

NDGWA Board Meeting
11/19/15, 2015
3pm
Loftsgard Hall, NDSU, Fargo, ND

The meeting was called to order at 3:04pm by President Mark Vining.

Members attending in person: Mark Vining, Steve Sagaser, Greg Krieger, Greg Cook

Members attending by conference call: Harlene Hatterman-Valenti, Stan Hansen, Bob Thaden, Randy Albrecht, Kevin Kinzel.

Members absent: Alan Fuller, Ken Duppong,

Guests: Rodney Hogan

Secretary's Report

Bob moved to approve minutes, Stan seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

A treasurer's report was not provided because several bills from Vine to Dine and Vitinord were not yet received. Approval is tabled until next meeting.

Old Business

Committee Reports

Research Committee

North Dakota Ag. Dept. – The grant request - was approved – Harlene received the grant request for \$64,000 to continue with the grape variety crossing that we are currently doing. The request will also be used for initiating a new vineyard for the advanced selections in order to come up with larger sample amounts of fruit for comprehensive testing. The grant funds will also be used to provide an internship for Brittnee to be trained in enology at a larger commercial winery in Australia and / or New Zealand. Also included as part of the grant request was funding to look at Vitis riparia (grapes) that are early maturing.

Vineyard Survey – Bob is working with Rhoda from SDSU to include Montana in the Vineyard Survey. Stan will try to provide email addresses for as many vineyards as possible which will then be given to Bob in his work with Rhoda.

Marketing / Publicity Committee

Marketing Plan – Mark received approval of the grant request for \$8000. This was officially approved by the Ag Commissioner so we can move ahead with our marketing plan by Flint. Paul Anderson had gotten a letter from a person at the Ag Commissioners office. It appears that they want to do some sort of marketing. Paul responded back and asked to Ag Commissioner's office to contact President Mark and He has not yet heard from their office. This could be some potential marketing that we can partner with the Ag commissioner's office.

Legal Committee

There are still discussions going on about legislation that would allow the association to not sell but serve samples, at events such as Pride of Dakota. Discussion is also about the increasing the 20 event limit. There is some question as to the interpretation of certain regulations regarding supplying samples that hopefully can be cleaned up or clarified without the need to sponsor legislation to do so. Now is the time we should discussing issues and concerns with our legislators well ahead of the next legislative session.

From a conversation with a member of the Minnesota Grape Growers association at Vitinord, Mark said they would like to have a meeting with association board members at their Cold Climate Conference this year to talk about common issues regarding legislative, marketing, distributorship or other issues where associations may be able to work together.

In the early discussion stages there has been some talk about legislation that would allow for reciprocity between states to see if it might be possible for vineyards / wineries to purchase products across state lines if necessary since we grow and produce similar varieties of grapes and wine.

Finance Committee

The details of expenses from Vine to Dine and Vitinord for wines purchased have not yet been invoiced. Greg has received only a few of the invoices for the wines that were purchased for Vitinord. He has also not yet received the invoices yet for the wine purchased for Vine to Dine. Between the two events, we should be within our budget.

Membership Committee

Mark surveyed the various associations that are nearest to us. Membership levels all over the board. Discussion was that we are way below the market for our membership rates. We will need to decide if we will have different levels of membership. Student memberships and the advantages were discussed. We discussed whether to also have a commercial class of membership. The benefit will need to be shown in order to justify whether multiple levels of memberships should be offered. Bob suggested increasing membership to \$30 per individual, \$45 per couple including 2 votes with the membership discounts, and providing a student option for \$15. Commercial membership could be set at \$75 including 2 votes and two discounts along with website listing and inclusion on advertising. To be included in a marketing campaign the business must be a commercial member. A commercial member would get up to two votes if there were two members from the business at the meeting. A change to bylaws would probably need to be made to add a commercial membership. The board meeting in December would be the time to discuss an amendment for adding a commercial membership. Bob is making a list of corporate benefits. We will design an amendment and we will vote on it at the next board meeting. The membership will be made aware of the amendment prior to the next NDGWA meeting via the NDGWA listserv and webpage.

Education / Events Committee

The Vine to Dine event was not discussed in detail.

Annual Conference

The Vinegar man as a speaker for alternate products was brought up.

Mike Jones will be here from Scott Labs – coming in on Friday so could be a judge for the wine competition. He could also do a basic general session for additives.

Dr. Rhoda was approached by Harlene; she could speak on spring frost avoidance and recovery.

Mark will send an email asking Mike White to put the NDGWA Annual Conference and Meeting on the Wine Grower News calendar of upcoming events.

Flint Communications will do a general session and a breakout session at the annual conference.

Adnan Akyuz was brought up – Steve volunteered to get ahold of him if he was wanted as a presenter.

The Winery and Vineyard panel discussion was popular last year. Could we discuss “Citizen Science” experiences such as what has and has not worked?

Enology – Rod Ballinger should be asked to do a talk on making wines with new varieties.

Bob and Greg Cook will offer, if there is an interest, a session on flawed wine for home winemakers / beginning winemakers.

Bob will share information about how high tunnels have worked for him.

We will have hors d’oeuvres and winetasting on Saturday night after the annual meeting just before the final social.

Vendors – Ron from Weed Badger is planning on being present. MDT is planning on attending. A label company from NY may be there. A web design person contacted Kevin Kinzel about attending. We need to contact Pride of Dakota Vendors.

Mark will check on getting some stemless wine glasses.

Mark will contact the Ag Commissioner about getting him on the agenda.

Last year our registration fee was \$90 for members \$110 for non-members before January 31st. The fee increased \$10 after that.

Bob suggested we have a movie “Bottle Shock” to show on Friday night.

Bob suggested a Gold and Silver road show to take on the road to larger cities for 10 – 15 bucks to taste a glass of wine from these award winners.

Past Presidents Committee

We should have a back ground describing the early history and how the organization got started. We will have the 10 year observance of our organization in 2016.

New Business

Nominating committee - Mark will work to find a nominating committee. The terms of the following members are over as of the 2016 annual meeting: Greg Cook, Ken Duppong, Greg Krieger, Kevin Kinzel, Steve Sagaser, Mark Vining.

Greg Krieger brought up publicity for the annual meeting. Are there any ideas for getting the word out?
Suggested using the CVB in Bismarck, getting in touch with the food writers in the surrounding area.
Greg Cook will talk to Ron Smith about writing an article regarding the NDGWA Annual Conference.

The next board meeting will be on January 6th, 3pm at Loftsgard Hall

The meeting was adjourned at 5pm.