



OREGON WINE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

COVID-19 Response

MARCH 30, 2020 <<FINAL>>

VIA TELECONFERENCE

ATTENDANCE

- BOARD:** Bob Morus (Chair), Kevin Chambers (Vice Chair), Eugenia Keegan (Chair Emeritus), Donna Morris (Treasurer), Hilda Jones, Bertony Faustin, Justin King
- STAFF:** Tom Danowski, Marie Chambers, Stacey Kohler
- ABSENT:** Barbara Steele
-

MEETING OPENING

Call to Order

Chair B. Morus called the Oregon Wine Board public meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Board Minutes

The Board reviewed minutes from the March 10 and March 23 Board meetings.

Chair Emeritus E. Keegan moved that the March 10 Board meeting minutes be approved as submitted. H. Jones seconded. The motion carried 7-0. (J.King not in the meeting).

Chair Emeritus E. Keegan moved that the March 23 Board meeting minutes be approved as submitted. H. Jones seconded. The motion carried 6-0. J. Tosch abstained.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Finance Committee

Chair B. Morus led a discussion, in response to an action item during the March 23 Board meeting where the Finance Committee was empowered to explore the concept of gathering and reviewing information for the industry on the different options for emergency relief and financial aid.

- The Finance committee has been reviewing information on the CARES Act and is reaching out to Financial experts in an effort to bring in interested industry members on a webinar/conference call on April 9 or 10 to discuss the most recent and relevant information on applying for loans and grants that might be available to wine business owners.
- Chair B. Morus informed the group that the SBA has now streamlined the application process for loans specifically related to the COVID-19 disaster. The SBA has reduced the number of required forms and the application is available solely online via the sba.gov website.
- Chair B. Morus discussed the 3 most relevant options for wineries and vineyards through the CARES Act.
 1. Businesses who held SBA section 7(a) or Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) prior to Feb. 15, 2020
 2. Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)
 3. EIDL as amended by the CARES Act
 - Further investigation is needed into the loan application where it asks for certification that

the applicant is not an “agricultural” business. OWA and other industry advocacy groups are being asked to lobby for ag. inclusion or a rulemaking interpretation to make ag. businesses eligible for assistance.

- OWB will continue gathering and disseminating important financial information to growers and wineries.
- OWB will design and deliver an industry webinar in April and will invite commercial bankers to offer expert interpretation of CARES Act financial aid offers for the industry (Zoom is one meeting technology option).

2019 vintage grape tax

- M. Chambers reported on the budget projections of the grape tax payment that is due June 30 for wineries and its impact on the budget if OWB were to work with OLCC to offer a tax payment deferral for up to 90 days
- OLCC reports that it has worked with individual wineries in the past who contacted them directly to make a request for a tax payment deferral.

ACTION: OWB management will explore the details of a potential one-time grape tonnage tax deferral with OLCC staff and report back to the Board if it is a viable option to be considered during the COVID-19 emergency.

Regional Grant Proposals

- T. Danowski asked the Board to confirm its agreement that management will respond to questions about grant fund availability from OWB with details on the Board-approved policy giving management discretion to consider written requests (once per year per industry non-profit) consistent with the Board’s prior direction and approved budget. OWB staff to draft guidelines for communication to industry and will discuss the subject with the Board in June.

MEETING FINALIZATION

Chair B. Morus adjourned the Oregon Wine Board meeting at 5:33 p.m.