



Marion Citizens Advisory Network
3180 Center St. NE, RM 1361
Salem OR 97301-4532
503-5858-5301

Meeting Notes
October 28, 2008

Meeting called to order at 6:30PM by Derek Godwin, Staff Chair

Introduction of members and staff and the agenda was accepted as presented.

Staff presentation

Derek introduced Neil Bell, Community Horticulturist Extension faculty for Marion County. He graduated with a BS from Victoria College, Canada in 1990 and received his MS from OSU in 1992. His PowerPoint presentation described his leadership role in research, pesticides, landscape management, and plant evaluation. His expertise guides and assists Marion County Master Gardener's in addressing public inquiries and promoting plants that nurture in the Willamette Valley. He expanded on additional duties including:

Horticulturist advisor for Master Gardner program:

- ❖ Orientation of new members. Class size varies from 45 to 65 people. Demographics of the classes include all ages, and backgrounds. The requirement for payback hours is essential for continuance and retention of members.
- ❖ Pruning, safe use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers used by professionals and homeowners.
- ❖ Master Gardener's receive approximately 4,000 inquiries per year of which Neil will respond to about 350. Some of his responses are "house-calls" because they require on site evaluation.

Extension Outreach program includes:

- ❖ Articles for public and trade publications including, Statesman Journal, "To Do In Garden", Pacific Horticulture, nursery magazines, OSU publications, Pacific Northwest Insect/Pests Management, a pesticide application handbook. Radio station KBZY features Master Gardener interviews and topics on plants, fertilizer and pesticide application.

Research:

- ❖ Neil leads the study of Landscape Management, with a focus on new construction sites that include:
 - Plant evaluation within the Willamette Valley.
 - Soil sampling at sites for soil quality and nutrients.
- ❖ Testing plant species for survival in various soil types.
- ❖ Pesticide evaluation in surface and subsurface water. Pesticides do travel through water from point of application to other locations.

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- ❖ Use of fertilizer types and quantity is reviewed.
- ❖ Compaction studies have been developed at the research station to determine their impact on growing plants. Plots have been designed representing different types of soil and density. Selected plants are grown in the plots simulating conditions that the plant types might experience. Results are monitored and evaluated.

Questions and discussion followed Neil's presentation.

Administrative Updates:

Derek distributed the November 3rd schedule for the reception and presentations by the candidates for the position of Marion County 4-H SET position (Science, Engineering and Technology). He invited everyone to attend at the Extension office. (Information provided in handout and sent in email)

An Extension Organization chart was distributed by Derek illustrating the program areas and assigned staff. The gray boxes indicate programs funded by Marion County. (Handout attached)

The Sources of Funding pie chart for Extension was presented. Derek reviewed the sources and stated the federal funding is flat with the state and county funds varying. Grant funding is growing.

Derek suggested a proposal that an emergency/contingency fund be established at about 15% or \$40,000 to \$50,000. He requested discussion by the Network members. The Network members recommended Derek establish the fund for the use of emergencies or one-time opportunities. It should not be used for long term commitments of staff.

Derek requested members to comment on increasing funding.
Suggestions were:

- ❖ Consider fees for workshops.
- ❖ Use electronic mailing when feasible.
- ❖ Establish an endowment fund through OSU.
- ❖ Distribute letters for donations.
 - Derek will discuss at next staff meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

The next meeting is January 27, 2009 at 6:30pm in the Extension Conference Room on Center St. Dan Hoynecki, Sustainable Communities will make a presentation.

Respectfully submitted, James Castle, Recorder