

NDGWA Board Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2017

3:00pm

Loftsgard Hall, NDSU Campus, Fargo, ND

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Vining.

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

Members attending by conference call: Bob Thaden, Randy Albrecht, Stan Hanson

Members absent: Kevin Kinzel

Guests attending: none

Secretary's Report

Greg moved to approve the minutes. Alan seconded the motion; the minutes were approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Alan moved to approve the treasurer's report. Randy seconded the motion and the treasurer's report was approved by voice vote.

Old Business

Bob summarized his report of the NDSU grape plantings at his vineyard in Miles City. He reported positive results thus far. Bob hopes to get to Minot this spring to check on the condition of the same cultivars planted at the NCREC vineyard.

Mark reported on the status of the ND Ag commissioners grant for continued research on grape cultivars.

Education / Events – We discussed the advantages and disadvantages of holding the next NDGWA annual meeting in different locations around the state. Greg will send out a survey asking members for their preferred location, and month of the year. We will ask members for the choice of Minot, Dickinson, Carrington, Bismarck, and Fargo. To be included in the survey is a list of pros and cons for each location.

Other 2017 events

June 8th is the date for tour the of the NDSU grape plots and the tasting of 4 different Brianna wines with Anne Fennel to be oru presenter. Harlene, said this would probably cost us \$50 primarily because of the cost of the wine glasses. The Alumni Center will be free but the \$50 will be for the glasses and then the cost of hors d'oeuvres.

A potential charge is \$20.00 we will tour the greenhouses from 2pm – 4pm. The tour includes a description of the emasculation process and how the grape flowers are cross pollinated. The tasting

will take place from 4 – 6. This event will be called “the North Dakota Wine Grape Tour and Tasting” hosted by NDSU and sponsored by the NDGWA. Mark will check with Joel Heitkamp and Mick Carr for publicity. He will also invite local legislators who were advocates during the legislative session.

Wine N Dine event – Will take place in early September. The date and location will be determined later. Mark offered to hold the event at his location.

Marketing

There is still 2100 – 2200 dollars left in the Ag Department grant that must be used by the end of June. Mark has asked Jordan from Flint Communications to put together a new Facebook campaign that will add a new demographic to focus on out of state tourists. One of the plan items in our grant plan was to develop a NDGWA newsletter Mark has spoken to Emily Lund at the Ag Department and told her that the newsletter is on hold until someone is willing to lead the newsletter program.

The new logo is on Facebook and it will be soon on the Website. There will be a small bill for the final changes made to the logo

Legislative / Regulatory

Mark is working on a letter to send to the legislators explaining why the final proposed amendment to HB 1343 caused the bill to be withdrawn.

2017 Budget Discussion

Mark passed out a preliminary budget which is very similar to last year’s budget.

We decided to stay with the stemless glasses.

Petiole testing will continue to be offered. As in the past one test per member will be reimbursed.

FFA Fruit Proficiency Award – we will support this request at \$300.

Based on this preliminary budget we will have a budget surplus of \$600.

2017 Goals

As part of the grant from the Ag Department one goal is to Increase membership and bring back former members. Stan and Greg will work on this.

Other New Business

A discussion took place of the officer positions. For the sake of continuity we talked about possibly having a president elect or vice president that would then move into the president position.

Committees and the members serving on them were discussed briefly.

We will continue to look at having an Aronia committee. Kevin will have some input on this after talking with Aaron Opedahl.

Greg will put the list of committees and their members on the webpage.

Harlene’s Research Update.

A new process of increasing the growth that she and her team will be doing is bud grafting other cultivars onto Prairie Star spurs that are on six-year-old vines. The intention is to get much more rapid growth for quicker fruit production in two years. Brittney will be back to help with the winemaking from the new trial cultivars this year.

Harlene suggested to Bob that all of the fruit should be removed from the second year old plants that he is growing out for NDSU.

It was decided to meet at 2pm for the start of the June 8th tour and wine tasting.

The next meeting will be held on July 11th at the usual location. At the next meeting we will discuss, the advisory committee for the Ag grant, membership, and the 2018 conference.

Greg moved that we adjourn the meeting. Alan seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.