



**Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council (CFWDC)**

Meeting Minutes for 19 March 2009

Chairman

F. Philip Prelli                      [philip.prelli@ct.gov](mailto:philip.prelli@ct.gov)                      Commissioner of Ag.                      P

Council Members

Dick Auger	<a href="mailto:dick@taylorbrookewinery.com">dick@taylorbrookewinery.com</a>	Taylor Brooke Winery	P
Jamie Jones	<a href="mailto:jamie@jonesfamilyfarms.com">jamie@jonesfamilyfarms.com</a>	Jones Family Farm	P
Gary Crump	<a href="mailto:garyvin27@sbcglobal.net">garyvin27@sbcglobal.net</a>	Priam Vineyards	P
Bill Hopkins	<a href="mailto:hopkinsvineyards@charter.net">hopkinsvineyards@charter.net</a>	Hopkins Vineyards	P
Steve Vollweiller	<a href="mailto:svollweiler@yahoo.com">svollweiler@yahoo.com</a>	Sharpe Hill Vineyard	A
Gregory Weidemann	<a href="mailto:gregory.weidemann@uconn.edu">gregory.weidemann@uconn.edu</a>	Dean & Director UCONN	A
Bill Nail	<a href="mailto:william.nail@po.state.ct.us">william.nail@po.state.ct.us</a>	Ct Agricultural Station	P
		Department of Tourism	A

Farm Winery Attendees

Jim Frey	Walker Road Vineyard
Paul Maugle	Maugle Sierra Vineyards
Bob Chipkin	Cassidy Hill Vineyards
Bridget Riodin	Chamard Vineyards

Guests

None

Department of Agriculture Attendees

Robert Pelligrino                      DOAG

**1 Call to order**

- 1.1 Meeting was called to order at 10:05 by Chairman Prelli
- 1.2 Sign in sheet was distributed and email addresses were requested of all present
- 1.3 Bob Pelligrino distributed the Agenda and minutes to the last meeting
- 1.4 Gary Crump motioned to accept the minutes as presented, second by Dick Auger discussion ensued

**2 Meeting Minutes**

- 2.1 Meeting minutes were reviewed.
- 2.2 No changes to meeting minutes were noted
- 2.4 Motioned made by Gary Crump, seconded by Bill Hopkins, unanimously approved.

**3 Chairman Reports**

- 3.1 Legislative update: four Bills are tracking in the Legislature that directly affect the Council
  - #855 – Environment Committee – All appointments to Councils will be by the Legislature and the Governor and not the Commissioner.
  - #6472 – Wine Festival – Allows two festivals per year, one for a non-profit and one for out of state wineries and distributors.
  - #6473 – Expanding hours of Farm Winery Operations. Current law has Farm Wineries last sale to be at 8:00 pm. New proposal is to have last sale at 9:00 pm.
  - #926 – Farm market Bill – Allows Farm Wineries to sell Connecticut Grown wines at not-for-profit Farm Markets.
- 3.2 A move afoot to eliminate all Commissions and Councils within State Departments. Could impact CFWDC activities, including funding. Commissioner meeting with Administrative Services to determine outcome.
- 3.3 All funds in commissions and Councils may be “swept” out of Departments budget under the Governors proposal.
- 3.4 If CFWDC is dissolved, a “promotion Board” could be established to continue oversight of the Farm Winery Industry with funding from grants associated with the USDA’s Specialty Crop Grant program or through assessments to Farm Wineries.
- 3.5 The Passport Program is fully funded for the 2009 budget year.
- 3.7 The Commissioner spoke with the new Dean of UCONN who is very interested in participating on the Council.

