



MINUTES

**Thursday – December 13, 2007
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 8:10 am
- Attendance: (30)
 - Joe Perlaky, Dean Krauskopf, Tom Wardell, Scott Leisner, Serenity Carr, Andy Keil, Yun Chung , Tony Keil, Neil Reid, Paula Ross, Dick Bostdorff, Brian Kaiser, Jonathan Frantz, Kirk Mizerek, Ann Shank, Beth Fausey, and Jeff Creque, Bill Dearing, Krishna Shenai, Laura Burkett, Cheryl Rice, Bob Feldstein, Jim Locke, Dong Kim, John Toth, George Dabrunz, Tim Dabrunz, Somik Ghose, Tina Skeldon Wozniak, Lawrence Miller .
- New Business:
 - Neil reported that there will be funding through 2008 and that we hope that the funding will continue through 2009
 - Joe reports that we are waiting to hear from Attorney Dave Waterman regarding a few MVGA legal concerns.
 - Natural Gas Program –
 - Kirk reports that there are approximately 45 growers signed up in Ohio and 20 in Michigan.
 - Jonathan reports a \$5K Grant from UT is being awarded to assist in the funding of the Virtual Grower project. This opens up the opportunity for an undergraduate student to be hired and visit NW Ohio greenhouse locations to identify their construction materials and components. CIFT can also assist and will contribute resources.
 - Dick is working closely with OFA and ONLA and their initiatives. This is a 6-8 month process.
 - Joe reported that the MVGA sign will be placed at the airport and the Amtrak train station after the first of the year. There will be an accompanying kiosk that will provide grower information and a rack for handouts.
 - Brian Kaiser announced that this year marks the 150th anniversary of the Lucas County Fair. The MVGA Board

has recommended 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. Approximately 150,000+ people are expected to be in attendance during the two events.

- Beth stated that the updated educational programs are available. There are 10 events planned between January and March.
- The TAFVGA Winter Conference will be held January 10th from 9:30 to 3:30 pm at the Toledo Botanical Gardens immediately following the MVGA grower meeting.

Presentation

- Krishna Shenai submitted a grant yesterday that will test RF Sensor Technology that is applicable in the agriculture industry. A virtual environment (clean room) will be needed to test the sensor for 6 months.
- Yun Chung of Chung's Supply Chain, LLC presented a variety of his invention designs such as reusable pallets, boxes, and containers that can be used in the greenhouse and food industry. They are height adjustable, collapsible, and retail-ready. Growers are encouraged to contact Mr. Chung to visit their greenhouses and offer suggestions for practical usage.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 am.

Minutes submitted by Serenity Carr.

The next meeting is Jan. 10
8:00 am
Toledo Botanical Gardens