

**Dallas County Master Gardener Association  
Special Board Meeting  
Review/Approve the ECOLAB Grant Application for R&B1  
Date: July 26th, 2022**

**Attending:**

Abbe Bolich – President  
Zandra Faris - Immediate Past President  
Monica Nagle – Secretary  
Julia Matthews - Treasurer  
Joellyn Nobbe - 2nd Vice President (Member Services)  
Ned Buxton - Director-at-Large  
Denise Strueber - Director-at-Large  
Mark Jones - Director-at-Large  
Rick Coke - Director-at-Large  
Cynthia Jones - Communications  
Linda Seidel – Parliamentarian (acting)

**AgriLife:**

Katerina Graham – Dallas County Horticulture Extension Agent

**Absent:**

Jeff Raska, Horticultural Program Coordinator for Dallas County  
Barbara St. Clair - 1st Vice President (Fundraising)  
Barbara Anderson – Parliamentarian

**Guests:**

Janet Lind – R&B1  
MaryClare Milner – R&B1  
Julie Keith – Master Gardener, Greenhouse advisor from Temple Emanu-El

**Quorum:**

The meeting was held via Zoom. It was called to order by Secretary Monica Nagle at 2:02pm with a quorum of 8 voting members present.

**Discussion:**

Janet Lind, of the R&B1 garden project, requested approval from the DCMGA Board to submit a grant application to EcoLabs for a greenhouse. This greenhouse will be used to bump-up plants from seed trays into 4 inch pots. The plants would then grow in the 4 inch pots for 2 to 3 weeks

prior to planting them in the vegetable beds. Included in the grant application is a current price list for the materials needed.

The deadline for submission of the grant request to Ecolab is August 5<sup>th</sup>, 9 days away.

Monica Nagle asked Janet Lind to highlight the differences between the most recent Ecolab grant application and the version presented at the DCMGA Board Meeting on 7/12/22. Janet responded that the differences are 'very little'.

- The term 'high hoop tunnel' was changed to 'greenhouse', so that it aligns with the terminology in the order, even though it would not be used as a year-long, fully manned greenhouse.
- The amount of money to be received was changed from \$500 to \$0.01. Janet noted that this is still in error and the amount will be updated to \$0.
- The answers to questions emailed earlier by Zandra Faris were provided in the most recent application.

Denise commented that one of the answers provided in the application states the greenhouse will be installed "in the fall of 2023 or the spring of 2023", is this correct? Janet replied that there were two errors in the answers to Zandra's questions:

- From: "The greenhouse will be installed in the fall of 2023 / spring of 2023." To: "The greenhouse will be installed in the fall of 2023 or early spring of 2024."
- Tomatoes were not included in the list of items to grown at R&B1.
- Janet said these items will be corrected in the documentation. (Note: MaryClare Milner stated later in the meeting that the dates are correct and do not need updated.)

Janet Lind clarified that the grant application is really for a high hoop tunnel (HHT) but is named 'greenhouse' in the grant application to be consistent with the vendor terminology.

#### Time of Use:

The HHT is expected to be used in the spring/summer/fall and will not be used when extreme cold outbreaks typically occur. An HHT is not intended to protect against extreme cold.

#### Location:

Per Janet Lind, the greenhouse will be installed on the east side of the barn on the grounds of R&B1, where the compost piles are.

#### Water Needs:

Water will be provided to the HHT through hoses.

Ned Buxton brought up the need for an irrigation plan. MaryClare stated there is one hose that goes to the water station. This hose has a splitter on it that feeds into two timers. This provides the possibility for eight stations. Only seven stations are currently in use. This hose also feeds the hand watering station. The plan is to bury the hose going between splitter at the spigot and the greenhouse. It won't interfere with the other irrigation. There are roughly 13 or 14 beds in this area of R&B1.

MaryClare commented that jugs of water are used to hand water the pots. These jugs sit for 24 hours to dissipate any chlorine in the water. There are also hoses available for hand watering. Three hoses are included in the grant application to hook up to the misting system.

#### Electrical Needs:

It was recommended that the amperage needed for the HHT equipment (exhaust fans, lights,...) be considered when obtaining the quote for the electrical hook-up. Thought should be given to future requirements as well (heaters? additional fans?)

Katerina Graham contacted Jeff Raska and Dr. Daniels 3 times for confirmation that they will approve an electrical hook-up for the HHT. A proposal was sent 3 weeks ago to Dr. Daniels. Dr. Daniels requested a quote for the electrical hook-up prior to approval. However, someone from the county will need to be on-site for an electrician to come out and provide a quote.

Julie said a map of the electrical system is needed. The outlets should be at an elevated level to avoid contact with water. At Temple Emanu-El, the lights were placed over the benches and the outlets were placed under the benches. The watering system in the HHT is currently set to run along the eaves. Julie offered to work with the R&B1 propagation team to put in place holders for potential needs.