#### **4 Treasurer’s Report**

- 4.1 A written treasurer’s report was submitted by Bill Hopkins.
- 4.2 The time period was from 10/30/08 to 3/12/09
- 4.3 Beginning checkbook balance was \$26,612.73 ending balance \$21,608.14
- 4.4 Expenses were: debit card for postage and debit card for lodging and airfare for 2008 passport winners.
- 4.5 Copies of the budget were distributed.
- 4.6 Discussion followed. It was noted that the debit card is paid out of the Secondary Account (Grant)to the CFWD account.
- 4.7 *A motion was made by Gary Crump and seconded by Dick Auger to accept the report. Unanimous vote.*

#### **5 Old Business**

- 5.1 Legislative Update
  - 5.1.1 Update was given under the Chairman’s Report
- 5.2 Big E Update
  - 5.2.1 – The Council will pay for one entry for each winery in the Wine Competition.
  - 5.2.2 - The Council will have the same booth available for use throughout the fair period.
  - 5.2.3 - Cost of the booth will be discussed at the next Council meeting.
- 5.3 Chef to Farm Program
  - 5.3.1 No update available..
- 5.4 Seafood Council
  - 5.4.1 No update available.
- 5.5 Passport Information

- 5.5.1 Passport Trip Update – The trip went well for the winners. Gary Crump called the resort before and after the winners arrived to make sure there were no problems or issues..
- 5.5.2 The resort is again booked for the 2009 winners An increase in costs of 3 – 5% is expected. .
- 5.6 2008 Passport Information – Gary Crump informed the Council that Rick Cardone cannot perform the analysis because of a long term commitment he has with another State Institution (Department Of Corrections). The CD from previous years is missing. Gary Crump to contact Rick Cardone’s office to see if CD is available.
- 5.7 CFA – The Connecticut Food Association through the CVWA has agreed to input the 2008 Passport information for the same price as Rick Cardone quoted. Gary Crump will verify project.
- 5.8 Passport Requirements for 2009 – Jamie Jones submitted the Passport Requirements as requested at the last Council meeting. Of particular note, the new passport will contain the year on the cover, just stamping the passport page is enough; signing is not necessary, wineries that do not participate in the passport program will still be listed in the Passport.
- 5.9 *Gary Crump made a motion and seconded by Dick Auger to accept the report with changes. Unanimous vote.*
- 5.10 Passport Funding – Outstanding invoices for 2009 will be paid for. There is no funding for the Passport program for 2010. State will not prepay for the Trips taken in 2010 as the budget process does not allow for prepayment out of the fiscal year. USDA Specialty Crop Grant may be an option for possible future funding.
- 5.11 As a point of information, the Passport Stamp is available from Hartford Stamp Works for about \$35.
- 5.12 The Marketing Study was not available for distribution. It was tabled until next meeting pending copying.

## **6 New Business**

- 6.1 .Jim Frey asked of the status of the Winery Brochure and when it would be copied with the corrections. Bob Pelligrino researched the topic and found that only ~2,500 copies were left. *A motion was made by Dick Auger and seconded by Gary Crump to have the brochure re-printed with the changes and to add any other new wineries.*
- 6.2 *A motion was made by Gary Crump and seconded by Jamie Jones to have a sub-committee work with Bob Pelligrino to work with each winery to gather the correct information for both the Passport and the Winery Brochure. The motion carried unanimously. The sub-committee is Jamie Jones, Gary Crump and Bob Pelligrino. All correspondence will come from the Department of Ag, and all responses will go back to the Department of Ad.*
- 6.3 Bill Hopkins asked if the funding for the Council will be lost if not spent. If the money needs to be allocated and spent, then as in some previous years, he suggested the money be spent on specialty advertising in area newspapers. The Commissioner responded by saying the money may not be available because the State may “sweep” all Commissions and Councils budgets.

No other business at hand, a motion was made by Gary Crump and seconded by Dr. Nail to adjourn. Unanimously accepted.

## **Next Meeting**

11 June 2009

10:00 am to 12:00 noon conference Room #G-8A

# Draft Agenda for 11 June 2009 Meeting

**Call to Order**

**Meeting Minutes Review**

**Chairman Report**

**Treasures Report**

**Old Business**

- Update on Passport and Winery Brochure printing
- Update on wine sales at the Big E for 2009
- Update on Farm to Chef program to use CT wines
- Update on CT Seafood Council to use CT wines in their show
- Connecticut Grown “tents” for restaurant advertising
- Passport information update from Rick Cardone and CFA.
- Marketing survey distribution

**New Business**

- Legislative Update

**Meeting Close**

**Next Meeting**