Prepared by Ann Sawyer

Issued March 13, 2024

**EAB MEETING MINUTES – February 21, 2024**

**9-10 am via Zoom**

**ATTENDEES:**

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| Nancy Allred | Lajauna Smouse |
| Pam Hanna | Susan Smouse |
| Marilyn Kinkel | Sophie Sterling |
| Neva Leigh | Catherine Salam – Board Chair |
| Ann Sawyer | Maxine Yoon – AAMG Coordinator |

1. **Chair’s Opening Remarks**

Catherine opened the meeting at 9:16

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Susan Smouse moved the minutes be approved.

Maxine Yoon seconded the motion.

Minutes were approved unanimously.

1. **Coordinator’s Report**

Maxine reported

CERC Tour went well.

Grow It Eat it went well.

The Urban Farm Tour is tonight with over 100 participants. The tour is from 6-7 pm at the Dairy Farm.

Maxine will be doing a Predator Control Workshop for DNR tomorrow.

She will be unavailable this weekend as she is taking a trip to Richmond.

She will also be gone Aug 25-30. She has a UMD Faculty Tour and a Workshop in Santa Fe.

1. **Old Business**

**Evaluation Report**

Community Partnership

Pam is working with Maxine on a Community Partnership with the Watershed Stewards.

Intern Participation

Maxine created an Intern Email List and made it available to the Project Chairs.

**EAB Liaison Project Chair Updates**

Ask a Master Gardener

As of Week 13 the combined participation at Clinics, Tabling and Special Events resulted in 1,786 contacts. Maxine reported that the demographic reports are coming in from Project Chairs.

Tawes Garden

Cindy Wells need topsoil and mulch to replace what was lost due to plants being removed by DNR.

**Speakers:**

**August:** Research Farm in Upper Marlboro Social Confirmed

**Sept:** Ms Patel: Herb Drying

* She will also be doing Capture the Flavor in person at the Dairy Farm.

**Oct:** Kevin Kelley Confirmed

**Nov/Dec /TBA**

Paula Decker is confirmed. She will be doing Living on the Edge. (Being good neighbor to wildlife)

Action: Maxine will ask which month she would prefer. She will also offer an honorarium if Ms. Decker is willing to submit an invoice.

**Advanced Training for Composting**

This is tabled with no further action. It would be $150 to attend which is too much for what is offered. The syllabus for the original course in Md is not available and there is no one to teach it.

**Budget**

The $200 amount per project will no longer be given out. All requests will be sent to Maxine for approval. That way resources can be sent where they are most needed. Action:

Maxine will create a budget line for speaker honorariums. Marilyn, Catherine, and Neva will create a list of possible groups that might be willing to share speakers.

Pam will contact the groups to see if they are interested.

1. **New Business**

**Naval Academy RFP (Request for Proposal)**

Harrison Palmer of the Naval Academy is planning to remove the current lease holders of the Dairy Farm property and replace it with a Solar Farm. Maxine does not know when this will occur.

**EAB Response**

We approve of solar power but do not wish to replace the current Dairy Farm Projects with a Solar Farm.

The Master Gardener Program has invested a lot of time and money in their projects which cannot easily be moved to another location.

The current programs do not cost the Naval Academy any money.

A Solar Farm is not the best use of open land. It should be preserved because there are few areas in the county that are open land.

Maxine mentioned that the U of Md is interested in agriculture projects that combine agriculture with solar farm.

Action:

Sophie will create a response from the EAB. She will send the first draft to Maxine and Catherine for review. Then it will be reviewed by the EAB before it is sent.

1. Catherine adjourned the meeting at 10:21.

The next meeting will be Aug 14th from 9:15-10:15. Pam will take notes because Ann will be absent.