



ADVISORY GROUP MINUTES

June 5, 2008
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Thread

Joe Perlaky called the meeting to order at 8:09 am

Attendance – (11) Joe Perlaky, Theresa Hoen, Tony Keil, Dean Krauskopf, Bill Dearing, Serenity Carr, Kirk Mizerek, Beth Fausey, Judy McFarland, Michael Carroll & Walt Krueger

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

- New Business (Events)- Joe
 - Great Lakes Earth Voyager- June 19-20. This is their first event in Toledo. <http://www.healthylakes.org/tour> Join us in two weeks as the Earth Voyager, the fastest sailing vessel on the Great Lakes, visits a dozen port cities to celebrate the role of the Great Lakes in our lives, and to raise awareness about the need and enormous economic benefits of protecting and restoring them. Growers have an opportunity to participate and sell items on Friday 10:00-5:00 and Saturday 10:00-8:00. The MVG's will cover the entrance fee of \$25.
 - America in Bloom- July 9-12. <http://www.americainbloom.org> There will be approximately 20 stops during the 4-day event. Grower attendance and assistance are needed to answer questions and discuss the MVG program at one 45 minute meeting at U.T. on Wednesday June 19 at 3 pm. The judges will be present to hear presentations by UT, MVG & UT's Plant Science/USDA-ARS. President Jacobs and Congresswomen Kaptur (or representatives) are tentatively scheduled to be in attendance.
 - America in Bloom- Joe reported that next week we will be calling our wholesale growers to see if they wish to assist in the America in Bloom program by considering selling "discarded" stock for \$1 per flat...enough to cover the cost of the trays. Logistics will be we worked out.
 - Lucas County Fair- Serenity stated that scheduling is going well, however, there is still a need for increased grower participation. Volunteers for staffing would be appreciated. If there are any growers that would like to reserve space to sell or display their products, contact her at (419) 530-3954.
- OFA "Short Course"- July 12-15 at the Columbus Convention Center. MVGA and Palmer Energy will have an exhibit booth during the 3-day event. Additional staffing is needed for Sunday July 13th. If there are any growers attending that would be available to assist for a couple of hours it would be appreciated. Contact Joe at (419) 356-4847.

- Recycling program- Final recommendations for the grower recycling program are being finalized between several vendors. Expect an announcement in July. All three plastics will be accepted.
- Gas Program
 - Kirk reported natural gas prices have increased 30-40% over the last 6 months. This is primarily due to the unusual number of speculators investing in the commodity and the fall of the dollar worldwide.

The good news is Palmer Energy still accomplished its goal of saving growers 8-15% in Ohio. There will be more information sent to the growers regarding this in the next few weeks.

The bad news is this is not the case in Michigan. Unlike Ohio, they have storage capacity options thus making lead-lag pricing nebulous...often irregardless to market pressures. Meaning, their prices are currently lower than market now as they are able to access their storage reserve. This flexibility is good for the Mi. growers but makes the MVG program non competitive...at this time. This will flip-flop later in the year when storage levels need to be refilled. In the mean time, our natural gas program has been suspended temporarily in Michigan until these issues settle and are resolved.

- Joe, Kirk Mizerek and Dick Bostdorff attended an ONLA board meeting this past week in Columbus. There is interested in becoming participants in the MVG gas program. More on this in the months to come.

Minutes – Serenity Carr

Adjourn – 9:43 am