



COVID-19 INDUSTRY DISCUSSION FORUM MEETING NOTES

JUNE 2, 2020

ATTENDEES

INDUSTRY & PARTNERS:

David Adelsheim, Ross Allen, Evyand Andries, Fawn Barrie, Jessica Blauert, Terry Brandborg, Ellen Brittan, Janie Brooks-Hueck, Julia Burke, Kevin Chambers, Kerry Damon, Ariel Eberle, Matthew Farver, Bertony Faustin, Denise Flora, Maggi Gerhard, Jeff Giametta, Bob Hackett, Robert Hanson, Anna Hatcher, Dan Jarman, Ken Johnston, Hilda Jones, Carrie Kalscheuer Eugenia Keegan, Mike Keunz, Joel Kiff, Ed King, Jodee King, Justin King, Jean Kurtz, Nora Lancaster, Laurie Lewis, Kelly Luzania, Jesse Lyon, Cathy Martin, Morgen McLaughlin, Mike McNally, Elin Miller, Donna Morris, Bob Morus, Scott Neal, Mia Noren, Ximena Orrego, Gary Oxley, Alyssa Petroff, Leah Schlechter, 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

GUESTS:

Jeff Rhoades (Gov. Brown's Office), Lesley Berglund (WISE Academy)

OBJECTIVES

This meeting covered the following:

- Reopening Oregon Phase 2 update
- State legislative update
- Federal legislative update
- Update from regional and statewide organizations

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

Announcements:

- These meetings will move to a biweekly schedule. The next meeting will be June 16 at 11 a.m.
- Christina DeArment (OWB) gave an update on the Oregon Vine Perks program. [Participating wineries](#) are encouraged to use materials via the [program toolkit](#) to promote the program.

Reopening Oregon Phase 2 Update

Jeff Rhoades, senior policy advisor at Governor's Brown's office, updated the group on conversations happening to plan for the second phase of reopening, and answered questions.

- Areas that will likely be addressed include:
 - Large gathering size limitations, which may be different for indoor vs. outdoor events
 - Curfew requirements
 - Social distancing rules



- PPE
- Disinfection vs. sanitation
- Clearer messaging on travel from county to county
- Phase 2 guidelines will be finalized by Friday as some counties are expected to be approved for Phase 2 by then.

Update from Salem

Evyan Andries (OWC lobbying firm Oxley & Associates) provided an update on the following:

- OSHA temporary rules on in-field sanitation and housing: The enforcement start date was June 1. The coalition of agriculture stakeholders has alerted lawmakers about supply shortages and other compliance challenges and a bipartisan group of legislators sent the governor a letter asking for further delay in enforcement until funding assistance is available.
- \$30m funding package called “Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program”: Allocates \$10m for housing, \$6m for field sanitation and transportation and \$14 to mitigate outbreaks and directly support farmworkers (e.g. through providing PPE, multilingual and culturally appropriate outreach, quarantine fund).
 - Sanitation equipment costs will be reimbursed retroactive to May 11; applications for reimbursement will starting June 10.
 - Housing and equipment reimbursements will be administered by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.
- ODA Dir. Taylor has been contacted regarding the concern that resources are insufficient to meet needs up through the grape harvest. ODA has said it will be transparent in the tracking of funding and commits to requesting additional funding if needed.
- Legislative committees have been meeting (House last week; Senate this week) and topics have included COVID-19’s impact on the food chain, OSHA rulemaking and the funding package described above.
 - Elin Miller will speak to the Senate’s Environment and Natural Resources Committee this week about COVID-19’s impact on the wine industry.
 - Liability issues are also being discussed, including the creation of a presumption in workers comp statutes attributing positive COVID test results to the person’s workplace; business protections regarding COVID-19 for businesses complying with orders and guidelines; and contact tracing / privacy concerns for businesses and guests.

Federal Update

Mia Noren (OWA lobbying firm Crosswater Strategies) provided the following update:

- The House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan bill May 28 – the PPP Flexibility Act (H.R. 7010), which provides small businesses more flexibility to use their funds. There is optimism that this bill or something similar will pass the Senate this week. The bill would:
 - Extend from 8-24 weeks the expense forgiveness program
 - Reduce the 75% payroll ratio requirement to 60%
 - Provide payroll tax deferment for PPP recipients
 - Extend from June 30 to Dec. 31 the rehiring deadline
 - Extend the PPP loan maturity date from 2 to 5 years
- PPP recipients may want to review the [11-page forgiveness application](#) to get their paperwork in order when the deadline arrives.
 - As a reminder, for those who also received EIDL loans, the initial emergency grant payments are deducted from what’s forgivable under PPP.



- Rep. Blumenauer reports that the Restaurant Act is still in drafting period. The bill proposes \$120 billion in relief assistance for independent or small chain restaurants. It is expected that the act will include tasting rooms.

State and Regional Association Updates:

OWB staff reported the following:

- The TTB has approved applications for the Tualatin Hills AVA and Laurelwood District AVA, with an official establishment date for both of July 6. The new AVAs, Oregon's 20th and 21st, are nested within the Willamette Valley AVA. OWB is working closely with WVWA on press efforts. New resources will be added to the Oregon Wine Resource Studio.
- The virtual cross-border AVA tour covering Walla Walla / The Rocks, Columbia Gorge and Portland, will take place June 22-26. Writers from Sunset Magazine and Wine Enthusiast have been confirmed.
- OWB is collecting and displaying information about reopened tasting rooms on visit.oregonwine.org 115 wineries have updated their status. OWB is working with Travel Oregon to pull this information through to Travel Oregon's network through its OTIS, but Travel Oregon does not intend to have reopening updates on its site at this time.
- The window to take advantage of VingDirect's online courses for \$25 is extended until the end of June.
- WISE Academy will be starting biweekly townhall sessions next Wednesday. They will provide a forum for tasting room managers and staff to discuss navigating reopening, including how to deescalate situations, manage no show reservations, address disgruntled guests, and more.
- The preliminary pricing report from the 2019 vineyard and winery survey will publish later this week.

Other updates:

- Mike McNally (Fairsing Vineyard) reminded the group that new Oregon Winegrowers Association bylaws have been approved by members. The OWA will begin a nominating process for Board members for an election this summer.
- Tom Danowski (OWB) shared that OWB director applications are currently being accepted for 3-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2021 and should be sent directly to the Governor's appointment office.
- Morgen McLaughlin (WVWA) alerted the group that WineAmerica has released the link to its May impact survey with a deadline of June 5.