

## **NDGWA Board Meeting**

**September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Fluffy Fields Vineyard and Winery, Dickinson, ND**

The meeting was called to order at 3:09pm by President Mark Vining.

Members attending in person were: Mark Vining, Steve Sagaser, Bob Thaden, Jeff Kopp, Stan Hanson, Harlene Hatterman-Valenti, and Kevin Kinzel

Members attending by conference call: none

Members absent: Alan Fuller, Randy Albrecht, Greg Cook

Guests attending: Chris Asmundson and Rae Ann Kilen

### **Secretaries Report**

Jeff moved and Bob seconded, minutes approved by voice vote

### **Treasurers Report –**

We received a bill from Flint Communications for approximately \$3500. Also received grant reimbursement from NDSU which makes the balance about the same. Since the treasurer was not present, the report was not provided for this meeting.

### **Old Business –**

Northern Grapes Project – Mark talked to Mike White and said they will be comfortable with a \$500 contribution from NDGWA for interim funding to continue the Northern Grape webinars. Bob moved and Kevin seconded to support the Northern grapes projects for the amount of \$500. By a voice vote the motion was carried.

### **RESEARCH**

Chris Asmundson gave a report – she's the coordinator of the grape seedling plantings at the Minot REC. Bob shared information about his first and second visits and impressions with the Chris at the REC.

Chris gave a detailed report about the number of grape vines that have been planted each year since 2013; this amounts to almost 7000 plants now. Chris described the planting methods and spacing along with the multitude of variations resulting from all of the crosses. She stated that the biggest challenge she has in taking care of the new seedlings / plants is labor. She needs more help to take care of the sucker pruning and eventually the laterals. The help needed is mostly in the spring and in the early fall.

Bob suggested our association could provide some funding to help Chris take care of the seedlings.

It was suggested by Mark that we get a breakdown from Chris of the tasks and hours that would be needed to sufficiently supply the help she needs. We can then, perhaps, ask for the additional funding when we make the next request from the State for continuing this research program. A wish list of what kinds of expenditures would make Chris's job easier is needed.

Bob Thaden provided detailed charts of the specifics from the most promising grapes at the Minot REC.

Bob then explained some of his plantings at his own vineyard and the experimental plantings he is doing with the new Itasca grapes from University of Minnesota.

Bob showed a survey summary sheet from Rhoda Burrows for the three state Vineyard Survey. He discussed the details of the survey including the spacing between rows and the distance between plants. Bob stated he is gradually moving away from VSP training and moving towards High Cordon.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Stan passed around a sheet of current membership that he has been able to assemble from annual meetings and PayPal registrations. He will be getting a letter developed soon to send to past members regarding renewing or reinstating their memberships.

## **MARKETING**

Mark discussed the Facebook ads and the statistics that they've provided. He will be obtaining copies of the Facebook ads for members who've paid for the ads. Bob asked who manages the Facebook page. He suggested that more individuals / members should have posting authority for the page.

Mark also provided examples of the logo revisions suggested by Flint Communications. Flint recommends we change the logos. It's suggested that Flint have a finished and acceptable logo to show for our next annual meeting.

## **EDUCATION AND EVENTS**

The Country Inn and Suites in Fargo is the location for our next Annual meeting and Conference, on June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The advantages are a cost reduction for the venue and no corking fee. This will be a smaller venue but will be more accommodating for our organization. \$600 is the quoted rate for the event. This date should not conflict with any other similar organizations for dates and presenters. We will likely have the wine tasting and competition at Bear Creek Winery if the owners are in favor.

An event for potential new growers was discussed as possible topic for the annual conference. This could be a program on helping individuals determine what direction they should be going for becoming a grower.

## **REGULATORY / LEGISLATIVE**

There were no regulatory or legislative reports

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Grant Writing - Rae Ann Kilen Consulting provided a report and stated that she wrote a startup grant for Fluffy Fields. She has applied for a grant with the USDA after communication with APUC for helping determine how much fruit and quantities will be needed for future winery needs. She also provided details about how potential growers can determine if there are or will be markets for their fruit crops. The grant will also help new growers write a business plan to determine if these are viable opportunities for them.

Bob Thaden shared information about Haskap Days in Saskatchewan. There are some new Canadian Varieties that sound exciting!

The next board meeting will take place in the second or third week of October.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53pm

Submitted by:

Steve Sagaser – Secretary North Dakota Grape and Wine Association