



COVID-19 INDUSTRY DISCUSSION FORUM MEETING NOTES

APRIL 21, 2020

ATTENDEES

INDUSTRY & PARTNERS:

David Adelsheim, Ross Allen, Evyan Andries, Fawn Barrie, Jessica Blauert, Terry Brandborg, Ellen Brittan, Julia Burke, Kevin Chambers, Kerry Damon, Ariel Eberle, Matthew Farver, Bertony Faustin, Denise Flora, Maggi Gerhard, Bob Hackett, Robert Hanson, Anna Hatcher, Dan Jarman, Ken Johnston, Hilda Jones, Eugenia Keegan, Mike Keunz, Joel Kiff, Ed King, Jodee King, Justin King, Jean Kurtz, Nora Lancaster, Laurie Lewis, Kelly Luzania, Jesse Lyon, Cathy Martin, Jana McKamey, Morgen McLaughlin, Mike McNally, Elin Miller, Donna Morris, Bob Morus, Scott Neal, Mia Noren, Ximena Orrego, Gary Oxley, Alyssa Petroff, Bruce Sonnen, Barb Steele, Andy Steinman, GinaLisa Tamayo, Jessica Thomas, Steve Thomson, Jason Tosch, Christie Totten, Dan Warnshuis, Carolyn Wasem, Eric Weisinger

STAFF:

Margaret Bray, Marie Chambers, Tom Danowski, Christina DeArment, Stacey Kohler, Kai McMurtry, Sally Murdoch, Bree Stock, Jess Willey

OBJECTIVES

This meeting covered the following:

- OWB Finance Committee update
- Tasting Room compliance with Governor Brown's executive orders
- Report on state legislative issues
- Report on federal legislative issues
- COVID-19 related labor law developments
- Charitable activities in the Oregon wine industry
- COVID-19 Related Operating Practices Guidance for Wineries & Vineyards
- Other Updates from OWB

BACKGROUND

This Oregon wine industry forum offers an opportunity for business leaders from around the state to come together periodically during the COVID-19 crisis to share what is known and to identify gaps in our understanding of key issues that deserve continued attention.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

OWB Finance Committee Update

- A second webinar regarding federal financial assistance was held this morning. OWB's COVID-19 Toolkit will be updated later today with the link to the recording and OWB's next bulletin will include the link as well.
- A few of the FAQs addressed during the webinar include:
 - It is recommended that PPP applicants do not submit applications through multiple lenders.
 - Guidance for sole proprietors on calculating lost income is now available, if an additional infusion of funding is made available into the PPP loan program.
 - Confirmation that the \$10k advance from EIDL is a ceiling: businesses can receive \$1,000 per employee on the payroll, up to 10, within three days of the application being received.
 - EIDL application status can be checked on sba.gov/updates, and there has been some success reported in getting a status update through the EIDL hotline.



Compliance with Governor Brown's Executive Orders

Morgen McLaughlin (WVWA) provided the following:

- It is anticipated that as the weather turns, there will be more wine country visitors asking for picnicking or tastings. It's important that winery signage and other communication clarify that this is not an option.
- Wineries have reported receiving calls asking whether they are conducting tastings. The consistent structure of these questions leads to the assumption that these calls are OLCC investigations.
 - Tom Danowski (OWB) has been in touch with OLCC; their compliance department had no pending complaints involving wineries.
- Even though winemaking staff may be conducting essential business while blending and tasting, it was suggested that wineries refrain from posting anything that might be misleading to consumers on social media.