Zandra suggested that R&B1 obtain a quote for electrical hook-up as a temporary placeholder in the application. Joellyn asked if the proposed plan for electricity on the application is to add a splitter to the barn's electricity. Zandra said the East Texas website stated that an extension cord could be used to run the exhaust fans, but the issue is when you start adding equipment to accommodate different weather events (fans, heaters,...). Grow lights are also needed.

Denise Strueber suggested that DCMGA get a quote for electrical hook-up as a backup to having Dr. Daniels pay for the electrical hook-up. It was then noted that the expense for the electrical hook-up is covered in the grant application. Dr. Daniels would only need to approve the process of adding electricity to the HHT. Zandra asked Abbe if she has access to an electrician to provide a quote that could be used in the application. Abbe agreed to this and referenced a 110V line that was installed for a small structure at Raincatchers. Zandra asked if we could scale the cost of the Raincatchers quote based on the size ratio to the R&B1 structure. The response was 'No.' because the price difference is the liner footage, not the amperage. Abbe

offered to send out her electrician to provide a quote. Katerina recommends that the estimate from Abbe's electrician be included in the proposal. Jeff Raska is a county employee and could be present when the electrician comes out to make a quote. Since the grant pays for the electrician, not the county, it was expected that the county would not require multiple quotes. Katerina suggested that the electrician come out in the early afternoon tomorrow (Wednesday, 7/27/22). Katerina requested that MaryClare provide a list of all equipment which may draw from the electric line. MaryClare replied that only exhaust fans would need to be powered. Zandra asked MaryClare to look into the future to see if the equipment would change. Julie reiterated that extra ventilation may be needed to prevent pests, and to include this in the electrical installation quote.

#### Structure:

The HHT will come with vents and exhaust fans.

As noted earlier, Julie Keith recommends increasing the air ventilation to avoid pests. Mark Jones commented that the East Texas Greenhouse quoted in the application has a closed roof. Are vents needed? Julie didn't think so. Exhaust fan are setup to remove the hot air, but this setup doesn't do much for air circulation near the bottom of the greenhouse. Linda Seidel said she looked at the East Texas Greenhouse website and the greenhouse door has vents that open for air circulation.

Temple Emanu-El had an issue with condensation in their greenhouse. They corrected this by adding bubble wrap to the inside of the greenhouse.

Julie recommends that R&B1 add a heater to their HHT.

Julie also commented that the current plan is to have pea gravel for the floor surface. This could make it difficult to push a cart through. She recommends using landscape cloth.

#### Schedule:

Zandra asked that, if the structure could not be built until fall of 2023 or spring of 2024, and the Ecolab grant timeline starts on May 23rd, should R&B1 wait until next May and start over? Janet Lind responded that the issue is that a \$500 deposit to East Texas Greenhouse is needed before the grant is awarded. Janet and Julie suggested modifying the grant to state that the money awarded will be used to purchase xyz, or something comparable. This grant was written in 'researched detail' because that style was used for the prior Ecolab grant application. Any money awarded must be spent within a year. Denise asked that, if the grant money is required to be used within a year, what happens if the greenhouse is delivered after the year is up. MaryClare corrected the timeline and stated that the installation would be the spring of 2023 or fall of 2023.

Monica Nagle suggested that a vote be conducted on the grant today with a contingency included in the motion that includes the quote for, and Dr. Daniels approval of, the electrical hook-up?

Julie Keith advised having a contingency plan if the grant is approved and East Texas Greenhouse cannot install the greenhouse with the year's expiration of the grant money. MaryClare said this would not be needed since there was an error in the greenhouse installation time period and the corrected version is within the year of the potential grant funding. Janet Lind and MaryClare Milner both commented that EcoLabs is easy to work with when adjustments to the original grant requirements are needed. It's important to be transparent.

**Vote:**

Zandra Faris made a motion to approve the EcoLab grant application as written, with a requirement that it is to be amended with:

1. Dr. Daniels' written approval for the electrical hook-up, and
2. An estimate for the cost of the electrical work.

Joellyn seconded the motion. The vote was made through the zoom chat feature to Linda Seidel. The motion passed 6-2.

**Actions:**

- Katerina Graham took responsibility for obtaining Dr. Daniels' written approval for the electrical hook-up.
- Abbe Bolich is responsible for providing a quote for the electrical hook-up. This will come from a contractor she has worked with at her family's business.

**Adjournment:**

Monica Nagle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:35pm. Ned Buxton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Reference Files:**

Agenda – Special Board Meeting, 7/26/22

DCMGA Grant Application Request

Ecolab Grant Application, 7/20/22

Ecolab Grant Application, 7/23/22

Ecolab Grant Application, final

Questions from Zandra Faris with answers provided by the R&B1 team

Quote for electrical hook-up from TL Cook Electric, LLC.

Greenhouse Materials List

9x16' hothouse materials pricelist

Price Comparison for Greenhouse or High Hoop Tunnel

DCMGA Financial Report, 6/30/22

