

Greenhouse Growers Meeting
TBG
12-15-04

Attendance:

Mike Carroll, Neil Reid, Joe Perlaky, Lindsay Potts, Mary Donnell, Jonathon Frantz, Dharma Pitchay, Jim Locke, Dean Krauskopf , Tom Wardell, Claudio Pasian, Steve Carver, Rep. Marcy Kaptur, Dick Bostdorff, Norm Keil, Phillip Page

Discussion Topics:

Neil Reid and Mike Carroll gave a presentation on Cluster developments using examples outside the greenhouse industry as examples. Discussion followed as to how a Cluster development might be beneficial to the greenhouse industry. Some examples were given. It was stressed that for a Cluster to be successful, it must be grass roots driven generally by the private sector and typically with those of vested interests. A Cluster is guided by a Champion which is selected by members of the Cluster.

Joe Perlaky followed with an example of a Cluster structure as it might apply to the greenhouse industry. The final configuration would be generated by the Cluster members themselves. He also showed how the greenhouse Cluster could fit into the whole picture of related NW Ohio Clusters and development agencies and organizations. Dean Krauskopf acknowledged the challenges of collaborative efforts crossing state lines.

Dick Bostdorff brought up the idea of NW Ohio branding and its benefits. He sighted several examples.

Several members expressed concern over costs to maintain each Cluster. Lindsay Potts pointed out that this grant already had adequate dollars set aside to seed the effort. Neil agreed. Dharma Pitchay stressed the importance of having a project to help develop membership in the cluster. Joe agreed that the sooner the Cluster structure was decided, who the advisory board members were and Champion might be...the sooner the Cluster could start focusing on practical matters effecting the industry.

There were several discussions regarding who the greenhouse Cluster Champion might be. It was tabled for further discussion at our next meeting on January 18th at TBG. Phillip Page graciously offered the use of the facilities.

Claudio Pasian briefly discussed the development of the greenhouse software program he is working on.

Next Meeting:

January 18, 9:00 am to 10:30 am at TBG

Agenda Items:

- Select Champion
- Identify potential advisory board members (Private sector, University, Governmental, other related Organizations)
- Solidify Cluster structure