

NDGWA Board Meeting Minutes

July 11, 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, Steve Sagaser, Alan Verbitsky, Stan Hanson

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

Members absent: Kevin Kinzel, Harlene Hatterman-Valenti

Guests attending: Patricia Sagaser

Secretary's Report

Bob Thaden moved to approve the minutes and Greg Cook seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Greg gave a brief re-cap of the income and expenses from the "North Dakota Wine Grape Tour and Tasting." Stan move to approve the treasurer's report and Randy seconded the motion. The treasurer's report was approved by voice vote.

Greg Cook was called away for an emergency meeting.

Mark gave an update on the final report of the Ag Grant from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture. He provided information on the Marketing portion of the Ag grant.

Mark has talked to Ag Commissioner Gohring. We are in his budget and it should be the same as last year. We are not sure yet if the amount is \$66000 or 80000 but will be finding out. The commissioner has chosen to appoint an advisory committee. The committee's tasks will include the review and decision making on the grant proposals but will also include an ongoing advisory role to review the quarterly reports and submit a recommendation to the commissioner prior to additional funding of the grant. The commissioner has asked for recommendations for committee members.

Mark has put together a list of potential members to be recommended, they are: Alan Verbitsky, Mark Vining, Tom Plocher Rod Ballinger, Bruce Gussias, Rod Hogan, Randy Albrecht

Annual Meeting and conference

16 members responded in a 2 – 1 margin to hold the next annual meeting and conference in Minot at the same time and location as the ND Farmers Market Conference February 2nd and 3rd.

Greg Cook moved that the time and location for the annual conference and meeting be in Minot on February 2nd and 3rd. Stan seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote. Kevin Kinzel will check on the proposed location for the conference in Minot.

Potential presentations and topics for the upcoming conference are:

Speakers –a speaker from the TTB be could be included in the speaker roster. It was also suggested that someone from the ND Health Department.

Potential topics that we will seek presenters for are:

Marketing and Branding

Pruning

Fruit Production

Wine Making

Greg Cook will put together a preliminary agenda for the upcoming annual conference and annual meeting. Breakout sessions will be held again.

Other 2017 events: The next Wine ‘n Dine event will be held in Eastern ND. Mark will reach out to Kay at Prairie Roots Food Co-op to see if we can possibly hold our event with them. This will be planned for a time in mid-to-late September.

Discussion took place about other possible educational activities that the organization could provide.

Legislative / Regulatory

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

Discussion continued about the possibility of having the president’s position be a two-year commitment. An advantage for a two-year presidency is there would not be a change of this officer’s position during the legislative session.

Discussion took place that a legislative committee should be formed in order to communicate our agenda with key legislators. The president should be a de facto committee member

This legislative committee should be formed during the next meeting.

Randy asked if it was worthwhile asking the Ag commissioner if the farmers markets could be considered a pride of Dakota event so that we do not use up the 20 event limit as quickly. Randy will contact an individual for more information and clarification.

Membership update from Stan

Stan provided an updated membership list.

The next meeting is planned for August 15th at 3:00pm.

Bob Thaden brought up a suggestion about we might consider as a long-term project, (considering the Aronia Association members) perhaps consider acquiring an Aronia harvester machine.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steve. Alan seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote the meeting was adjourned at 5:03pm.

Respectfully submitted by Steve Sagaser – Secretary