

Meeting: SEMG Advisory Council NOTES

Date: October 8, 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. Update from State Advisory Council
4. Finance Committee
5. Standing Committees updates, issues, action requested Update from State Advisory Council
6. Feedback from guests

	Topic	Topic Leader	Process	Preparation/Completion Date
1a	Gather and begin	Meg Hunn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and Introductions	AC members: Meg Buerkel Hunn, John Thompson, Mo Casey, Michelle Wittee, Kate Shaddock, Beth Murphy, Sandy Liakus, Julie Rohr, Tracy Bogard Visitors: Madeline Gurney, Natasa Vretenar, Gil Mogavaro, Kristi Vasquez
1b	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 -	

	Topic	Topic Leader	Process	Preparation/Completion Date
			questions and comments put into chat	
2 a	Update from Chair	Meg Hunn	+Better Impact information	<p>Better Impact and SEMG:</p> <p>What is it?</p> <p>Online volunteer software management system.</p> <p>Initially each SEMG will have a user profile and will be able to log hours</p> <p>Capacity of system also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign up capability - for projects / education QR codes to log hours at specific volunteer opportunities to save time and allow more time with the gardens Data collating (how many people were reached / volunteered, etc) Scheduling <p>Allows the NM State Master Gardener Coordinator to contact MGs directly</p> <p>Background:</p> <p>Lynda Garvin researched and found this program.</p> <p>She wanted to have all MGs profiled in the program and hours collected in 2024.</p>

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				<p>NMSU is paying the renewal fees and upgrades (saves us some money)</p> <p>Gil M - trained on this, along with Mo M, Sam T.</p> <p>Can be used on computer / mobile device (via app: 'My Impact')</p> <p>Suggested Time line:</p> <p>First quarter 2025: all SEMGs and 2025 interns will have a profile + start logging hours. Veteran MG are already entered the system.</p> <p>Hours will be one of three categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer / admin Continuing Education Outreach <p>AC approved: report of all 2024 individual hours will be collected by Survey Monkey that will be distributed in late October.</p> <p>Second quarter: continue logging hours / visit the question: do we want / need more 'granular data' - as in categories that further delineate the three categories.</p> <p><i>NOTE: this will require expanding the system as we go along.</i></p> <p><i>Questions: Questions about Survey Monkey, and collection of hours asked.</i></p>

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			<p>+third quarter reporting</p> <p>+Junior Master Gardener training -</p> <p>+Agent search committee</p>	<p>Third Quarter reporting on Survey Monkey is open for project chairs - Results will be distributed once compiled. Extension office salaries and operation expenses are funded ⅓ by Fed Govt / USDA, ⅓ by NMSU, ⅓ by Sandoval County. The report goes to Madeline G who gets it to the various entities.</p> <p>Would AC/4-H fund a volunteer who wishes to do this training and lead kids (February 2025 online training is \$70, plus purchasing the curricula / books for kids Madeline explained the relationship of Junior Master Gardener training with 4-H. She would like Junior Master Gardener to be separate from 4-H, for anyone in the county who is interested. Survey has been done on who is interested in working with children. Financing and timing discussed.</p> <p>Advisory Council approved money for 2 Junior Master Gardener teaching programs. Madeline says that the background checks could go through Sandoval Extension 4-H</p> <p>Agent Search Committee: Full Time 4-H Agent will begin 11/1; search committee for Ag Agent who will oversee SEMG, producers, etc, had initial meeting last week / interviews end of October. Madeline answered questions on responsibilities of the agents who will be hired.</p> <p>SEMG books: many good reference gardening books now housed at El Zocalo</p>

