

Minnesota Grape Growers Association Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Zoom

August 19, 2024

I. Roll Call and Agenda Review - Recorded by Josie

President Josie Boyle called to order the Monthly Meeting of the Minnesota Grape Growers Association Board of Directors at 9:03am on August 19, 2024, over Zoom. Approved by Jon Howe, seconded by Krista Kopperud

Luke Stultz, Madeline Wimmer, and Soon Li Teh present.

Roll call

X	Josie Boyle		Jenny Ellenbecker
X	Krista Kopperud	X	John Taylor
X	Becca Moinichen	X	Paige Bouc
X	John Howe		Richard Uytdewilligen
X	Blake Luehmann - arrived at 9:35	X	Jon Roisen
	Bryan Forbes	X	Jameison Lindquist
X	Randy Gutzman		
X	Ben Banks		
	Kevin Kautz		

2. Minutes Approval – Becca Moinichen

a. 7/15/24 Minutes - Ben Banks asked what it means by “conflict of interest form”. Minnesota Charities can provide draft documents. Luke already sent to Krista. Krista to send draft document for the Conflict of Interest Form to Josie. Approved by Krista, seconded by John Taylor.

3. Finance Committee – John Taylor

a. Treasurer’s Report - John Taylor to get a full set of financial statements out to board members by next meeting. Still working on switching all access over to John from Krista. Krista gave balances for today - 87,000 in checking. 59,000 in savings. She just paid bill for ICCWC, but the accounts are sitting fine. Not fully done for a full report. Krista reached out again recently to the CPA for an update. Ben should send reimbursement paperwork for ICCWC to Krista for now. Updated address for John is to be a PO box, so we can stick to one address. Motion to approve payment for a PO box up to \$100 for the year by Randy, seconded by Jameison. John to get PO box.

4. ICCWC – Ben Banks

a. Recap - over 300 entries was the goal, 343 entries! Much better than last year with awarding medals and better report forms about why medals were not received. Most people were happy with the event. Income was a little lower than last year, but still ahead. UMN hasn’t paid for the arb spot like they did last year. Estimating about 2900 net profit after sharing costs with UMN. Medals still need to be mailed out, thank you’s to judges, and engrave governor’s cup base. Going forward, moving back the competition by one month a year and skipping June (making next year’s ICCWC in May). Several issues to resolve for next year - a few organizing things on our end, poor communication with Arb (find a new location for next year!). If we do use Arb next year, Soon Li offered to communicate beforehand and talk with the Director. Discuss ideas at the next committee meeting. Judge’s dinner was really nice. Great to have at a winery. Added to the agenda late, so better organization next year. Need to clarify rules better for next year. Still a few flawed wine forms to finish typing up - good job to assign at the beginning of the competition next year. It was a success! Feedback: “Smoothest and most organized it’s ever been”. Ben is asking next year to have access to a CC instead of using his own money first with a budget limit. John Taylor asked what the feedback from wineries has been after receiving the flawed forms. Ben has received appreciative responses for the forms.

5. Cold Climate Conference – Josie Boyle

a. Update - no meetings yet. Secured the last Tuesday and Wednesday of February at the Water Street Inn. Estimating the next meeting in October

6. Legislative Committee – John Howe

a. State Grape survey - pick the top three or four and discuss. Marquette was a top with Itasca as a close second. Suggestion to have a discussion at wineries and have the house representatives come to the grape stomp or harvest fest. Add to the agenda for next meeting to discuss what we want as the state grape to complete for next year. No meeting next month. It would be a good idea to put together a centralized event schedule for the public to access. Jenny and John to put together a list of talking points

for the discussion mentioned above. Include the state grape as a motivator in creating a wine council. Marketing committee to be involved in communication with wineries.

7. State Fair Booth – Becca Moinichen

a. Update and budget approval - 6 time-slots that are completely open still. 1 full day, on the second Saturday. Asking for \$300 budget to order stickers. Randy approved budget, Jameison seconded. Luke put together a QR code survey with a few questions to capture a little info and email addresses. Next year have a “win a something” for filling out survey. Paige to connect with Krista to use MN Grapes credit card to order asap.

8. Wine Marketing Committee – Josie Boyle

a. Minnesota Wine Day - Didn't print post cards. Wanted something at the state fair booth to hand out, such as a map of wineries. Luke put together a flyer with a map. 1000 prints for \$373, and Ben will print a matching banner to display. Flyers should be ready by Friday. John Howe suggests looking at Star Tribune printing. John Taylor says it is covered under already approved marketing costs.

b. By-laws and Membership – John Taylor

a. New by-laws draft - Easier to amend current By-Laws. Major changes of the name and mission statement. Want to make sure the Board is comprised by a majority of people with a vested interest in the industry, spread between small and large vineyards and wineries. Two years terms but staggered, with 3 year terms for treasurers. Want to give VP supervision of committee chairs, to collate reports before meetings. Add the wine marketing committee and sub-committees. Added that each financial account should have 2 signers on it. Committee meetings need to keep minutes, so the board can function more efficiently. John Howe suggests changing the wording of BoD Group E to include a spot for the general public on the BoD, such as an advocate. John Taylor would like everyone to look at the new by-laws draft and suggest edits before next meeting.

9. New Business

a. Website and rebranding - Luke Stultz - Looking at Wild Apricot and Wix. Other orgs found Wix easier and cheaper. Luke will try to get a referral discount or other discount. Wix can make members only areas. Previous website renews Jan 31st. Should download and save previous website for record keeping. Randy Gutzman made a motion to get a formal quote from Wix, seconded by John Taylor. Approved by unanimous consent. Josie Boyle has contacted consultants for rebranding.

b. October meeting in person - Josie Boyle working on a space for October 7th, asking Drew Horton if a space at the HRC is available. No meeting in September.

10. Adjourn - motion by John Howe, seconded by John Taylor, unanimous consent, at 10:37

Meeting Minutes Submitted By Becca Moinichen until 10am, Ben Banks until adjournment.