State Legislative Updates

Evyan Andries (OWC lobbyist with Oxley & Advocates) offered this update:

- Gov. Brown's chief of staff, Nik Blosser, presented last Thursday the [Reopening Oregon](#) framework, which is part of the collaborative three-state West Coast Framework.
 - This includes this week's launch of five industry sector discussion groups. Three wine industry representatives will be participating in the Restaurant & Food Service group.
- Special legislative session is expected to begin after the May 20 revenue forecast is available.
- The state's Legislative Fiscal Office Emergency Board will meet this Thursday. The Board has a \$50 million budget and is expected to spend about \$30 million of it.
 - \$10 million may go to Housing & Community Services. This could include potential housing aid for farm workers in the form of vouchers for hotels/motels/Airbnbs. This would require a waiver from OSHA because these lodgings do not meet OSHA standards.
 - \$10 million may go to the Oregon Worker Relief Fund – to help undocumented individuals in Oregon who don't qualify for relief under federal CARES Act. Reach out to your legislators if you want to support this community. Locate your lawmaker here: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov>
 - \$5 million is expected to be allocated to the Oregon Business Development Fund for small business assistance.
- While the governor has broad authority to spend federal funding coming into the state, there is a requirement that it must be spent on COVID-19 issues. It cannot be used to offset the budget shortfall for ongoing activities.
 - Rainy Day & Education Stability funds are likely to be accessed to fill state budget holes.
 - As of yet, the state government has not furloughed employees, but cuts in the public sector are likely due to budget gaps.
- The first Corporate Activities Tax (CAT) payments are due April 30. If businesses expect to have CAT liabilities in excess of \$5,000 for 2020, they must make estimated payments.
 - The business community continues to lobby for delaying these payments. If this is important to your business, let your legislators know.
- The Oregon Health Authority continues to work on COVID-19 guidelines for agricultural workplaces. The Oregon Farm Bureau has provided a redline edit of that document to the Governor's office, including input from ag stakeholders.



Federal Legislative Updates

Jana McKamey (Oregon Winegrowers Association) shared the following:

- The PPP loan program ran out of funding last week. Congress is expected to make an additional infusion of \$300-350 billion this week.
- Ag businesses are not currently eligible for EIDL, but this may be addressed in next legislation that could be passed in Senate today and the House on Thursday.
- USDA will be making \$16B available in direct payments to impacted ag businesses. There are no specifics yet on how losses will be calculated, so it is premature to know how winegrowers might be able to access this money. The timing of funding availability is expected to be end of May early June.
- An additional federal stimulus package related to the Coronavirus emergency will likely not happen until at least late May. Wine & other alcohol producer associations have [submitted a letter](#) outlining their priorities.

Labor Law and Workplace Safety Developments

- Christie Totten (labor attorney for Oregon Winegrowers Association legal counsel DWT) offered helpful documents from Dept. of Labor and DWT regarding compliance with FFCRA leave requirements, which are posted on the OWB Toolkit and were shared through the OWB Bulletin last week. Business owners are advised that the DOL's FAQs page continues to be updated.
- OWA sent an industry alert late last week that included a [document](#) with additional FFCRA detail.

Charitable Activities

- WVWA has launched [Wines for the Front Lines](#) (WVWA), which aims to get wine in the hands of front line workers. Scott & Annie Shull at Raptor Ridge are heading up the campaign, and so far 1,200 cases have been committed. Any winery in the Willamette Valley, not just WVWA members, can participate.
 - Other regions are also encouraged to find ways to support their communities, even when financial donations are not feasible.

COVID-19 Related Operating Practices Guidance for Wineries & Vineyards

- A draft document has been circulated and a task force will be pulled together in the next day or two, to work on revisions. Send Morgen or Tom a note if you are interested in participating.

Other Updates from OWB

- Oregon Wine Month graphics will be updated to link with [#OregonInside campaign](#). POS has been shipped to 25 distributors in 12 states, including Young's Market in Oregon.
- On the PR front, Mila Kunis & Ashton Kutcher are developing a quarantine wine from Nocking Point in Walla Walla, and the media response has been strong.
- The first Grower Roundtable Discussion was held last week. The recording is on the Toolkit and will be shared in the next bulletin.
- Reminder to please complete the 2019 Vineyard & Winery Survey by next Thursday, April 30.
- Have colleagues contact us (info@oregonwine.org) if they are not receiving OWB emails.
- [Post](#) your rescheduled events to the OWB industry calendar, and [check the calendar](#) for conflicts.