



MINUTES

**Thursday – January 10, 2008
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 8:06 am
- Attendance: (34)
 - Joe Perlaky, Dean Krauskopf, Tom Wardell, Scott Leisner, Serenity Carr, Tony Keil, Neil Reid, Paula Ross, Dick Bostdorff, Judy McFarland, Jonathan Frantz, Walt Kruger, Mike Carroll, Beth Fausey, Jeff Creque, Bill Dearing, Wendy Zellner, Katie Bibish, John Barrow II, John Barrow III, Bob Feldstein, Diane Hill, Ann Straus, Becky Schmidlin, George Dabrunz, Tim Dabrunz, Don Schmidlin, Theresa Hoen, Bob Hoen, Tom Creque, Bob Hornak, Kathy Wenz, William Zemnicki, and Charles Kraus.
- New Business:
 - Neil reported that the Federal budget for 2009 will be \$539,000.
 - Joe reports that the By-Laws will be ready to be voted on at the February 14th grower meeting. Grower attendance is important. We are waiting to hear from Attorney Dave Waterman regarding a few MVGA legal concerns.
 - Natural Gas Program –
 - Kirk Mizerek reports there should be a big boost in signed contracts in 60-90 days.
 - Judy will present a proposed grower marketing plan next month. Neil and Joe will meet with our grants administrator on 1-16-08 to review the budget.
 - Channel 11 is producing a new series called Eco Track. It is an 11 month program creating awareness about our environment and how that relates to weather and energy costs. Judy and Joe will be meeting with them on 1-11-08 to discuss details.
 - Dick Bostdorff announced there will be a statewide greenhouse committee meeting held on 2-12-08 at the ONLA. He will report on progress in March.
 - Joe reported we have permission to place our MVGA sign at the Toledo Express and the Amtrak train station. There will be an accompanying kiosk that will provide grower information, a

- display rack for handouts, and an accompanying floral arrangement.
- Kathy Wenz stated that this year marks the 150th anniversary of the Lucas County Fair. The Lucas County Fair will be held on 7-22-08. The MVGA Board has endorsed participation in the event and will be setting up a hoop house at the Fair and the Rib-Off (two weeks later) allowing the growers to display their products. There will also be a renewable energy display. A grower committee will be formed to organize the event. Approximately 140,000 people are expected to attend the two events.
- Beth stated there are 10 events planned between January and March including several focusing on education.
- The TAFVGA Winter Conference will be held 1-10-08 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Toledo Botanical Gardens immediately following the MVGA grower meeting.
- There is a trip scheduled to Israel on March 8-16. This provides growers the opportunity to explore different product technologies and establish worldwide industry contacts. The cost of the trip is \$4,300 (all-inclusive). Grant funding can defray the cost by 50% for any growers interested. Contact Joe if you are interested.
- Paula Ross reported that the Toledo Farmer's Market will have space for an additional vendor if any growers are interested.
- A new buy local group, *Toledo Choose Local* is in the process of establishing themselves as a non-profit C-6 organization and interested in collaborating with Palmer Energy regarding a natural gas purchasing program...similar to that of the MVG's.
- The Great Lakes Consortium manages an international visitor exchange program. U.S. representatives receive business training overseas. They are celebrating International Women's Day on 3-01-08 at Inverness. The theme is "Floriculture around the World". This event will help identify women for ethnic international history. Growers are encouraged to attend.

Presentation

- Plant Science Director Scott Leisner highlighted the benefits of silicon usage in the elimination of copper toxicity and plant stress.
- Jonathan is asking for two grower volunteers to participate in a mini-energy audit to identify inexpensive ways to save costs. This doesn't replace the CIFT energy audits.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 am.

Minutes submitted by Serenity Carr.

The next meeting is Feb. 14
8:00 am
Toledo Botanical Gardens