The meeting was called to order at 10:10am by Monica David. In attendance were, Monica David, Kari Houle, Jennifer Fishburn, Corinna Martinez, Sonja Lallemend, Lee Maki, John Bodensteiner, Deb McFarling, Rusty Nave, Lisa Valle, Shey Lowman, Joy Gulotta, Brenda Dahlfors, and Pat Kosmach. Via Lync were Nancy Kuhajda, Mary Jo Novak, Tracy Mulliken and Patsy Hirsch.

The Minutes of the May meeting were approved as written.

REPORTS

2015 MG Training: Monica met with the County Directors last week and discussed the 15 person minimum rule, the training schedules, among other things. Discussions centered on results of a 2007/8 task force on training that included a statewide survey of Educators, MG Coordinators and County Directors at the time. Currently 60-70% of other state use webinar (3 states use only online) MG training. Since Blackboard will be going away in the summer of 2015, webinar training will be moved to Lync – however this doesn’t record well and that will have to be worked out by the Chris Tidrick and his team. All counties must offer at minimum the 10 core classes plus orientation- no matter the training format. In 2015, training will be delivered online, face to face, or live Webinar which will be offered on Tuesdays beginning Jan 27th. Must have trained MG or staff on hand to offer webinar training. There is no minimum number for a county/unit to offer the webinar training but it is suggested that trainees will have a better experience if at least 3 or so are present. Monica will post the hands on activities to accompany the webinars sometime in October.

2015 Conference: Sept 17-19 at the Hilton Garden in O’Fallon. Monica is working with Elizabeth Wahle and Sara Ruth. There will be a Master Naturalist track. Rosalind Creasy will do keynote and one breakout. 2nd keynote for MNs? Possibly Michael Jeffords (butterfly field guide author) or his wife Susan Post. Other suggestions for speakers were Scott Ballard (state herpetologist), or Rebecca Tonietto (bees). The idea of running buses to the conference and back was discussed and well received. Lisa Valle and Nancy Kuhajda offered to look into it for northern Illinois. This should be arranged thru coordinators – not conference planners.

National Hort Promotion by ASHS: (See Imagine article)
Please go online and take the survey: growit.ashs.org . Of note: U of I only has 10 kids in its undergrad program, and U of I will be dropping the Hort production undergraduate major, although they will still offer a Vegetable- Food production Hort major. Many community colleges are starting to offer a bachelor’s degree in Hort.

Impact Evaluation: Monica sends this out every 2 years to recent MG grads. It was in IMAGINE but she will also send a reminder email to coordinators to forward.

Hotline/Plant Clinic Evaluation Pilot: Monica, Pennie Crinion, Sandy Mason, Chris Enroth, Kelly Allsup and Candice Miller are developing an evaluation survey to evaluate the impact of their hotlines. It would involve randomly selecting a preset number of clients and having a volunteer call the client on the phone and ask questions about the service and how the client used the information given to them by Master Gardeners. This will be piloted now in units 1, 2, 13, 12 and 10. Later the group will evaluate responses, make changes and release this for use by other counties in 2015.
**Nature Detectives/Habitat Connection Pilot with Cornell:** 2 curriculums designed by Cornell Ornithology Lab for the elementary level children was developed and will be piloted in Illinois and California. Monica and Bill Million will select 20 to 30 staff and volunteers to be sent to a 2 day training workshop, all expenses paid, this November.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**MG Award Pins:** Lindsay, Monica’s assistant, graduated in May and left Monica (she is completely recovered from her accident). After MUCH discussion, it was voted to keep the designs she created for outstanding and sustained excellence pins for MGs. Monica will let us know when she has them. They will be available to previous award winners. Monica has them in a database. Coordinators should only order for currently active former recipients. It was suggested Monica look into magnet backs. It was also suggested that the lanyards (to hold MG pins) be available on the annual apparel order.

**Business Cards:** The templates will be available on the MG website for counties/units to use. They are NOT for individual MGs. There should be no personal contact info – only office contact info.

**Collecting MG Histories:** Monica has reports from 7 counties so far. A suggested format will be sent to each county, and it is recommended that the volunteers try to collect as much info as possible. They will be put on the State website as a scrapbook, and can also be put on Unit pages as a scrapbook thru the web manager. It would be nice if each county could also include 2 or 3 pictures for the website.

**Website Reorganization:** Monica had printed out her recommendations, and each was discussed. Results should be seen after Monica meets with Jane and her team in the later part of fall.

**Award Application Revisions:** She made it a fillable form. Patsy separated the categories and wrote descriptions. There was discussion about dropping “management” and changing the wording on “leadership” and “involvement”. Monica and Shey and Patsy will work on it again and send out revisions – there is a Lunch and Learn Oct 16 on how to fill them out.

**Other Items:**
- Jennifer requested an article on the proper channels/use of DDDI in the next IMAGINE
- Rachelle Hollingshead has retired – we will need a replacement for her area on the committee
- Deb wondered if there was a way to share what counties are doing...a blog? Facebook? Regular coordinators’ meetings? Write ups in IMAGINE? Displays/posters at Conference?
- John asked about sharing programs for speakers bureaus
- There is a January Lunch n Learn on QR code use in the garden
- Statewide and/or Regional face to face coordinators meetings are in huge demand – Monica is being told there is no money for them at this time but will work with the leadership team on this
- Protection of Minors training must be completed by May of 2015. They can be done individually, as a group, with another group (MN, 4H), but certificates of completion must be signed. This only need be done ONCE by a volunteer. Monica will send out another reminder and link. It is worth 1 hour of continuing education credit. It was suggested that hotline/helpline volunteers could do it during down time, in the office!

Meeting adjourned at 2:53

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Dahlfors, secretary