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			+SEMG books in the El Zocalo - keep as a reference resource or make into a library or give away? +Lynda Garvin's retiring end of 2024	AC decided that the books will remain at the Extension Office for now. We will determine how they will be used by the Master Gardeners. The Master Gardener file cabinets will be kept at El Zocalo. Lynda Garvin is retiring end of 2024 - honor her at graduation? How?
2	Update from Extension Agent	Madeline Gurney		See above notes
3	Update from State Advisory Council	Julie Rohr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update from NMSU EMG Advisory Council 	No change in EMG Advisory Council information
4	Finance Committee	Beth Murphy	+financial report from last month	See attached Financial report. Note all the money collected by the Tres Hermanos dinner will go out to the Tres Hermanos organization when the costs are submitted.
5	Standing Committee Updates			

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5a	Communication	Kate Shaddock Tracy Bogard	Calendar Helpline (feedback underway) Contact Us Signup Sheets (move to Nov) Intern Application (will be updated) Style Guide (<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New calendar software was acquired and is operational and is configured on the website All events from the old calendar were moved over. calendar@sandovalmastergardeners.org TBC in Nov • Created a 1 page Helpline reference webpage which consolidated all of the various instructions, references and sources for the Helpline: https://sandovalmastergardeners.org/semg-members/helpline-instructions/ • Migrated the Helpline log from Google docs and formatted to be an actual spreadsheet in Google Sheets. Allows us to search and peruse the log data and ultimately migrate to a database. <i>Tracy requests questions and additions be sent to her and Outreach chairs.</i> • Contact Us - added a new Contact Us button to the sidebar to reach all of the standard email addresses for SEMG (public facing) • Members Page - Added the Contact Us/Standard email information to the Members page (members only) • Signup Sheets - Kristi worked out a template which will be sent to people when they request a signup event signup@sandovalmastergardeners.org • 2025 Interns - Stephanie created the 2025 Application and it's active and posted on the website and shared via social media • Style guide as presented by Linda P - for approval November - questions? • The October Newsletter will be going to Tracy on Friday for distribution.
5b	Members hip	Mo Casey	+progress on adding current interns to SEMG web roster	

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5 c	Outreach	Sandy Liakus Penny Lindgren	+Recommends AC approval of Gardener Policy on Advising on Pesticides, (pasted below) +office inventory in progress +PGT - more than 520 tickets! +Team Fun's Tres Hermanas Harvest Dinner	AC approved the SEMG Extension Master Gardener Policy on Advising on Pesticides. Policy will be on the website with other policy documents for use by interns and as a reference for the helpline. Team Fun report on events of 2024 Placitas Garden tour had an excellent event, with over 500 attendees and are planning for 2025's show. Sunday Sept 7, 2026 will be the date of the event. Reorganization of e-helpline is underway with team managers identified to assist with the helpline. Harvest Festival in Corrales attended by MG, very successful Harvest Festival in Rio Rancho will be attended by SEMG for distribution of information.
5 d	Education	John Thompson Michelle Wittie	+Graduation 10a on 11/16 at St Francis Episcopal Church, Rio Rancho +applications for 2025 intern class / mentors +other / advanced classes	33 interns graduating 2024 2025 Interns: Last count was 28 new intern applications Aiming for 5 mentor teams - mentor leads to try to arrange for 1x month in-person get together Field trip schedule in progress 16 NMSU classes planned this year - end course is 4 May 2025 Madeline offered the 15 passenger van for the intern field trips SCCAFCA tree planting video has been recorded, it needs to be edited. Field trip schedule almost complete, Michelle requests new ideas for field trips for 2026 Ideas for converting lawns to native plants underway Graduation: Aprons are here, badges are here, certificates still in limbo

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6	Feedback from guests		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-Council members to provide feedback and suggestions to the Council	

Attach: zoom link, financials, additional reports

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' openly, over the phone, via email or in-person. 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 siting in planting, maintaining surrounding areas, rotating crops, effectively irrigating, fertilizing, etc.
3. Monitor – Regularly scout for pests or 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. That is the law.

The NMSU Extension Master Gardener program position is for limited or no pesticide, herbicide or fungicide use as much as possible for its overall economic approach and 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/