



COVID-19 INDUSTRY DISCUSSION FORUM MEETING NOTES

JUNE 30, 2020

ATTENDEES

INDUSTRY & PARTNERS:

David Adelsheim, Ross Allen, Evyann 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:

Michael Kaiser (WineAmerica), Diane Butler (Davis Wright Tremaine) Ame Lewis (Davis Wright Tremaine), Jordan Bice (Oxley & Associates)

OBJECTIVES

This meeting covered the following:

- Federal Update from WineAmerica
- Updates from state & regional industry associations
- Special Session Report and other news from Salem
- Worker safety in food/beverage processing operations
- Winery operating guidelines to minimize COVID impacts
- Legal considerations for wine business owners

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

Federal update from WineAmerica (recording mark: 0:04)

Michael Kaiser (WineAmerica) provided an update on the latest federal topics of concern to winery businesses, including:

- Coronavirus Food Assistance Program and the potential inclusion of wine and grape businesses.
- House of Representatives Restaurants Act Bill, and similar in Senate, which would create a relief fund for independently owned restaurants. Some “drinking establishments” and possibly tasting rooms could be eligible for funds.
- Craft Beverage Modernization Act and its potential extension.
- Federal excise tax payment suspension, which expires today and will not be extended.



Updates from Oregon Wine Board (0:22 minute mark)

- Kai McMurtry shared information on the new publishing partner for 2021-22 Touring Guide and reminded about the [call for content](#) and story ideas.
- Sally Murdoch gave an update on last week's cross-border AVA tour with Washington State Wine; Sally continues to refer media to her list of examples of kindness from around the industry. Please [keep sharing them](#).
- Tom Danowski gave an update on Symposium 2021.

Legislative report and other news from Salem (0:30 minute mark)

Dan Jarman (OWA government affairs partner Crosswater Strategies) gave an update from the June 24-26 special legislative session and other topics to be covered in future sessions, which included:

- Corporate Activity Tax technical fix.
- Work group to review limited liability protections for businesses in certain sectors who are following COVID-19 guidelines.
- Extended COVID-related sick leave pay, which may be covered by state for small businesses.
- \$146 million in state budget cuts that affects all agencies, including \$1.8 million from ODA.
- Striking down of a provision requiring OSHA to create new infectious disease standards.
- [Statewide requirement](#) to wear face masks indoors as of July 1.
- A second Special Session for lawmakers is tentatively scheduled for late July 2020.
- Possible restaurant/bar industry shutdown in reaction to rising infections as has been happening in other states; it would be tough to separate wine industry from this.

Worker safety in food/beverage processing operations (0:54 minute mark)

Dan Jarman provided an update on the June 19 meeting between wine industry members and staff from ODA, OHA, Oregon OSHA and County Health departments.

- A toolkit of guidelines / suggestions regarding COVID exposure in employees has been developed for businesses.
- A playbook has been developed for the key agencies to work with operators experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks.
- Several items still under development: lines of authority, voluntary involvement of agencies vs. mandatory; testing available; interaction between production & tasting facilities

Winery operating guidelines to minimize COVID impacts (1:00 hour mark)

Anthony King (Carlton Winemakers Studio) shared the following:

- A mock exposure trial will be conducted July 6 at Adelsheim, which will be used to develop winery operations guidelines for the industry, similar to tasting room guidelines.
- If interested in participating in the work group to develop winery operations guidelines, [email Anthony](#).

ACTION: Anthony will provide a recap during the next meeting of this group on July 14.

Legal considerations for wine business owners

Associates from OWA legal counsel Davis Wright Tremaine (Christie Totten, Ame Lewis, Diane Butler) provided an update on labor law questions related to COVID-19, including:

- OHA process for employer once an employee tests positive for / has been exposed to / exhibits



symptoms.

- OHA's process for publishing employer outbreaks.
- Oregon Sick Leave Law considerations.
- Employee privacy protection and immigration concerns vis a vis screening for COVID.
- Sanitation protocols for workplaces with confirmed or suspected exposure.
- Complaints about compliance made to OSHA.

They also reminded businesses to keep an updated written safety plan and that they must have a designated social distancing officer per the Governor Brown's March executive order 20-12.

ACTION: OWB to produce an industry-wide webinar prior to harvest regarding production safety protocols and best practices.