



MINUTES

**Thursday – Aug 14, 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 8:07 am
- Attendance: (29)
 - Joe Perlaky, Tony Keil, Kathy Wenz, Bill Dearing, Jim Wolf, Sue Wolf, Tom Creque, Beth Fausey, Paula Ross, George Dabrunz, Tom Wardell, Kirk Mizerek, Deb Bettinger, Marietta Morrissey, Bob Hornak, Gene Klotz, Wade Smith, Theresa Hoen, Bob Hoen, Jonathan Frantz, John McGowan, Dwight Haase, Mark Hecklinger, Don Bench (2 mini-guests), Mike Shank, Walt Krueger & Josh Miller .

Old Business: Reports

- “Today’s Home Design” TV-05 Segments– Joe Perlaky

Joe says the segments taped for the show will be burned to a DVD and posted on the web in the next week or so. He’ll let everyone know when it’s posted and how to link to it on the MVG web page.

- America in Bloom – Paula Ross

Paula stated the event was very successful and involved many individuals and organizations throughout the NW Ohio area. Community winners will be announced on October 4th in Columbus.

- OFA – Joe Perlaky

The MVG’s shared a booth with Palmer Energy promoting each organization and their programs. Participating in the event demonstrates the commitment and outreach the MVG’s have regarding their statewide natural gas program. This offered opportunities to match names with faces during the workshop. The booth was also shared by Indiana University Dean of Graduate School Jay Gatrell who conducted an extensive survey involving 30 different event participants. More details on this survey are expected in a month or so when Jay releases the results.

- Lucas County Fair / Rib-off – Kathy Wenz

Kathy reported the Fair went well and the hoop house looked great. It also served a dual role as shelter from the sun, a place to sit down and relax for Fair goers including a venue for our MVG displays. The hoop house will remain up during the next couple of weeks until

after the Rib-off which at that time will be sold. Kathy asked if no buyer was found, would the MVG consider donating it to the Fair Board. It would be moved to another location on the Fairgrounds to be used for other events throughout the year including next year's Fair. The Board agreed it would be valuable for the Fairgrounds to have it available and convenient for the MVG's to use next year should we decide to participate in either event. The consensus would be to donate it if no buyer was found after a few weeks. Joe said there were 3-4 individuals interested and would contact them directly.

- Habitat For Humanity – Teresa Hoen

Joe offered a special thanks to Theresa who spearheaded the landscaping requests and planting coordination for the Habitat for Humanity program. Theresa said the new home owners were very appreciative of all the help they received. Assistance in purchasing and guidance in the construction of their homes was contributed by more than 60 individuals and NW Ohio companies. Five homes were constructed in one weekend in July.

- Extension Update – Beth Fausey

Beth mentioned that the Toledo Area Flower and Vegetable Growers Associations (TAFVGA) were sponsoring a retail and wholesale bus tour to Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids MI on October 21-22. It also includes an overnight stay and Commerce Trade Show. It is co-sponsored by the Commerce Corp & OSU Extension ABE Center. The cost is \$80 per person.

- America in Bloom (AIB) / Greenhouse Driving Tour

Paula Ross reported on a potential AIB follow up and that the judging was to be held with winners announced on October 4th in Columbus. She also mentioned a pilot driving tour project being organized to promote greenhouse visits in the area. Each tour would be divided into different routes or segments of the community.

- Recycling Program Update – Joe Perlaky

Joe said there have been several meetings over the past few months regarding the grower recycling program. Some extra time was needed to determine roles and responsibilities of additional potential partners and organizations. The growers will be surveyed next week by phone to determine their level of interest, how much recycling they actually have, is it ready for pickup or could they deliver it to a centralized location and finally what are the sorting & cleaning requirements. That information will determine the type of pilot project necessary and potential cash flow opportunities.

New Business: Announcements & Presentations

- MVGA Bylaws - Executive Director (CEO) Job Description - Dick, Paula, Beth

Paul Ross reports there was no external review to our Executive Director Job Description DRAFT. It was to be examined by Heather Bradley but she was not available due to personal matters. She may have time in the next few weeks. Joe said he could also have Attorney Stephen Snyder from UT's Office of Research look at it.

- Gas Program - Grower Energy Solution, Update – Joe Perlaky

Most of the Advisory Group meeting last week focused on a PowerPoint presentation given by Joe detailing the GES future legal structure, its pros and cons of the MVG's natural gas

program. The consensus of the group was the for-profit LLC was best suited for ownership by Palmer Energy. Major factors discussed were legal liability and program flexibility. Specific terms and conditions such as control and protocol procedures could be addressed via contract with the MVGA. Issues such as contract term & options, reporting requirements, tax implementations, Steering Committee Director & Officer insurance requirements were discussed. Kirk Mizerek mentioned that a special password protected link from the MVG website could be set up to allow all gas program users the ability to check prices 24/7.

On Wednesday, August 13 a meeting was set up with the original natural gas energy committee to further discuss findings by the Advisory Group. After much discussion, they too concluded it was best for all involved that GES was owned by Palmer. There was enough confidence that there were plenty of checks and balances in place to satisfy everyone's concerns.

Based on these and other meeting throughout the last six months, Joe asked for "*a motion recommending that Growers Energy Solution (GES) LLC be formed & owned by Palmer Energy for the purpose of purchasing natural gas and other energy resources on behalf of the Maumee Valley Growers (MVG).*" Walt Krueger made that motion and was seconded by Bill Dearing.

- Market Research, MVG Consumer Survey – Dr. Dwight Haase

Dwight gave a 20 minutes presentation on the preliminary results of the UAC's survey involving over 2,600 phone calls to the six counties around the Toledo area. The questions focused on the general awareness people have of the MVG brand and other grower related items. He took questions at the end of the presentation from the growers who offered another half dozen or so questions to be considered if a follow-up is scheduled. The final report will be available and disbursed in about a month.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 am.

Minutes submitted by Joe Perlaky.

The next meeting is September 11
8:00 am
Toledo Botanical Gardens