



## **MINUTES**

**Thursday – Sept. 11, 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: (36)
  - Joe Perlaky, Tony Keil, Kathy Wenz, Bill Dearing, Sara Brick, Dick Bostdorff, Serenity Carr, Jeff Creque, Beth Fausey, Paula Ross, George Dabrunz, Tim Debrunz, Ron Bettinger, Deb Bettinger, Marietta Morrissey, Bob Hornak, John Joldrichsen, Andy Olsen, Wade Smith, Theresa Hoen, Bob Hoen, Jeff Holland, Walt Krueger, Larry Ohlman, Andrew Keller, Bill Schmidt, Mike Schmidt, Keven Machon, Tom Strain, Josh Miller, Ted Reinhart, Deanne Maus, James Locke, Theo Foreman, Paul Hoag, & Jim Hardin

### Old Business: Reports

- Extension Update – Beth Fausey  
Beth reported that the extension is in the process of hiring joint extension candidates through MSU. 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. If you are interested, there is room still available. Contact Beth at (419) 354-6916.

- Recycling – Joe Perlaky

Joe announced the start of the recycling pilot program the week of October 13<sup>th</sup>. The recyclable materials will fall into three categories: trays, pots, and poly. Although questions still remain to be addressed:

1. Should there be a centralized location?
2. What will be the means to do it?
3. Should scheduled trucks come to the site?

Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful and Lott Industries will be coordinating in this effort. During the week of October 13<sup>th</sup>, grower items will be picked up from an established route. This will be a one time event that will become an improved program for the spring. Growers will get a separate mailing on the recycling program.

- Executive Job Description – Paula Ross

The Advisory board recommended the job description title of executive director position to the group. The motion was made by Dick Bostdorff and seconded by Bill Dearing. Unanimous acceptance.

- ONLA – Dick Bostdorff

Dick reported that ONLA is trying to put a grower group together. This will be the first statewide group of growers in the United States. This collaboration will allow aid in political representation in Columbus and Washington D.C. This will also enable specialist at the University to serve the needs of the industry as a whole.

The natural gas program has been made available to all growers in the state. Kirk, natural gas consultant for Palmer Energy, and Joe met with ONLA three times and determined that ONLA would be a good choice for the gas program. Of the 1300 members, there are approximately 400 candidates for the gas program. Last Wednesday, ONLA voted on whether to join the gas program. They will have the tools needed to make it their own.

- OFA- Walt Krueger

The past president is opposed to constitutional changes proposed by the board. The letter stated that proper procedure was not followed. The disagreement was about how changes were handled and the need to have benefits for those growers in Ohio instead of throughout the country. There is an attempt to eliminate board seats which will cause a loss of input. Growers are needed to write letters to the OFA to keep it in Ohio. For more information call Walt at (419) 691-3542.

- Membership Campaign – Paula Ross

The membership recruitment campaign started last week at the MVGA launch party held September 5<sup>th</sup> at which Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur was guest speaker. Those interested are invited to sign up for membership on the MVGA website. Only members of MVGA are eligible to vote in October. There will be no membership fee for the first year. After this time, fees will be set by the board. The probable amount will be \$100. The funds generated by these fees will help MVGA to become viable and self-sustainable when the grant appropriation funding that MVGA has received for the last 3-4 years ends. The natural gas program is also structured to generate funds for MVGA when the grants end.

Growers will receive a slate for board positions in the mail. Votes will be counted in October. The newly elected board will be installed in January for a two-year term. The Board will consist of: (13 members)

- 9 growers
- 1 Academic
- 1 OSU extension
- 2 additional members (may be growers)

The Bylaws also provide for elections of President, Treasurer, Secretary, President Elect, and (in future years) past president.

- Extreme Makeover Home Edition – Joe Perlaky

Joe stated that Extreme Makeover Home Edition will be coming to Toledo. TBG and MVGA have been asked to participate in this 4-day event. As of yet there is no inventory list of plants. There is a need for assistance with a rain garden, inside plants, pots, and hanging baskets.

We have approximately 6 or 7 grower volunteers offering to provide product. Buckeye Cable System and The Toledo Blade are the main sponsors of the event. Donations need to be delivered on Friday before midnight. Planting will take place between midnight and 6 am.

#### New Business: Presentations

- Andy Olsen, Senior Policy Advocate at the Environmental Law & Policy Center from Madison, Wisconsin shared his knowledge and recommendations regarding the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grant. Paul Toth and Paula Ross can be contacted to assist growers in the grant process. For more information on the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grant contact:

Andy Olsen  
(608) 442-6998  
[AOLsen@elpc.org](mailto:AOLsen@elpc.org)  
FarmEnergy.org

- Lars Jensen from Ellegaard machine manufactures and Ken Martin from Blackmore Company presented information regarding their Ellepot propagation system to the growers. For more information contact:

Lars Jensen  
(321) 960-7416  
lpj@ellepot.dk  
www.ellepot.dk

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 am.

Minutes submitted by Joe Perlaky.

The next meeting is October 9.  
8:00 am  
Toledo Botanical Gardens