



Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council (CFWDC)

Meeting Minutes for 17 March 2010

Chairman

F. Philip Prelli philip.prelli@ct.gov Commissioner of Ag. P

Council Members

Dick Auger	dick@taylorbrookewinery.com	Taylor Brooke Winery	P
Jamie Jones	jamie@jonesfamilyfarms.com	Jones Family Farm	A
Gary Crump	garyvin27@sbcglobal.net	Priam Vineyards	P
Bill Hopkins	hopkinsvineyards@charter.net	Hopkins Vineyards	P
Steve Vollweiler	svollweiler@yahoo.com	Sharpe Hill Vineyard	A
George Motel	gmotel@bozzutos.com	Sunset Meadows Winery	P
Gregory Weidemann	gregory.weidemann@uconn.edu	Dean & Director UCONN	A
Bill Nail	william.nail@po.state.ct.us	Ct Agricultural Station	P
		Department of Tourism	A

Farm Winery Attendees

Joe Gouveia	gouveiavineyards@sbcglobal.net	Gouveia Vineyard
Jim Frey	frey65@sbcglobal.net	
Bridget Riordan	bridget@chamard.com	Chamard Winery

Guests

Jeremy Jelliffe Jeremy.jelliffe@uconn.edu UCONN

Department of Agriculture Attendees

Robert Pelligrino DOAG
Jamie Smith jaime.smith@ct.gov

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 Agenda and minutes to the last meeting were distributed
- 1.4 *Bill Hopkins motioned to accept the minutes second by Gary Crump.*

2 Meeting Minutes

- 2.1 Meeting minutes were reviewed.
- 2.2 Minutes were accepted unanimously.

3 Chairman Reports

- 3.1 There were no major items to report.
- 3.2 Big E update will be discussed under old business.
- 3.3 The Chairman reminded the Council that Ag Day at the Capital is March 20th from 10 – 1
- 3.4 The Passport Program for this year is moving forward
 - 3.4.1 Funding for the Passport Program is from the Federal Specialty Crop Grant - Farm Aid Bill and this will be the last year for that funding source.
- 3.5 Funding for the Council is from the Community Reinvestment Account and is paid Quarterly. Two Quarterly payments have been received. Total payments will be ~ \$35,000
- 3.6 The Chairman then asked that introductions be made of all present.

4 Treasurers Report

- 4.1 A written treasurers report was submitted by Bill Hopkins.
- 4.2 The time period was from 12/10/09 to 03/15/10
- 4.3 Beginning checkbook balance was \$30,164.81; ending balance \$25,072.61
 - 4.3.1 Two expenses were noted both for the Passport Program; Airline tickets \$3,188.58
Hotel rooms \$1,903.62
- 4.4 *A motion was made by Gary Crump and seconded by George Motel to accept the report. Unanimous vote.*

5 Old Business

- 5.1 Legislative Update
 - 5.1.1 The Chairman reported that a Bill was introduced to correct the appointment process for various councils in the DOAG. There are conflicts within the appointment process as the appointments are tied to the Legislator who made the appointment and not to a time period or other time frame.
 - 5.1.2 The CVWA has submitted legislation that would allow wine to be sold at Farmers Markets. The Bill would limit participation to three markets per year and would have to conform to existing requirements concerning distances from schools and churches, etc. Also, Towns can restrict the sale at Farm Markets within their bounds.
 - 5.1.3 The Chairman recommended that the CVWA be represented at the annual AG Day at the Capital.
- 5.2 Big E
 - 5.2.1 Discussion was re-opened on participation of the Wineries at the Big E. Several items were discussed again with a desire by Connecticut Farm Wineries to sell wine by the glass or for bottle sales.
 - 5.2.2 *Motion was made by George Motel and seconded by Gary Crump to have a random drawing for dates that wineries will participate at the Big E. Discussion ensued and the vote was unanimous.*
- 5.3 Long Range Planning
 - 5.3.1 Attending wineries reminded the Council that part of their charter is to help the wine industry to grow and to also promote the greater good of agriculture. Some attending wineries asked what the Council was doing to promote grape growing to help with the current shortage of Connecticut Grown grapes.
After much discussion, the Chairman asked for volunteers to work on a sub-committee to review the Farm Winery Act to see if changes were needed to accommodate the current need for additional grape supply, language around minimum Farm Winery acreage vs a contract to

purchase grapes and any other practice that may restrict the growth of the Wine Industry in Connecticut.

5.4 Passport Program

5.4.1 Jamie Jones introduced some changes that he received from participating wineries about the Passport Program that were discussed.

5.4.2 *Motion was made and seconded by Jamie Jones to increase the number of visits to wineries from 14 to 16 wineries. This request was made because of the increase in the number of participating wineries. The motion passed unanimously.*

5.5 Wine Festival

5.5.1 The wine festival will be held at the Goshen Fairgrounds on July 31 & August 1, 2010

5.5.2 Many positive changes are being programmed into the festival this year. The biggest change being that the festival will use two buildings and thus be able to spread out and give wineries more room to accommodate guests.

5.5.3 A request was made to use the name/address data base collected from the Passport Program as the basis for a mail and email campaign. The Chairman will investigate if the data base is public information and thus can be shared or if it is privileged.

6 New Business

6.1 Promotional Activities

6.1.1 It was suggested that the Council utilize some of it's funding to support State wide advertising for the Passport Program and the Wine Festival. *A motion was made by Gary Crump and seconded by George Motel to spend up to \$10k for three months of advertising promoting the Passport Program and the Wine Festival on billboards on the 84/91/95 corridor on an availability basis. Discussion ensued and the motion was passed unanimously.*

6.2 The Chairman opened the Agenda to discuss new invoices and the UCONN Survey request

6.2.1 A motion was made by Dick Auger and seconded by Jamie Jones to open discussions. The following invoices were submitted for approval: \$22.40 by Gary Crump for phone calls to Spain in support of the Passport winners. \$206.68 for additional costs incurred by Ginger to copy and mail out Passport results from 2009. The Chairman voiced his displeasure that work was done without first getting authorization. After discussions it was agreed that the communication needs to be strengthened to prevent this from happening again. The invoices submitted were approved for payment with one member abstaining from the vote.

6.2.2 UCONN representative Jeremy Jelliffe asked that the wineries in the State participate in the survey to assess the needs of the wine industry so they can provide information to State Dairy farmers on the costs and benefits to raise wine grapes.

6.3 Next Meeting

June 10th

September 9th

December 9th

Meeting ended at 11:45 with a motion to adjourn made by Gary Crump and seconded by Bill Hopkins.

Next Meeting

June 10th, 2010

10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Conference Room #G-8A

Draft Agenda for 10 June 2010 Meeting

Call to Order

Meeting Minutes Review

Chairman Report

Treasures Report

Old Business

- Big E review
- Long Range Planning for Farm Wine Industry Update from sub-committee
- Wine Festival Update
- Budget Forecast
- UCONN Survey update

New Business

- Legislative Update

Meeting Close

Next Meeting