



Washington County Master Gardener™ Association

Minutes of November 14, 2025 Board Meeting 9 am at Extension

Attendance: Lisa Barnhart, Stephanie Engle, Deb Hansen, Mary Hewitt, Larina Hoffbeck, Connie Kirby, Steve Kister, Hope Preston, Tera Ramsey, Terry Wagner.

Absent: Harriet Ottaviano

Guests: Nicole Dwigins, Cyrene Domogalla, Andrea Flint

BOARD REPORTS

Chapter Relations/ Terry Wagner: A nomination for *Master Gardener of Note* for December is needed. The departing Board Members will be nominated for MG of Note for January, 2026.

Treasurer/ Connie Kirby

Connie led a discussion regarding the use of alternative methods to distribute compensation to members for chapter-related expenditures, to replace the use of checks. Suggestions included use of PayPal and other electronic methods.

Programs/ Larina Hoffbeck

The 2026 Calendar is basically completed with all dates, needing only to finalize a few details. Some events for January and February 2026, are already on the website. The WCMGA Programs *End of The Year Report* is completed and has been sent to Board Members.

Communications/ Steve Kister

Steve discussed the timing of deadlines of articles for the monthly *Chapter Chat*. Nicole Dwigins will coordinate and publish the January 2026 Chapter Chat. Steve will direct regular contributors to send articles and submissions to Nicole. Deadline to submit for the December Chat is November 21st.

Fundraising/ Lisa Barnhart The kickoff planning meeting for 2026 GardenFest, on May 2nd, has been held. Lisa discussed suggestions for hats to order for the GardenFest event workers.

Publicity/ Harriet Ottaviano : Harriet has submitted all of the December publicity and some of the January PR. Mary Oakes and Harriet will work together on the PR for the first couple of months of the transition.

Business/Stephanie Engle The next Records Retention committee meeting is planned for December 9th.

Vice President/Tera Ramsey

At Tera's invitation, Cyrene Domogolla gave a presentation sharing examples of the types of video ads that she creates. Cyrene may volunteer to produce videos for WCMGA.

Cyrene offered to teach MG's how to make promotional videos to share with the public across multiple media channels. Tera will coordinate the formation of a subcommittee to work with Cyrene.

OMGA/Deb Hansen

Deb reported that OMGA is considering how to streamline awards and grants.

The 2026 *Joy of Gardening* Conference will celebrate and emphasize the 50-year anniversary of OSU Master Gardener program. The OMGA website has been redesigned.

Board members were reminded to contact Washington County officials to request funding for the OSU MG Program in Washington County.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- December Board Meeting - The meeting will begin at 10 am, ending at 11:30. Lunch will follow at The Margarita Factory. Current and incoming board members are invited, as well as Extension staff, Srijana Shrestha, Amy Espinoza and Jenifer Halter.
- End of Year Reports of chapter activities directed by Board Members, are due to Hope who will write the 2026 State of The Chapter Report.
- Membership Renewal Status- 45 members have currently been renewed.
- RECAN Meeting Update- Hope attended a recent meeting of the Regional Extension Community Advisory Network, which is under Metro leadership. Washington County Extension plans to work towards formation of a Service District in May, 2027. Purpose is to establish stable funding for Extension programs on the Washington County budget.
- Jean Natter- Jean was a long-time Master Gardener member who served Washington County MG. Hope suggests asking WCMGA members for contributions to a fund to honor Jean.

UPCOMING

Nov 15th 10 am to 12 “*Plant Propagation By Cuttings*”, PCC RC

Nov 17th 10 am to 12 “*Gathering Gardeners: Putting Garden Tools to Bed*” Learning Garden

Dec 2nd 7pm-8:30 pm “*Broadening Your Plant Palette*” Webinar Presentation followed by Chapter Meeting

Respectfully submitted by Mary Hewitt, WCMGA Recording Secretary

Approved by: Hope Preston, WCMGA Chapter President,