

NDGWA Board Meeting

4/20/2015, Loftsgard Hall, NDSU Campus, Fargo, ND

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

Members attending in person: Harlene Hatterman-Valenti, Greg Cook, Mark Vining, Stan Hanson, Steve Sagaser, Greg Krieger

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

Members absent: Kevin Kinzel

Guests: Rodney Hogan

Secretaries Report - A motion was made by Stan Hanson to approve the minutes, and was seconded by Greg Cook. The motion passed

Treasurers Report - The treasurer's report was made by Greg Cook. Greg Krieger moved to pass the report, it was seconded by Steve Sagaser, and the motion passed.

Old Business

Close Out Books on Annual Conference – Greg Cook has received the sponsorship payment from Kapstone Containers. He is still waiting on the sponsorship payment from Weed Badger; a statement has been sent to them and Greg will re-contact them.

Honorariums for Annual Conference Speakers: A discussion took place about paying honorariums for presenters at the annual conference. Since it would be financially difficult at this time to pay honorariums for each of the speakers it was decided to pay expenses for Dr. Fennell. Stan moved to pay Dr. Fennell \$625 to cover mileage and hotel costs. Greg Cook seconded and the motion passed with a voice vote.

It was decided to delay paying additional expenses until a possible source of funds could be accessed at a later date.

Capital Ag Day Report: Greg Krieger attended this event and visited with legislators. Greg brought winemaking brochures along with other relevant grape and wine literature that pertains to our organization. Harlene commented that there were several more people at our booth than at surrounding booths. There is a picture of the booth on the NDGWA Facebook page; it's pictured below.



Committee Reports

Research committee

- Pruning Report
 - Bob Thaden spent time with Tom Plocher, Jeff Peterson, Jay Fisher, and Dean Kreutzer (sp?), at the Minot Research Extension Center. They pruned 1000 vines in 2 ½ hours then looked at the rest of the vines. Bob said some vines should produce this year, others will produce next year. Lots of vine rows were sodded in. Bob's group recommends spraying to eliminate the grass and utilize additional improvements to allow for better growing conditions.
 - Salt was observed coming to the surface in several places around the area. Chris needed clarification about the expectations for the vines and vineyard care. Bob noted that Jeff Peterson observed many vines were pruned to one trunk.
 - Mark asked who was on committee and if he needed more committee membes.
 - Harlene talked about a specialty block grant to pay for expenses to plant additional plant materials.
 - Bob mentioned his notes sent out earlier about micro vinification and the need to collect and supply materials since we don't have an actual oenology lab on campus.
- Staffing after John leaves
 - Harlene commented that what is taking place now has been to hire grad students – Nathan junke (sp?)will be leaving soon.. Colin has been working on training others.
 - Funding sources and providing a staff person to replace John was discussed.
- Petiole tests - Mark asked Greg K if we get a discount. Standard fee is about 30.
 - Mark suggested we pay for one petiole test, per member. The member will order and pay for the test and then submit bill for reimbursement of the one test. Discussion continued about the advantage of how it benefits the NDGWA data base and that we should have a policy to address how many tests and how much it should cost the Association.
 - A good discussion was held about this topic by all members present including asking members who submit reimbursement requests to provide the test data to NDWGA for the reimbursed samle.
 - Greg Krieger will put together one or two paragraphs to share with membership as to the value of tissue testing including the appropriate time during the season for taking samples.
 - Bob moved and Greg Cook seconded to: pay for one petiole test per member; additional tests must be paid for by the member. This will be left to an appointed small group to get this implemented with an Greg Cook added to the motion to cap the NDGWA total for petiole testing at \$450.00 while allowing for the board's ability to revisit the issue as deemed necessary. The motion passed by voice vote.
- Vineyard survey no discussion

Marketing and Publicity Committee

- Plan from flint no discussion
- ND Living Magazine - discussion included it's benefits and the circulation is about 100,000 in ND
- Publications: Discussion was for funding the re-printing of Extension publication "Getting Started With Home Winemaking - FN 1638 and for the initial printing of soon to be published "The Home Gardener's Guide to Growing Grapes in North Dakota."
- Harlene will write a grant proposal to obtain funding provided by the NDGWA through the ND Ag committee for publishing and printing these publications.

Legal Committee

- Mark reported that HB1133 was changed so that the reporting requirement remained the same as in the past and that SB322 passed after some changes both were passed and signed by the governor.
- Review of By-Laws was not discussed

Finance Committee

- 2015 budget discussion and need to raise revenue was discussed

Membership Committee

- Dues discussion and different ideas were talked about regarding different levels of membership.
- Membership cards were discussed and it was agreed to have them sent to new members. The memberships committee will come up with recommendations for the 2016 dues and categories or levels of memberships.

Education and Events Committee

- Greg Cook and Harlene are co-chairs. Steve volunteered to serve on the committee. Mark vining also volunteered so serve help with the committee

Past Presidents Committee

- There are three past presidents. Next year marks our 10th anniversary as an association. We will possibly do something to review the history of the association.

Vitinord - We are tentatively scheduled to participate in the wine tasting in some way. More information will follow. There was discussion about travel and if we should arrange for carpooling and or a bus. Nothing was decided

Strategic Plan - discussion was not held.

New Business

A letter from a marketing company was discussed about lobbying against the GMO labeling push. The discussion and consensus of the board was to not get involved with this issue.

A Quality Assurance program was brought up by Mark and the advantage of having this in place for ND wineries was discussed. Mark will respond to the requesting organization that at some point we we will be interested in it and he will also ask if fruit wines will be included in the Q.A. program.

Rodney stated that he was approached by a nonprofit to see if NDGWA will donate \$500 worth of wine. Discussion and consensus was not at this time.

The discussion about an Ag. Dept. RFP led to planning a meeting in early June

The next meeting is 3pm at Loftsgard Hall on June 3rd.

Meeting adjourned at 5:03pm

Steve Sagaser

Secretary