

Minnesota Grape Growers Association
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

Waterstreet Inn, Stillwater, MN

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

I. Roll Call and Agenda Review

President Josie Boyle called to order the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Grape Growers Association Board of Directors and Members at 3:40pm on 2/25/25, at the Waterstreet Inn in Stillwater, MN. Motion to call the meeting to order made by Marv Seppanen and seconded by Scott Ellenbecker. Motion approved.

Roll call

X	Josie Boyle	X	Jenny Ellenbecker
	Krista Kopperud	X	John Taylor
X	Becca Moinichen	X	Paige Bouc
	John Howe		Richard Uytdewilligen
	Blake Luehmann	X	Jamieson Lindquist
	Bryan Forbes		
X	Randy Gutzman		
X	Ben Banks		
	Kevin Kautz		

1. Approval of the Agenda -
 - a. Motion to approve the agenda by Richard Rients. Seconded by Steve Zeller. Motion carried.

2. Officer Reports
 - a. Secretary: Becca Moinichen
 - i. 2024 Minutes Review - Richard Rients made a motion to approve the 4/22/24 Annual Meeting Minutes.. Seconded by Melanie Cihlar. Motion carried.

 - b. Treasurer: John Taylor - Balance sheet and expense report were handed out for the last year (January 31,2024 to Jan 31, 2025). He talked about the discrepancies in our financial records from last year, which resulted in a large amount of funds being deposited in our accounts from the findings from last year. All issues should now be resolved. Because of our marketing goals, we will need to start looking at revenue opportunities going forward. Ben Banks asked for a breakdown of our income and expenses, which John said he can get together. Motion to approve the financial report by Jamieson Lindquist and seconded by Richard Rients. Motion carried.

3. Committee Reports
 - a. Legislative Committee: Jenny Ellenbecker - She and John Howe are working on a bill to put together a MN Grape and wine advisory council, which will be working on the taxation of wine shipments into MN, with the expectation that tax would go into the wine council. Minnesota State Grape - looking for extra support from legislation. Jenny talked about some of the proposed legislations.

 - b. ICCWC: Ben Banks - Positive review of the past year's competition. We had 343 wine entries and 150 wineries. Roughly \$8,000 profit. A new winery won the Governor's Cup. Ben updated the system to run the event, which went very smoothly. We need more plaques for the Governor's Cup for next year. A few things to do better for the upcoming year, and looking to create a new/updated logo. He is wanting to host the competition in June this year.

 - c. State Fair: Becca Moinichen - Things went well last year. Didn't fill all time slots, so that is one of the goals for this year. One suggestion was to have a list of CCC award winners to hand out at the State Fair booth this upcoming year.

 - d. Website: Josie Boyle - We have changed providers for our website host. The old website was about 10 years old and too expensive, cumbersome, and the admin side was very difficult to operate. The new WIX website allows for memberships, jobs, classifieds and offers all our information

that we provide. We will be hiring an outside source to help continue setting up the website. The last website was roughly \$4,000 per year, and this website is less than \$1,000. Introduced Luke Stultz, who was hired July of last year as our Executive Director. He's been working really hard on getting the website up and running. Luke asked for pictures for the website front page to feature all businesses on our website with a business name attached to each photo.

- e. Wine Marketing Committee: Josie Boyle - It was started last year and has met a few times last summer to have a MN Wine Day. Many wineries participated in that event, and we hope to continue marketing MN wines.

4. Nominating Committee Report

a. Re-Election of Board Members

- i. Retiring: Paige Bouc, Jon Roison and Kevin Kautz
- ii. Renewals: Because so many people are renewing this year, Josie proposed staggering the terms that are up for renewal. She proposed 4 Board members' terms be renewed for 1 year (Josie, Krista, Ben and Jamieson) and the rest 2 years (John, Becca, Jenny, Randy and Blake). The vote was to renew everyone on these terms. Steve Zeller asked how she determined this proposal. The response was that Josie randomly picked people for these renewal dates. There is more clarity going forward in the new bylaws for how reelections will work. Motion to approve the re-election of Board members with the proposed terms made by Scott Ellenbecker and seconded by Chad Stoltenberg. Motion carried.

- b. New Nominations to the Board - David Wett and Jayden Corliss are interested in joining the board. Motion to elect these two as board members for a 2 year term by Scott Ellenbecker. Seconded by Mark Wedge. Motion carried.

c. Nominations from the Floor - none.

- i. Discussion about who makes up the members of the board. Current bylaws don't have any requirements, but the proposed updates to the bylaws spell it out - this will be discussed in the next section. Linda Seppanen moved to close the nominations, seconded by John Taylor. Motion carried.

- d. 2025 Officers - Josie talked about the current slate of executive officers. There isn't a current Officer Emeritus, which will be voted on at the next board meeting, depending on the outcome of the bylaws proposal today.

5. New Business

- a. MGGGA By-Laws Restatement and New DBA: Minnesota Wine and Grape Alliance - Josie went through the proposed updates to the bylaws - name change from Minnesota Grape Growers Association to Minnesota Wine and Grape Alliance and mission statement, adding enology and marketing

statements. We are proposing to amend the 2012 bylaws (as opposed to restating them) because the bulk is not changing, just changing a few things. We need a majority vote from members in the meeting.

- i. It was asked why we are keeping Minnesota in the name, and an answer was because it would be perceived better by the legislative work that we are working on. Other states have organizations to help them with their political interests. We are a state by state agency, from a government perspective.
 - ii. The question is whether or not to address the membership due structure at every annual meeting. There was discussion around what would be put into our bylaws to discuss at the annual membership meeting. Motion by Linda Seppanen to create a new section 9 under Article IV: Membership dues will be set for the upcoming year at the annual membership meeting by a vote of the members. Seconded by Melanie Cihlar. Motion carried.
 - iii. Discussion about Article 5, Section 1: changes for clarification about changes of the Board of Directors makeup requirements.
 - iv. Josie and John explained changes to the officers requirements on reelection and term length, additional role requirements of the Vice President, listed committees, and bylaws review requirements.
 - v. Motion to approve the by-laws amendments as proposed, with the addition of Section 9 under Article IV setting dues at the Annual Membership Meeting made by Linda Seppanen. Seconded by Steve Zeller. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Minnesota State Grape - Josie showed the results of the survey, with the first winner as Marquette, Itasca second, and Frontenac third. Discussion about which one to choose as the state grape. The discussion was tabled.
6. Adjourn - Motion to adjourn made by Jenny Ellenbecker and seconded by Scott Ellenbecker. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:58pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Becca Moinichen
Secretary, MN Grape Growers Association