



MINUTES

Monthly MVG Meeting April 9, 2009 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM TBG - Terrace Room

Dick Bostdorff called the meeting to order at 8:04 am

Attendance: (28)

- Joe Perlaky, Tony Keil, Bill Dearing, Dick Bostdorff, Charles Krause, Ford Cauffiel, Scott Leisner, Theresa Hoen, Ian Hoen, Serenity Carr, Tom Wardell, Gregg Rice, George Dabrunz, Beth Fausey, Josh Miller, Mike Schenk, Neil Reid, Tom Creque, Robin Hawkins, Lynn Biltz, Kelli Page, Wade Smith, John Sites, Paula Ross, Mike Hopkins, Peter Hug, Alex Mejiritski, & Michael R. Wholihon.

Committee Reports:

Business –

- Energy
 - Joe reported that Kirk is attending another meeting involving electricity. There will be an announcement soon that we will be partnering with Palmer Energy on the formation of a new electric pooling group. Kirk will give specifics in June.
 - The next few months offer membership opportunities for those currently not involved in our gas program.
- Recycling
 - Dick reported the recycling bins are here at TBG and available for pickup after the meeting.
- Energy Grants
 - Joe reported that Somik is continuing with the energy audits. Some grower locations have been visited 3 or 4 times.
 - The REAP Grant has not formalized an official application due date.
 - The Urban/Rural Designation is still unchanged. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur continues her efforts to modify or eliminate the designation.
 - There is a new grant offering available to help pay for energy audits. This is especially useful the more extensive audits. Wade Smith said information can be found in the Federal farm policy. The question is when it will take effect.
 - After 2 appeals, MVGA has achieved sales tax-exempt status.
 - There was a Farm Bureau meeting downtown yesterday. Rep. Kaptur attended.
 - There was also a meeting Tuesday at Maumee Bay State Park informing small business owners of new SBA loan offerings. Mike Hopkins, who attended, stated 90% of the SBA guarantee fees are being waived. Loans amounts have been increased to \$2 million.
 - Joe reported the City of Toledo is asking for opening bids for the Reynolds Road project. They are in need of major planting materials.
 - Joe stated that MVGA has joined 4 organizations: OFA, Cleveland Flower & Vegetables, Cincinnati Flower & Vegetable Growers, and ONLA.

**- 2009 -
 Board of Directors**

Dick Bostdorff
 2010

Jeff Creque
 2011

Bill Dearing
 2010

Bob Dennis
 2010

Beth Fausey
 2011

Diane Hill
 2009

Theresa Hoen
 2011

Tony Keil
 2009

Walt Krueger
 2011

Kirk Mizerek
 2010

Neil Reid
 2011

Tom Wardell
 2009

Kathy Wenz
 2009

**Terms Expire End of
 Year Indicated**

Education – Beth Fausey

- Interactive “clickers” will be purchased and used at our next meeting in June. We will also review our 2009 spring sales season during the meeting.
- Focus groups of Master Gardeners will be held in May. More on this later.

Finance – Joe Perlaky

- The balance of the MVGA checking account is \$10,026.21.
- Neil Reid stated there is nothing to report on our grant status.
- Dick Bostdorff reported OSU Extension is under significant budget cuts.

Marketing – Tom Wardell

- The Toledo Blade ad is nearing approval. Joe is meeting with Ron later in the week to finalize format.
- Two suburban newspapers are also being considered for advertizing.
- Final picture locations and scenes for our 2010 calendar are being recommended.
- Growers are encouraged to use the MVGA logo in their ads.
- Dick Bostdorff wanted to extend thanks to Tom & his committee for all of their hard work.
- Paula Ross stated this is the first week of Eco-Track. This will drive even more customers to the web.
- Gregg Rice demonstrated new features of the MVG website allowing customers to find certain plant products. This information is provided by each grower to MVG. Only those providing this data will be able to have their products easily searched on the website so it is important for retailers to contact MVG with their product listings.
- Paula stated growers may want to build on this year’s theme of “staycation” (the concept of staying home instead of going on vacation) in their individual marketing ads.

Membership – Bill Dearing

- Dick stated that Bill’s committee will become active in June.

Other Business:

- Kelli Paige reported there is a Native Plant Committee meeting immediately after this one. So far, their pilot program has three retailers committed...Hoens, Rhodes, and Bostdorffs. They will have special kits provided to them. All growers are welcome to participate. Hoens will be hosting an event on April 25 in which native plants will be highlighted. Kelli can be reached at the Nature Conservatory.

Presentations:

- Mike Hopkins from Welch’s Golf Carts in Perrysburg is our area "Big Bag" distributor and currently working with several of our MVGA growers. He updated us on his new program designed specifically for MVG members involving purchase/rental of golf carts. <http://www.welchsgolfcarts.com>
- John Sites from EcoTrust Energy introduced the group to an energy conservation device called PowerwoRx e³. <http://www.ecotrustenergy.com/default.aspx> It’s a clean power system that can save grower’s money by managing electronic devices (motors) from surges, spikes and electrical noise.
- Peter Hug- Owner of Recombinant Innovation <http://www.rinucleus.com> has been working with several universities/agencies involving algae research. There are potential opportunities for interested growers to collaborate in this research, propagation (under glass) of algae for the purpose of large scale biodiesel, lubricant manufacturing, fertilizer, and biomass feedstock production.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37am

Minutes submitted by Serenity Carr

The next meeting is June 11, 2009
8:00 am
Toledo Botanical Gardens