

NDGWA Board Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2017

Loftsgard Hall, NDSU Campus, Fargo, ND

The meeting was called to order at 3:12 pm by President Mark Vining.

Members attending in person: Mark Vining, Greg Cook, Harlene Hatterman-Valenti, Stan Hanson, Steve Sagaser, Randy Albrecht, Alan Verbitsky

Members attending by conference call: Kevin Kinzel

Members absent: Alan Fuller, Jeff Kopp, Bob Thaden

Guests attending: Rod Hogan

Jeff Kopp has resigned as a board member due to his work schedule.

SECRETARIES REPORT

Greg moved to approve the minutes. Randy seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Greg Cook provided a synopsis of expenses and income.

Stan moved to approve the treasurer's report, Steve seconded the motion and the treasurer's report was approved by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports / Discussion

Research

Harlene reported that they were going to make cuttings of the seven advanced selections and they are also going to bud graft onto Prairie Star existing plants in order to shorten the time by about two years for production. They will include three white and four red varieties. These varieties are rooted and will be planted in Dickinson. The Minot nursery already has all but two of the selections so the additional varieties will be planted in Minot. Additional plantings for dedicated studies will take place at Absaraka.

Harlene reported that they plan to trench in wire for rabbit fences because of the rabbit problem on campus. The rabbits can get underneath the existing wire fences so trenching will help to keep them from going under the fences.

Education / Events

Annual Meeting & Conference

Steve passed out results of the annual conference survey. A brief discussion followed about the rankings and comments of the surveys. The wine competition was discussed. For next year, we will

look at combining or eliminating some of the categories. Harlene stated that at the Montana Conference the wine competition categories had best red, best white, and people's choice.

Additional discussion took place about the program topics. It appears that we are covering the topics that people are most interested in such as wine flaws, hands-on, marketing, social media, and tourism.

Mark stated that the Aronia growers have decided to join our association. Likely it will be between 20 – 30 members additional.

Kevin reported that new growers are interested in viewing data on our web site such as varieties and yield information and hardiness. He also stated that there are 22 aronia growers as of now.

The consensus was that we will go back to have a day and half conference. We need to look at dates and locations. We discussed having a poll of the membership as to when and where we should have the conference. We look for a location that does not have a corking fee.

Several locations discussed included Bismarck, Carrington, Minot, Fargo, and Jamestown for the 2018 conference. Also discussed was having vendors at the conference and a location for them to setup.

Upcoming events discussed included pruning clinics. Alan Verbitsky will look into making some calls and check with the Minot REC to see if we could have a pruning clinic at their location. Harlene reported that her group including John, Colin, and Andre went to Minnesota for a pruning day so they could provide some expertise during a pruning clinic. Matt Clark from University of Minnesota wanted to make sure that everyone from the region was on the same page regarding ideas and principles for pruning.

Kevin reported that there will be a pruning clinic in Dickinson on May 20th for new growers.

At our next meeting we will pick a location for the next annual meeting and location. Greg will use the listserv to survey members regarding their preferences for the next annual conference and location.

Kevin will find out where and when the ND Farmer Market and Growers association conference will be held with the possibility of us having a dual conference with them.

Wine 'n Dine is typically done in September. An interest is in holding it in Fargo this coming September.

Summer tour events were discussed – We discussed the possibility of getting Anne Fennel to come up and do a wine tasting of Brianna from four different brix levels. Harlene will check with Anne to see if she's available for this type of seminar in June. We could possibly hold this at the NDSU Alumni Center. There would be a charge for this. A tour of the NDSU grape project could be included in this event.

New logo – a motion was made to approve the new logo if the wine level in the glass was dropped as it appeared on the proposed image during the annual meeting. Steve moved and Alan seconded the motion to approve the new logo if the level of the wine in the wine glass is lowered to appear as it was displayed in the example at the annual meeting. The motion passed by voice vote. Mark will contact Jordan to make these changes and will have the logo sent to Greg

Regulatory / Legislative

House Bill 1343 was the bill to eliminate the ingredient requirement currently in the state statute along with eliminating the limit on the number of event permits issued by the state tax department and to allow wineries to apply for a liquor license without the need for a restaurant. In the senate, the bill was amended making the bill unmanageable. Therefore, the decision was made to kill the bill.

Mark will draft a letter that will be mailed to each of the legislators after the session is over. The letter will explain the original intent of the bill. Our organization will be working on introducing new legislation for the next session.

2017 Budget

Some items to consider in the 2017 budget are:

FFA award for \$300, Petiole testing for \$360, the website, paypal, and office costs, possibly new stemware possibly bringing Anne Fennel as a speaker

Mark and Greg will work on a budget and send it out for the board to look at and will be discussed at our next board meeting.

2017 Goals we need to focus on bringing back former members, encouraging members, and new members to go into the grape growing business. We need to provide some support for new growers.

Harlene is applying for three specialty block grant applications and will need letters of support for the grants. One is for Haskap and Black Current evaluations of varieties, another is for Andre to study pruning techniques for grapes that are less hardy,

Mark will work on a letter to the Aronia Growers welcoming them to the association.

We may appoint an aronia committee to work with Kathy Wiederholt on her block grant the study differences between McKenzie and Bison, Aronia. Kevin will contact the Aronia growers to see who may be interested in chairing and serving on this committee.

Steve talked about the donation of copies "Growing Grapes in the North" from the Minnesota Grape Growers Association. All members picked up one or more copies of the book. Including Greg, Mark, Stan, Alan, and Harlene

The next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 3:00pm at Loftsgard Hall.

Harlene intends to put the recording of this meeting on Dropbox

5:25pm Harlene moved and Alan seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Steve Sagaser – Secretary North Dakota Grape and Wine Association