



MAY 16, 2025

Oregon Wine Board Meeting Agenda

[Zoom link](#)

Time	Topic	Documents	Leader
1:30 – 1:35 p.m. (5 minutes)	Public Board Meeting • Open meeting and welcome guests		G. Jones
1:35-2 p.m. (25 minutes)	Research Committee • Recommended slate for V&E research projects for approval • Balance of research budget	FY2026 Recommended paylist	G. Jones & J. Willey
2 p.m.	Adjourn		G. Jones



MAY 2025 BOARD PACKET

Research Update

Prepared by: Jess Willey

Viticulture & Enology Research Grant Program

Overview

The Oregon Wine Board's mandate includes supporting enological and viticultural research, which it does primarily through its long-standing grant program. The Oregon Wine Board publishes an RFP each year, laying out priorities for research projects in conjunction with the OWB's Vit & Eno Research Strategic Plan. The Research Committee then reviews and rates the proposals using a scoring matrix.

Status

- During February and March, the 50-member Viticulture & Enology Research Committee reviewed 23 research proposals submitted in January.
 - Total request was \$1.42 million
 - 5 of these proposals were for continuing funding, totaling \$282k
- The committee met on April 3 to discuss the merits of the top-scoring proposals and rank them in priority order for funding (meeting notes attached).
- Greg Jones has connected with other funding agencies, and none report plans to fund OWB's top-priority projects.
- The Research Steering Committee met on April 25 to finalize the proposed slate to the Board, and requests the balance be held in the Research budget line for potential emergency needs:

2025-26 Proposed Funding List									
CODE	PI	SHORT TITLE	Institution	Project Year #	Total Duration	Eligible request 2025-26	Funded TO DATE	FY27 Expectation	Anticipated total project funding
CONTINUING PROJECTS									
2025-2784	Deluc, Laurent	RNAi against Red Blotch Virus	OSU	3	3	54,888	124,896	-	179,784
2025-2791	Levin, Alexander	Rootstocks, drought, and isotopes	OSU-SOREC	3	3	53,155	89,681	-	142,836
2025-2818	Walton, Vaughn	Mealybug control in vineyards	OSU	2	3	59,511	49,118	54,061	162,690
2025-2842	Skinkis, Patricia	Sustainable Rootstocks for Pinot Noir	OSU	2	3	62,528	58,786	66,886	188,200
2025-2870	Osborne, James	MLF Composition & Sensory	OSU	2	2	52,101	51,748	-	103,849
NEW PROPOSALS									
2025-2915	DeShields, Joseph	Vectors and Latency of GRBV	OSU-SOREC	1	3	70,025	-	63,350	198,000
TOTAL						352,208		184,297	
OWB FY26 Research Budget			\$ 400,000.00						
Approved Funding Cont. (I3:I7)			\$ 282,183.00						
Approved Funding New (I11:I28)			\$ 70,025.00						
Balance Research Budget			\$ 47,792						

Next steps

- Following Board approval, notify researchers of decision and prepare contracts
- Request summaries / impact statements for industry communication

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OWB FY26 Research Budget	\$ 387,000.00
Approved Funding Cont. (I3:I7)	\$ 282,183.00
Approved Funding New (I11:I28)	\$ 70,025.00
Balance Research Budget	\$ 34,792



APRIL 3, 2025

V & E Research Committee Notes **DRAFT**

ATTENDEES

Committee: Greg Jones* (Chair), Elizabeth Clark* (Vice Chair), Leah Adint, Leigh Bartholomew, David Beck, Ted Casteel, Leti Catoira, Jason Cole, Dai Crisp, Peter Ebberts, Joanna Engel, Chris Graves, Brian Gruber*, Gina Hennen, Allen Holstein*, Anthony King*, Chuck Knostman, Austin Kraemer, Erik Kramer, Kathy Miller, Erica Miller, Karl Mohr, Joey Myers*, Lauren O'Brien, Kevin Parsons, John Pratt, Bill Sanchez, Nichole Schulte, James Thommes, Jason Tosch*, Chad Vargas, Vince Vidrine, Nate Wall*

* *Steering Committee Member*

Industry Guests: Kolby Childers, Madeliene Rowan-Davis

OWB Staff: Jess Willey

NOTES

Meeting Opening

- Chair G. Jones opened the meeting.
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OWB Research Update

