



MINUTES

**Thursday – October 9, 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

- Joe Perlaky called the meeting to order at 8:05 am
- Attendance: (18)
 - Joe Perlaky, Tony Keil, Bill Dearing, Dick Bostdorff, Neil Reid, Michael Carroll, Serenity Carr, Jeff Creque, Paula Ross, Debbie Bettinger, Sara Brick, Theresa Hoen, Bob Hoen, Josh Miller, James Locke, Kirk Mizerek, & Don Schmidlin

Old Business: Reports

- Recycling – Joe Perlaky

Joe reported that Superior Packaging will be picking up greenhouse recyclables for our recycling pilot program the week of October 13th. This will be a one time event that will become an improved program for the spring.

- Gas Program- Kirk Mizerek

Kirk announced that ONLA will be sending a letter to its 1400 members regarding the gas program.

Electricity deregulation will be delayed a couple of months the first of 09. Issues such as third party options are yet to be ironed out among others. Hopefully, Palmer can play that third party supplier role under Ohio's deregulation program. Depending on where you are located in the state, electricity could increase as much as 40%.

Joe provided testimony before PUCO commissioners encouraging them not to grant electric rate increases. He also recommended that First Energy reinvest and diversify their portfolio in renewable and alternative energy power production technologies.

- Grant Update- Joe Perlaky

There will be a meeting next week to organize a team to write USDA grants. Currently, most growers can't qualify to apply because of Lucas County's urban designation. That is expected to change legislatively by the end of October 08. The application requires different degrees of energy audits. There are two basic forms.

1. If less than \$50,000- use short form
2. If greater than \$50,000- use long form

The intent is to help growers conduct energy audits, analyze, write, and submit the grant applications by year end.

- Grant Status- Neil Reid
Neil reported that the grant funds for the 2008-2009 year are in, but yet to be released. He expects to hear from OSU by the end of the week.
- Membership – Paula Ross
Paula stated that Serenity is maintaining the MVGA membership database. At this writing, there are 54 Regular grower members and 23 Associate members. Serenity and Paula will compile the votes and announce results at meetings end. In November and December, the new board will schedule a meeting to elect officers, form committees and identify any board training desired. Heather Bradley of The Flourishing Company will assist with any board training needed. The new board will be installed officially in January 09. The Urban Affairs Center will send out membership packets. Once the new Board of Directors are formalized, decision making will be transferred to them from the Advisory Committee.
- Ukrainian Visit- Joe Perlaky
On October 20th, growers from the Ukraine will be accompanying Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur to exchange information, discuss challenges, and share advice with our MVGA growers. More growers are needed to attend. The meeting will be from 10-12:30 pm at TBG. Breakfast and a box lunch will be served. The Ukrainian growers will also visit with 3 growers from the area.
- New Business: Newly elected Board of Directors

Congratulations to our newly elected Board of Directors: (alphabetical order)

<u>Regular Members: (9)</u> Dick Bostdorff, <i>Bostdorff Greenhouse Acres</i> Jeff Creque, <i>Creque's Greenhouse</i> Bill Dearing, <i>Dearing Greenhouse</i> Bob Dennis, <i>Gardenland</i> Theresa Hoen, <i>Hoen's Greenhouse</i> Tony Keil, <i>Louis Keil & Sons</i> Walt Krueger, <i>Lakewood Greenhouse</i> Tom Wardell, <i>Wardell's Garden Center</i> Kathy Wenz, <i>Wenz Brothers Farm</i>	<u>OSU Extension: (1)</u> Beth Fausey, <i>OSU Extension</i> <u>At Large: (2)</u> Diane Hill, <i>Waldo & Associates</i> Kirk Mizerek, <i>Palmer Energy</i> <u>Academia: (1)</u> Neil Reid, <i>University of Toledo</i>
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The meeting adjourned at 8:51 am.

Minutes submitted by Serenity Carr.

The next meeting is November 13.
8:00 am
Toledo Botanical Gardens