestions for SEMG

Presentation on how to submit plant / soil samples

Offer to help clients read reports from submitted samples

Attend annual Field Days (esp Las Lunas - good chance to network)

Utilize press / PR

Shawn Perry Turner for Sandoval County

Cuba News (prints 1xmonth)

After the Thunder in Jemez

The Ally (online)

Cuba and Jemez both have farmers markets too

Use the El Zocolo office - we need warm bodies there to keep it!

SEMG computer: gift to NMSU so their IT will work on it - if needed

New Agent Search -

Cannot advertise open position until Rachel departs  
Christina \_ is the Northern District HR who will run search  
SEMG can have representation  
Likely 1-2 years

### Outreach presentation: Proposed changes for obtaining volunteer hours

The Outreach and Education committees are asking the Advisory Council consider a change to How Master Gardeners can count volunteer hours.

- 1) Volunteer hours can be counted when the MG works on a SEMG Committee
- 2) Volunteer hours can be counted when the MG works in the dirt on any of the projects that are listed on the SEMG website.
- 3) New: Volunteer hours can be counted when the MG works on a project sponsored by a volunteer organization such as Rio Grande returns, Xerses Society New Mexico, Rio Grande Nature Center.
- 4) The volunteer hours cannot be associated with a commercial entity
- 5) The volunteer hours are to further the goals of sustainability and education listed in the mission of SEMG.
- 6) The volunteer hours do not need to be done in Sandoval County

### Questions for the Advisory Council

- 1) Do you want information on the volunteer organization/project if it is not a SEMG project
- 2) Since we have no agent, who should decide which projects can be used for volunteer hours