



MINUTES

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

Walt Krueger called the meeting to order at 8:05 am

Attendance: (19)

Mike Hopkins, Neil Reid, Sandy Knitz, Joe Perlaky, Serenity Carr, Bill Dearing, Walt Krueger, Anne Schenk, Matt Brown, Beth Fausey Scheckelhoff, Josh Miller, Jeff Creque, Wade Smith, Mike Schenk, Theresa Hoen, Deanna Bobak, Tom Wardell, Chris McCullough, & Jerry Van Houtte

Committee Reports:

President Walt Krueger reported the format for our Regular Grower meetings will change in focus somewhat and become more business oriented. There will be more discussions of business information and opportunities for growers.

Several growers also felt that the Regular meeting simply “rehashed” information discussed during the Board meeting and too much time was taken away from regular monthly meeting activities. It was recommended that less time be dedicated to relay committee report information from the Board meetings since all committee information is notated in the minutes. Questions, comments and discussion are always encouraged so Walt recommends all members to read the monthly Board Minutes.

A few minutes were given for the attendees to review last months October Board Meeting minutes. No comments or questions ensued.

Joe Perlaky will begin scheduling individuals from our business community to speak on a monthly basis dealing with matters of particular importance affecting our grower members.

MVGA is arranging for a facilitator to conduct our first strategic planning session. It is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 11th... our next regular meeting date. There will be more information on this later next week.

Walt reported that MVGA met with Michael Szuberla of Toledo Grows to discuss his program. MVGA, Toledo Grows, USDA-ARS, UT, TBG and others will meet with the MetroParks tomorrow to review collaborative opportunities involving the construction of a 1 acre greenhouse facility possibly located on the Keil Farm property. This location is one of 4-5 being considered. This is a new initiative. More information will be known in the weeks to come. Check your minutes for details of contact Joe or Walt for more details.

- 2011 - Board of Directors

Dick Bostdorff
(Past President)
(*Gov. Relations)
2012

Jeff Creque
(Business)
2011

Bill Dearing
(*Membership)
2013

**Beth
Scheckelhoff**
(*Education)
(Membership)
2011

Diane Hill
(Treasurer)
(*Finance)
2012

Theresa Hoen
(Secretary)
(Marketing)
(Membership)
2011

Walt Krueger
(President)
(Business)
2011

Kirk Mizerek
(Finance)
(Business)
2013

John Gray
(???)
2011

Mike Schenk
(Marketing)
2012

Wade Smith
(Vice President)
(Business)
(Bylaws)
2012

Tom Wardell
(*Marketing)
2012

**Open Board
Position**
(???)
2013

Terms Expire at Annual
Meeting of Year
Indicated

(* Denotes Chairman

A trip to the Phips Conservatory in Pittsburg is being considered with the date to be announced sometime early next week. Those interested are asked to contact Joe Perlaky.

Business - Walt Krueger

- Energy - Ann Schenk, Palme Energy
 - Ann reported that 70% of natural gas has been hedged thru April, 2011. There has been discussion to extend purchasing in to 2012. Ohio Gas participants are locked in through April at a rate of \$2.00 less than any fixed rate noted on "Apples-to-Apples" website.
 - MI gas is fixed through 2011. Ann and Mike Hopkins will be attending the Metro Detroit Expo to pursue potential gas program participants.
 - Ann also reported the general membership will be receiving a letter regarding new energy program details.

Education: Beth Fausey Scheckelhoff

Beth mentioned that the trip to Canada has been rescheduled to a one day visit to the Research Station in Ontario. Date: TBD

Marketing - Tom Wardell

Tom indicated the 2011 Calendar has been printed with ~ 3,500 of the 5,000 already delivered to grower members. More will be delivered to community administrators in the weeks to come. Thanks to the Marketing Committee and Sue Wolf for all of their hard work on this project.

It was also reported that due to the retirement of Greg Rice at the university, website updates have not been made since September 1st. State regulations restrict him from officially assisting us until November 1, 2010.

The Marketing budget has been approved. The Marketing Committee is now planning for their spring 2011 promotional program.

New Business:

Joe reported that Kelly Kinney has asked for the participation of MVGA growers in the "Plant Purple - Grow Hope" campaign. A % of the sales of purple flowers would be given to pancreatic cancer research. Following group discussion, Joe was asked to research other organizations such as Susan G. Komen to better understand the function of such organizations before a decision is made.

He also reported on the availability of both Federal and State Grant opportunities. He mentioned that Energy Audits had taken place 2 years ago which ultimately led to successful awards with Corso's and Knitz Greenhouse. There are approximately a half dozen growers still interested in alternative energy solutions that are in various stages of the grant application process.

Presentation:

Neil Reid gave a presentation which highlighted both the grant application process and required research components involved for those applying for the MVGA/Cluster Energy Grant. This is a unique, first of its kind opportunity. All growers are encouraged to apply with typical awards ranging \$5,000-\$25,000 with a total of \$100,000 set aside in the pool. These are dollars that have been specifically set aside for industry research in the Northwest Ohio Floriculture and Special Agriculture Collaborative Research Fund.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:45am

Minutes submitted by Theresa Hoen, Secretary

Maumee Valley Growers

The next meeting is at Toledo Botanical Gardens
November 11, 2010
8:00 am