

NDGWA Board Meeting Minutes

December 12, 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, Steve Sagaser, Harlene Hatterman-Valenti, Greg Cook, Stan Hanson

Members attending by conference call: Randy Albrecht

Members absent: Alan Verbitsky, Kevin Kinzel, Bob Thaden

Guests attending:

Secretary's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

A brief verbal report stated that we have about \$9100 in the bank. We have received several dues in the last month. Steve moved that we waive the formal presentation of the treasurer's report based on the verbal report. Stan seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Old Business

Membership – We have not received any memberships from the Aronia Association. Several of our members have renewed their membership since the notices were last sent out. We again are now over 90 members. Mark will reach out to Collin Evenson from the Aronia association to provide information regarding encouraging their participation at the Annual meeting on February 2nd – 3rd. A discussion followed about when annual dues should be payable.

Research -

The details regarding funding from the Ag Department grant will be sent out soon.

From the Ag Department grant of about \$15000, \$10,720 will be awarded to the NDGWA for website revision and management, paid advertising, and for a social media marketing campaign similar to what was done previously. There will also be funding for Carissa to be at the annual conference for presentations and per diem.

Wine evaluation - there will be about 120 wine samples to evaluate for this year. About 20 of those will be repeats from last year. A date for the wine evaluation will be chosen and then made available to the participants.

New Business

Annual Conference - Harlene has confirmed that Drew Horton, the University of Minnesota Enologist, will be a Keynote speaker at the conference. Carissa will be using a protocol of WSET for the wine tasting and judging. Tom Plocher will be speaking on intellectual property and trademarking,

The conference will take place at the same time and location as the annual ND Farmers Market conference. Attendees of either conference will be allowed to attend sessions without paying additional fees. The ND Farmers Market association has offered to pay \$500 for hors d'oeuvres for the Friday evening wine competition and tasting. At the wine tasting we will have a need for volunteer servers to pour the wine considering that we will have a larger attendance with the Farmers Market group.

It was decided to have a smaller number of categories for the wine competition. The categories that both the commercial and non-commercial classes will:

Red Grape wine, White Grape wine, and Non-grape wine. Blended wines that are 75 percent or more non-grape will be considered a non-grape wine. Wines that are 75 percent or more grape will be considered a grape wine. The top three winners will be recognized in each category of both the professional and hobbyist classes. Each entry will require two bottles and will have an entry fee of \$10.00.

For those non-members attending the wine competition and tasting a \$20.00 donation is suggested to help defray the costs of the event.

The one and half day conference agenda and speaker schedule was refined and completed. Registration fees for the 2018 conference are \$95 for members and \$125 for non-members

Annual Meeting - Four board seat terms are need to be replaced, they are Kevin Kinzel, Greg Cook, Steve Sagaser, and Mark Vining. Mark will appoint a nominating committee. Anyone interested in serving on the board and possibly as an officer is welcome to contact the nominating committee.

North Dakota Tourism Alliance Partnership – our association will benefit by joining this association. Stan moved and Greg seconded the motion to join the North Dakota Tourism Alliance Partnership at the \$500 level. The motion passed by voice vote.

Greg will follow-up with the Farmers Market Association regarding whether they plan to have vendors at the annual conference.

A follow-up board of directors meeting will tentatively be held on December 30th to make sure that everything is ready for the conference.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Steve Sagaser

Secretary