

WCMG BUSINESS MEETING

March 3, 2026

Horticulture Building at Washington County Fairgrounds

Sanctioned Project and Sanctioned Committee Fair

Members present: 112

Administrative

President Pam Butler called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

The February WCMG Business Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously by the membership. Carole Ball, Secretary, will send the minutes to the archivist.

The January Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously by the membership and will be sent to the archivist by Julie Murray, Treasurer.

Announcements

Pam informed the membership that Vice President Rick Oliver has resigned his position and he was thanked for his service. Steve Shearman has accepted the Interim Vice President position. Steve is a WCMG graduate from the Class of 2025 and has been serving as a Member-At-Large on the Executive Board. He is also the Co-Chair of the Shiloh Museum Sanctioned Project.

The WCMG summer June picnic date has been changed from June 2nd to June 9th at the Washington County Extension Office grounds due to a conflict with the Master Gardener State Conference dates of June 2nd through June 4th in Conway.

Pam reported that Kelly Chaney, Chair of the Community Outreach Committee, has announced a Seed Swap at the Fayetteville Public Library (FPL) on March 28th from 10 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. The Seed Swap will be followed by a presentation at 2 P.M. in the FPL Walker Community Room by Karen Hanna-Towne. She will be speaking on The Basics of Seed Starting. This will be the first of four Community Outreach programs to be scheduled this year at the FPL.

The FPL is requesting help from the WCMG on March 12th at 9:00 A.M. to clean out planter boxes and prepare them for planting herbs and edible flowers that will be used for FPL culinary purposes. Volunteer hours may be counted as non-sanctioned project hours.

The Master Gardener bus tour that Janet Carson is hosting will make a stop at the Washington County Extension Office on May 4th around noon. The WCMG will be providing a potluck lunch for approximately 35 members participating in the tour. The guests will be touring the Extension Office grounds. Patsy Louk is asking for volunteers to prepare potluck dishes and to help with set-up and clean-up.

Peggy Sissel, Chair of the Garden Explorers Project, is requesting volunteers to help work with the children at the monthly meetings.

The Washington County Extension Office Project Chairs, Chuck and Donilyn Rutherford, are asking for volunteers to join their crew.

The photo contest theme for March is "Spring Bloomers." Photo submission deadline is March 15th.

Pam thanked Elkins Sanctioned Project volunteers for setting up the room for the Project Fair. Kathy Launder put up a table with cookies and snacks for the meeting participants and was thanked for her contributions.

The Garden Gate Tour Sanctioned Project crew are scheduled to set up the room for the April 7th meeting at the Washington County Extension Office.

Pam called on members to share their favorite gardening tools in "Tool Time." A favorite tool a member told the group about, with a smile, is enlisting her grandson to work in the garden with her. Another favorite tool was a handheld specialized trowel-like implement used for weeding and digging.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 P.M.

Nancy Sloan, Co-Chair of the Project Proposal Review Committee (Co-Chairs Regina Gabel and Carrie Gamble), declared the Project Fair to be open. There were many eye-catching poster displays, table decorations, and treats to get the attention of those looking at project information. The Shiloh Museum Project and Lincoln Community Gardens Project had drawings for 2026 Trainees to win prizes. It was delightful to experience the interest and enthusiasm in the atmosphere at the Project Fair.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Ball, Secretary

