



## MINUTES

**Thursday – September 13, 2007  
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM  
TBG - Terrace Room**

### Members of Advisory Group

Dick Bostdorff

Michael Carroll

Tom Creque

Bill Dearing

Beth Fausey

Theresa Hoen

Tony Keil

Walt Krueger

Joe Perlaky

Lindsay Potts

Neil Reid

Tom Wardell

- Dean Krauskopf called the meeting to order at 8:07 am
- Attendance: (25)
  - Neil Reid, Bob Feldstein, Joe Perlaky, Bill Dearing, Dean Krauskopf, Kirk Mizerek, Jim Locke, Tom Wardell, Scott Leisner, Mike Carroll, Paula Ross, Judy McFarland, Lynette Oberhouse, Serenity Carr, Bryan Steel, Andy Patterson, Kyle Jackson, Tony Keil, George Dabrunz, Jonathan Frantz, Beth Fausey, Tom Creque, Bob Hornak, Mike Beroske and Walt Krueger.
- New Business:
  - MVGA – Legal Status:
    - Dave Waterman from Shumaker Loop & Kendrick has been hired to file the paperwork creating the MVGA 501 (C) (6) non-profit entity. Completion is expected sometime in October.
  - Natural Gas Program –
    - The statewide rollout of the Gas Program began by identifying grower names and addresses in all four (4) regions of the state including confirmation of contact information and accuracy. MVG brochures were snail and e-mailed. Several rounds of phone calls were also made to determine grower interest.
    - The name of the MVG managed gas program is Grower Energy Solutions.
    - Each state region has an advisory group made up of 3 area volunteer members. In addition, there is one statewide group with one member from each region represented.
    - So far, there are ~10 new natural gas members signed up with an influx expected around April 08.

- The MVG social was a success. Approximately 45 guests attended the event at Hoen's Greenhouse. Many thanks to Bob and Theresa for hosting the event.
- Neil reported the current grant will be ending in June '08. A request has been placed for funding next year.
- Judy reported that the Flower Power marketing campaign will have a fall and winter theme. A Holiday Home Decoration Contest will possibly have a floral decoration prize valued at \$250. Sponsorship ads, newspaper ads, billboards, and the Adopt a School Program will be used to promote MVGA. More details to follow.
- It was suggested an "Ambassador Outreach" be present at the Apple Butter Festival to promote our area growers.
- On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Industry of Arts at the Valentine Theater will feature Governor Strickland's wife as speaker. There will be a VIP reception immediately following.
- Scott Leisner reports he was named Director of the Plant Science Center on July 1, 2007. Several research projects are underway including those involving the MVG and other area growers.
- Beth reports that the TAFGA/OSU Fall Tour will be on Tuesday September 25, 2007. Please call her for details.
- Paula reports the Farmers Market is developing a strategic business plan and will include MVGA in their "Buy Local" campaign.
- Today's meeting featured a presentation by the National Federation of Independent Business (NIFB). Kyle Jackson reported on statewide legislative victories and challenges that affect small business owners.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Minutes submitted by Serenity Carr.

The next meeting is Oct. 11  
8:00 am  
Toledo Botanical Gardens