- J. Willey gave an overview of her role at the Oregon Wine Board as Research & Education Director
 - Link practical outcomes from the industry's investments in research to educational opportunities
 - Develop closer partnerships with other research-driven organizations (e.g. OWRI, NCSFR, IVES)
 - OWB is undergoing 5-year strategic planning process
 - Research Priorities survey is currently open – will help inform any revision to current strategic priorities for V&E research and the 2026 RFP.
 - **ACTION:** Take (and share!) the [Research Priorities survey](#)
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Committee Roles

- Vice Chair Elizabeth Clark described the various Research Committee roles, including the Steering Committee, Continuing Project Specialists, and Lead Reviewers.
 - There is at least one current opening on the Steering Committee, with more in the pipeline. The process to fill the seats is for the committee to vote on new Steering Committee members at its summer meeting.
 - **ACTION:** Reach out to Jess Willey if you're interested in learning more or being considered for the Steering Committee.
 - **ACTION:** Any reviewers interested in becoming a Lead Reviewer in 2026 please email Jess Willey.
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Committee Charter Update

- J. Willey presented updates to the Research Committee Charter as proposed by the Steering Committee.
 - Main updates are: 1) update Request for Applications with Request for Proposals; 2) expanding detail on the role of the Continuing Project Specialists; and 3) adding the role and process of the Steering Committee for addressing emergency research funding requests.
 - G. Hennen recommended clarifying section IV.b. "Emergency Funding Requests" to specify that the Steering Committee will designate the group of experts who will undertake the review.
 - **Motion** to approve the proposed revisions, incorporating the modification proposed by G. Hennen. A. King moved, J. Cole seconded. **Motion approved.**
 - **ACTION:** J. Willey / G. Jones to bring to Oregon Wine Board for approval at its June meeting.
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Continuing Project Report-out and Approval

- Continuing Project Specialists A. King and A. Holstein gave updates on the five continuing project proposals. All are moving forward according to original objectives and budgets.
 - Motion:** Approve total request of \$282,183 for continuing project proposals (2025-2784 Deluc; 2025-2791 Levin; 2025-2818 Walton; 2025-2842 Skinkis; 2025-2870 Osborne). D. Crisp moved, L. Bartholomew seconded. **Motion approved.**
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New Proposal Discussion

- After funding the continuing projects, \$118k of the \$400k initial budget remains for new projects.
 - Overview of new proposals:
 - \$1.14M requested: 12 projects totaling \$838,077 received full reviews; 4 projects totaling \$301,099 received partial reviews.
 - Two of the projects came from private industry. Recommendation to talk with AVF about updating universal language regarding eligibility of funding for private entities.
 - ACTION:** Incorporate ineligibility of private businesses into 2026 RFP. Consider specifying ineligibility of table grapes as well, to save reviewers' time.
 - Lead Reviewers provided overview of the 9 proposals rated "top priority" or "nice to have," and based on discussion the committee ranked the following six proposals in order of priority*:
 - 2025-2980 Tomasino, Elizabeth; Phenols to air to phenols in grapes
 - 2025-2915 DeShields, Joseph; Vectors and Latency of Grapevine Red Blotch Virus
 - 2025-2963 KC, Achala; Latent GTDs
 - 2025-2973 Moretti, Marcelo; Electrical and Conventional Weed Control
 - 2025-2960 Qian, Michael; Kaolin film on grape and wine quality
 - 2025-2900 Liang, Chen; Non-smoky volatile phenol triglycosides
 - ACTION:** B. Gruber (lead reviewer on 2915) to follow up with DeShields to request information on review of previous research to ensure the project is not redundant to existing research. Follow up due to Steering Committee by April 21.
 - *ACTION:** J. Willey to poll meeting attendees about their priority between 2980 and 2915 (the two "Top Priority" proposals). **Results (4/10/25):** Of 23 respondents, 78% rate 2915 as priority.
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Process Feedback

- ACTION:** Committee members are invited to share process feedback with J. Willey to consider for next funding cycle.
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Wrap Up / Next Steps

- ACTION:** G. Jones to connect with AVF after their April 21 proposal review meeting to discuss their priorities.
 - ACTION:** J. Willey to set Steering Committee following April 21 to finalize funding proposal to the Oregon Wine Board.
 - ACTION:** J. Willey to determine next Research Committee meeting date (August) and circulate invitation.
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