



COVID-19 INDUSTRY DISCUSSION FORUM MEETING NOTES

JULY 28, 2020

ATTENDEES

INDUSTRY & PARTNERS:

David Adelsheim, Ross Allen, Evyand Andries, Fawn Barrie, Leigh Bartholomew, Tom Bassford, 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, Anthony King, Ed King, Jodee King, Justin King, Jean Kurtz, Nora Lancaster, Ame Lewis, 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, Sirpa Peacock, 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:

Jennifer Ekdahl (OSHA); Shannon Hoffeditz (OLCC), Michael Kaiser (WineAmerica)

OBJECTIVES

This meeting covered the following:

- Update from WineAmerica
- Updates from state & regional associations
- Update from OLCC
- Report from Salem
- Federal update

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

Note: The next meeting will take place Aug. 18 at 9:30 a.m. and will focus on harvest and crush protocols.

Update from WineAmerica (recording mark 0:06)

Michael Kaiser (Vice President, WineAmerica) provided an update on federal activities:

- Restaurants Act is not currently part of latest federal stimulus bill proposed for Congressional action in August, but still hope to get it included.
- New stimulus bill would allow certain businesses to get a second PPP loan, to use loans for PPE and other necessities, and to make eligible 501(c)6 organizations.
- WineAmerica is opposing the language in a proposed update to USDA and HHS dietary guidelines that seeks to reduce reasonable recommended standards for adult alcohol consumption
- Questions can be sent to [Michael](#) or WineAmerica Board Chair [Janie Brooks-Heuck](#).



Updates from Regional and State Organizations (recording mark 0:15)

OWB team members shared the following updates:

- Oregon Wine Symposium 2021 will take place in virtual format on Feb. 16-19.
- WISE Academy Tasting Room Leadership Forum notes are now posted on the [COVID-19 Toolkit](#).
- Reviewer Nick Stock of James Suckling [requests wines](#) for review to be sent to Australia this year; contact [Sally Murdoch](#) with questions.
- The OWB's next Information Sharing Task Force meeting will take place Nov. 5 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- OWB's industry site [Marketplace](#) is available to post harvest internships.

Mike McNally (WVWA) shared the following:

- Anthony King & Leigh Bartholomew are leading work on COVID-19 guidelines for cellars and vineyards, which will be published in August and discussed in detail at this forum on Aug. 18.
- [Willamette: The Pinot Noir Auction](#) will happen online Aug. 11-13.

Update from OLCC (recording mark 0:28)

- Shannon Huffeditz (OLCC) shared that OLCC is checking on licensee COVID compliance in addition to its usual checks and will forward blatant offenses to OSHA for follow-up. Approximately 2,500 Oregon service establishments have been visited over the last several weeks by OLCC staff.
- Email [Shannon](#) with any recommendations or concerns.

Report from Salem (recording mark 0:35)

Dan Jarman (OWA government affairs firm Crosswater Strategies) led an update on news from Salem:

- As a preventative measure against future shut-downs, OWA & OWC recently [sent a letter](#) to the governor outlining the importance of tasting rooms to the wine industry and how seriously the industry is taking COVID precautions. No response has been received yet.
- Last week, the governor announced updated rules for restaurants, bars and tasting rooms statewide.
- New restrictions for inbound tourism from high-risk states are being discussed.
- A call with ag industry partners took place last week regarding maintaining farmworker safety. The group concluded a need for improved outreach to and collaboration with community organizations working with farmworkers.
- New OSHA temporary rulemaking on infectious disease standards is expected to be in effect by Sept. 1, with permanent plans to follow.
- ODA / OSHA / OHA published a [toolkit](#) that lays out best practices for ag and farmland as well as food processing. The agencies also published an [ag playbook](#) outlining how they will coordinate their response to outbreaks.
- Upcoming legislative special session will address the State's budget shortfall of about \$2 billion for second half of biennium. Expect cuts to state programs, including OSU fermentation sciences. Some lawmaking on limited liabilities for businesses may be taken up, along with workers comp presumption issue.

Federal Report (recording mark 1:06)

Mia Noren (Crosswater Strategies) shared details on two potential pieces of legislation:

- Restaurant Act: Includes the proposal to make winery tasting rooms eligible for relief provided.
- FIFRA Reform Act: Would ban several pesticides and provide protections to exposed workers. The pesticides in question are not commonly used in wine grape growing. Send any comments to [Mia](#).