



MINUTES

Monthly MVG Meeting Thursday – January 14, 2010 8:00-9:30 AM TBG

- 2010 -

Board of Directors

Dick Bostdorff

(President)
(*Gov. Relations)
2010

Jeff Creque

(Business)
2011

Bill Dearing

(*Membership)
2010

Bob Dennis

(Business)
2010

Beth Fausey

(*Education)
(Membership)
2011

Diane Hill

(Treasurer)
(*Finance)
2009

Theresa Hoen

(Secretary)
(Marketing)
(Membership)
2011

Walt Krueger

(President Elect)
(Programs)
2011

Kirk Mizerek

(Finance)
(Programs)
2010

Neil Reid

(*Gov. Relations)
(Finance)
2011

Mike Shank

(Marketing)
2012

Wade Smith (*Membership)

(Marketing)
2012

Tom Wardell

(*Marketing)
2009

Terms Expire End of Year
Indicated

(* Denotes Chairman)

Beth Fausey called the meeting to order at 8:07 am

Attendance: (25)

- o Joe Perlaky, Bill Dearing, Dick Bostdorff, Serenity Carr, Anne Schenk, Theresa Hoen, Tom Wardell, Paula Ross, Beth Fausey, George Dabrunz, Wade Smith, Cheryl Rice, Deb Bettinger, Jeff Creque, Andy Keil, Tony Keil, Sandy Knitz, Neil Reid, Scott Leisner, Mike Schenk, Jim Locke, Gene Klotz, Bob Hornak, Josh Miller & Matt Brown

Joe encouraged all to read the article in "Greenhouse Grower" featuring Bettinger Farms.

Neil reported that the possibility of moving toward local food production is a good idea and has potential. UT will be hosting a 3 ½ day international conference in August. There will be a sharing of ideas and best practices from 30-35 experts on food systems.

Paula reported that on February 2, UAC, CIFT, and Toledo Grows will be sponsoring an event at 7 pm featuring Mike Hamm, CS Mott Professor of Sustainable Agriculture at Michigan State University. The event will be entitled, "Locally-Integrated Food Systems: An Opportunity For Our Future." It will be held on UT's Health Science Campus in the Health Education Building Room 100.

There were 2 meetings held with UT's grant writer, Betty Anzaldua. She will search for opportunities for both UAC and MVG.

The Marketing Committee reported that Ron Synder of the Toledo Blade retired, but will remain as a MVG consultant. They will be meeting next week.

MVG would like to thank Bostdorff's Greenhouse for their participation in the Johnny Knorr New Year's Eve event at the Masonic. It was a great success.

Committee Reports:

Dick reported that the Board did not meet last Thursday at their regular meeting time, but will meet later today at 1 pm for their January Board of Director's meeting.

Business –

- Energy- Anne Schenk
 - There is a Natural Gas conference call on Friday. Hedges were made for February and an additional 25% was purchased before prices rose.
 - If market stays the same there will be another meeting in a month. If the market changes, the meeting will be held in two weeks. Prices remain lower than in many years.

Education – Beth Fausey

- There were 52 individuals attending last week's meeting at Schmidlin's Greenhouse, Inc. and 63 hours of recertification credits were earned. Positive comments and feedback were received from participating growers.
- At last month's Education Committee meeting, members outlined the next 6 months of topics and speakers. Larger scale projects was also discussed
- There may possibly be a bus trip to Leamington, Canada to observe food and floriculture production. More information will be available soon.
- Calendar deliveries were made to growers in November and December. Those growers that wish to provide feedback, please forward your comments to Sue Wolfe for next year's calendar.
- Annie's Project classes began this week. The classes will be held for 6 weeks (January 12, 19, 26, and February 2, 9, and 16th). The purpose of this project is to empower women in the green and farm industry to be better business partners. This is accomplished through a variety of networks including managing and organizing critical information. If interested contact Beth Fausey for this excellent informational opportunity.
- The CENT Show will be held on January 25-27 in Columbus. The Greenhouse Management Workshop has extended its regular fee. Growers can receive a discount through January 15th.
- There was a meeting with TAFVGA; Bob Jones of Chef's Garden joined both organizations including our energy program.

Finance – Joe Perlaky

- MVGA checkbook balance as of last week is \$22,255.87. There is \$2,200 outstanding in accounts receivables. MVG wrote a \$1,500 check to pay D&O Insurance.

Government/Public Relations

- Neil Reid reported there will be a noon luncheon for growers at the CENT Show sponsored in part by MVG, Palmer Energy and Grayhawk. Growers are encouraged to sign up. On Monday, there are 5 scheduled topics of discussion of which Beth Fausey will be leading the one on Niche Marketing.

Marketing - Tom Wardell

- Tom reported that there will be a Wholesaler's meeting immediately following this one.
- Marketing Committee meeting will be held next Thursday @ 9:30 at the Holiday Inn in Perrysburg to discuss our spring marketing plans. If anyone has suggestions, please notify Tom or Joe.

Membership- Wade Smith

- We are still waiting for layout completion of the Catalog. Tomorrow is the deadline.

Native Plants- Josh Miller

- o The group consists of native plant and conservation experts.
- o Oak Openings is an educational program for TBG and Metro-parks whose plants are only available in spring or fall.
- o MV Natives are a for-profit program developed specifically for this network.
- o Kits will be grown and plants provided to supplement and kick-start the program.
- o The next step is to (1) set up a meeting with retail growers interested in pursuing, (2) provide a field guide to growers as part of bag stuffers, which can be made printable online, and (3) redo worn posters if necessary.

Announcements- Joe Perlaky

- o The Cleveland Flower & Vegetable Growers are sponsoring a bus tour visiting three of our retail greenhouse garden centers on March 16th. Participating are Bench's Greenhouse & Nursery in Elmore, Hoen's Greenhouse & Garden Center and Bensell's Greenhouse. A box lunch will be provided at Hoen's. Many thanks to Dean Palm of Green Circle Growers and Cathee Thomas of Sabo's Garden Sense for organizing this trip for our grower friends in Cleveland.

Presentations

- o Cheryl Rice, our local USDA representative in the NRCS office discussed a new pilot project under the **'Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food'** initiative for farmers to establish high tunnels (hoop houses) to increase the availability of locally grown produce in a conservation-friendly way. For more information on the program see attached or you can contact Cheryl at (419) 893-1966 Cheryl.Rice@OH.USDA.GOV

Meeting Adjourned: 9:28

Minutes submitted by Serenity Carr,
Assistant Program Manager
Maumee Valley Growers

The next meeting is at Toledo Botanical Gardens
February 11th, 2009
8:00 am