

**Minnesota Wine and Grape Alliance
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

via Zoom

March 17, 2025

I. Roll Call and Agenda Review

Josie Boyle called to order the Monthly Meeting of the Minnesota Wine and Grape Alliance Board of Directors at 9:36 am on March 17, 2025, over Zoom.

Luke Stultz present.

Roll call

X	Josie Boyle	X	John Taylor - joined at 9:45
X	Krista Kopperud		Richard Uytdewilligen
X	Becca Moinichen	X	Jamieson Lindquist
X	John Howe - left at 10:00	X	David Wett - joined at 9:45
	Blake Luehmann	X	Jayden Corliss - Joined at 9:45
X	Bryan Forbes		
X	Randy Gutzman		
X	Ben Banks		
	Jenny Ellenbecker		

Board Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome, Roll Call and Agenda Review – Josie Boyle

- a. Agenda approval - Motion to approve made by John Howe, seconded by Randy.

Motion carried.

2. Minutes Approval – Becca Moinichen

- a. 1/19/25 Minutes - Motion to approve made by Ben Banks, seconded by Krista. Motion carried.

3. Finance Committee – John Taylor

- a. Treasurer's Report - John plans to complete many tasks today: sending checks, completing financial reports and getting those to us, getting Josie as a signatory on the bank in addition to John. He got Luke's check returned in the mail, which was made out to the wrong address, so John is going to rewrite a check to include last month, too.

4. Website – Josie Boyle

- a. YM website invoice - We were late to let them know we were cancelling. Now we are expected to pay 6 months of the website fee. Luke is waiting to hear back from them about what the cost will be and if there is any way around it. Bryan suggested fighting it, since it's over \$2,000. Luke has been talking with the senior vice president, so they already cut it by half, even though they don't have to because of what's written in the contract. We were a couple months behind on the cancellation date. Consensus is to pay it, so that we can stop working with YM. John Howe suggested making a motion to approve paying them \$1,000, but YM is still sending emails to our members about renewing memberships, even though they already paid. Randy made a motion to pay this fee of over \$2,000, seconded by John Taylor. Motion carried.

- b. New website updates - Luke and Josie met last week about what else to put up there, such as a page with current board members, conference schedule, updates coming up, needing to put up a CCC date/page, most up-to-date financial page. Ben asked about what to do about the competition page; Luke can set one up if Ben lets him know what to put on there. Becca asked about doing something for the state fair, which could be put up as an event.

5. By-laws and Membership – John Taylor

- a. Annual Meeting and amendment vote recap - We did have our proposed amendments approved, in addition to another amendment (membership at the annual meeting is to approve any due increase upon suggestion from the board. We shall create a new committee to make these decisions.) Ben asked about the plans for rebranding, which we shall talk about in Old Business on the schedule. The updated bylaws are posted on the new website.

6. Cold Climate Conference – Josie Boyle

- a. Recap - Josie gave numbers for attendance, total revenue, expenses and our one sponsor who paid \$500. They have some articles that we can use in our membership emails. Net revenue was \$1,477, not including Luke's time. There was positive feedback and lots of new people there this year. Already brainstorming new locations for next year; we are outgrowing the Waterstreet Inn.

7. Legislative Committee – Jenny Ellenbecker

- a. Update - Josie made note that we did not come to a consensus on the state grape, but we tabled it for another time.

8. ICCWC – Ben Banks

a. Update - Ben has taken on extra work with his business, but he found a date for the new competition. July 15-17 is the proposed date. He plans to have the committee meeting for that this week. They will send a reminder to contestants to send wine early, if possible.

9. Old Business

a. Extending Luke's contract - The drawn contract is proposed through February and up to 20 hours per week, but he hasn't come close to 20 at all. Randy made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Jamieson. Motion carried.

b. Rebranding - We got the vote for Minnesota Wine and Grape Alliance. Jamieson asked if there are any grants we could look into. Luke said it's hard to get grants for us because of how we are registered as a group. There were a couple suggestions from John T and Krista for Luke to reach out to for some help. We still have to register for a DBA to pay for a name change and make it official. Because it's just a name change, we may have to update our checks and there may be other things we need to change - this may be an executive committee responsibility. There needs to be discussion about changing or keeping our URL. Josie suggested changing it because Carl still has control over the google admin. The overall consensus was to change it, even if just for that reason.

C. David and Jayden gave short introductions for themselves, then the current board also gave introductions.

11. New Business

c. Set 2025 meeting calendar - Josie proposed the 3rd Thursday of the month, but Bryan suggested another day. There was a lot of discussion, and the 3rd Thursday of the month at 9:30am seems to work best for most. John T suggested skipping September, but moving October's meeting to the second Thursday. Becca will put them on the Zoom calendar and send them out to everyone's non-MWGA emails. Invite everyone individually on the google calendar through zoom. Add Jayden and David to the board info list. Becca to send the conflict of interest form to the new and existing members. Next year and every year after, we will do it at the annual meeting.

d. DBA registration – MN Wine & Grape Alliance - Motion to register as the MWGA with the MN Secretary of State by John T. Seconded by Randy. Motion carried.

e. Registered address change - There was discussion about what to change our physical address to. Motion to change our physical address as our organizations registered address with the MN Secretary of State to the current treasurer's address made by Krista. Seconded by Bryan. Motion carried. Josie to change DBA registration and registered address.

f. Committee assignments – each Board member must be on a committee. Randy nominated Becca as Secretary. No other nominations. Krista made a motion for nominations to cease, seconded by John. Motion carried, unanimous vote for Becca as secretary. There was discussion about the Officer Emeritus role - Jenny is the only past executive officer, but she isn't present. The consensus was to ask Jenny to commit for one year and review again next year. There will be a followup email for a formal vote. Motion to make this vote as an email to approve Jenny as the Officer Emeritus contingent on verbal commitment by John Taylor. Seconded by Krista. Motion carried.

- Josie gave a description from what is written in our updated bylaws for each committee and what the requirements are as a committee. We went through who is chair of each committee and who would like to be added to the committee.

- Standing committees: Executive (including Officer Emeritus), Wine Marketing Committee (Josie), ICCWC (Ben), CCC (Josie), State Fair (Becca), Membership (Jamieson), Viticulture & Enology (Bryan), Legislative (John H)

G. Pine Island Festival was asking to use our liquor license and members to advertise. The wineries who participate benefit because they can sell wine. Discussion about how we could profit from this.

10. Adjourn - motion to adjourn at 11:07 by Becca. Seconded by Jamieson. Motion carried.