



Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 10:00 AM

[View the Recording](#)

Members Present: Commissioner Hurlburt, Hilary Criollo, Jonathan Edwards, Cara Sawyer, George Motel, Richard Ruggiero, Jamie Jones, Ellen Woolf

Members Absent: Indrajeet Chaubey, Washington da Silva, Linda Auger

DoAg Staff: Michael Wolf, Ally Hughes, Lindsay Booth

Guests: Tod Kallenbach (DKA), Margaret Ruggiero-Mena

1. Commissioner Hurlburt called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.
2. Motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes from December 14, 2023, made by Jamie Jones, and seconded by George Motel, no comments. All in favor, minutes approved.

Motion to approve Special Meeting Minutes from January 10, 2024, made by Jamie Jones, and seconded by Jonathan Edwards, no comments. All in favor, minutes approved.

3. Public Comment
No Public Comment

4. Reports

- a. Marketing

- i. Final Report from DKA for work in 2023

Tod Kallenbach from DKA presented the final report for work performed in 2023.

- b. Legislative

Commissioner Hurlburt reported on the Governor's proposed budget announcement for 2024 and spoke about how it will impact the agriculture community. Council members ensued in a conversation with the Commissioner with questions about the upcoming legislative session.

- c. Big E

Jonathan Edwards explained that he intends to follow similar event plans from the 2023 Big E. Jonathan Edwards felt that there should be \$6,000 allocated to cover expenses for the booth.

d. Research and Education

Jamie Jones reported on the plans for an educational seminar organized by Washington and himself with the help of DoAg where three presenters will provide information relevant to growers. This event is intended to be the morning of March 26th at the Jones Auditorium.

e. Passport App

Prizes from the previous year have been announced to the winners and have been sent out to winners as of February 7. Ally Hughes and Michael Wolf are working to prepare a hard copy passport and the app for the 2024 hybrid model with a planned start date of May 1, 2024.

f. Financial

Ally Hughes shared the financial report. Motion to accept the financial report as presented was made by George Motel and seconded by Jaime Jones. All in favor, motion carried.

5. Old Business

a. Action on Big E booth operators for 2024

Motion to approve Johnathan Edwards Winery and Bishops Orchards Winery as the operators of the Big E booth with a budget of up to \$6,000 made by Hillary Criollo and seconded by Cara Sawyer. All in favor, motion carried.

6. New Business

a. Action on FY 2025 Budget

Ally Hughes presented the proposed FY 2025 Budget with total expenditures projected at \$57,500.00. Motion to approve the FY 2025 budget as presented was made by Hilary Criollo and seconded by Jaime Jones. All in favor, motion carried.

b. Action on 2024 Passport application to be released

i. Hold liquor license from CT DCP (either farm winery or wine manufacturing)

Discussion pertaining to how this license impacts producers ensued.

ii. Current registration for CGAL (Connecticut Grown Alcohol Liquor license) or FWBC

iii. Provide 2 bottles of wine as a prize

Motion to release the 2024 passport applications as presented made by Jaime Jones and seconded by Hilary Criollo. Richard Ruggiero apposed; motion carried.

c. Action on 2024 Big E application to be released

Motion to release the 2024 Big E application made by Jonathan Edwards and seconded by Hilary Criollo. All in favor, motion carried.

d. Action on [CT Grown Magazine ad space sizing](#) (approved up to \$8,000)

i. Page 1 – inside front cover at \$6,155

Motion to by Jonathan Edwards and seconded by George Motel. All in favor, motion carried.

e. Action on the renewal of TCC/Darumatech contract for the mobile application

Motion to renew the contract with TCC/Darumatech for the 2024 passport season by George Motel and seconded by Hilary Criollo. All in favor, motion carried.

7. Adjournment

George Motel moved to adjourn the meeting, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:38am.

Respectfully submitted by Michael R. Wolf, Agricultural Marketing and Inspection Representative 1, Feb. 14, 2024