



## COVID-19 INDUSTRY DISCUSSION FORUM MEETING NOTES

APRIL 7, 2020

### ATTENDEES

#### INDUSTRY & PARTNERS:

David Adelsheim, Ross Allen, Evyan Andries, Fawn Berrie, Jessica Blauert, Terry Brandborg, Ellen Brittan, Julia Burke, Kevin Chambers, Kerry Damon, Ariel Eberle, 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

### OBJECTIVE

This meeting covered the following:

- Report from Salem and Governor Brown's Econ. Recovery Task Force
- Update on April 3 call with Senator Ron Wyden
- Review on federal emergency financial assistance ("CARES" Act)
- Update on COVID-19 related labor law and workplace safety issues
- News from regional associations and 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

#### **OWC & OWA Report from Salem & the Governor's Economic Recovery Task Force**

- There are no current plans for an Oregon legislative special session, but the Governor and lawmakers may decide one is necessary to deal with significant budget shortfalls related to the global pandemic.
- The business community continues to push to delay implementation of the Corporate Activities Tax (CAT) and is shifting focus to the Governor, who has authority to delay implementation, penalties, and interest.
- The Employment Department is working to ramp up staffing to process the significant increase in unemployment applications.
- The Oregon Law Center & Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center has petitioned Oregon OSHA to amend rules regarding field sanitation practices and ag labor housing in light of COVID-19. Public comments need to be submitted by April 13.
  - The Oregon Farm Bureau has posted a social distancing guidance [document](#) for the ag sector.

#### **Update on Oregon Ag Leadership call on April 3 with Senator Wyden:**

- Eric Weisinger (Weisinger Family Winery in the Rogue Valley) participated in a call on Friday, April 3 with Sen. Wyden and representatives from Oregon's agriculture community. Sens. Wyden & Merkley are working with SBA to correct the ag exclusion from EIDL loan eligibility as enhanced and expanded by the CARES Act. See their press announcement [here](#).
  - Eric shared that a [news release](#) from WineAmerica provides more guidance on the EIDL loan process

and application for wineries.

- Jana McKamey (OWA) offered that the Oregon senators are joined by lawmakers from other states in lobbying the SBA about the ag exclusion. OWA is working with other wine industry advocacy groups, such as WineAmerica and the California Association of Winegrape Growers, to ensure some of the \$9.5B of relief allocated to the Dept. of Agriculture in the CARES Act is directed to help the wine industry.
- The Senate will take up a bill to provide \$250 billion in supplemental funding for the PPP later this week. Work on a fourth COVID-19 response package is underway that may include additional relief for small business.

### **Federal CARES Act Update**

- Andy Steinman (Eola-Amity Hills) offered information shared during an April 6 webinar sponsored by Oregon's Fifth Congressional District Representative Kurt Schrader.
  - Applicants can apply for and receive funding from both PPP and EIDL, but they cannot be applied to same costs; other interactions between these two programs need to be reviewed and considered when applying.
  - The updated EIDL application can be found [here](#). If an applicant applied before March 30, the advice is to re-apply using the new application.
- OWB is hosting a webinar on Thursday morning to provide the wine industry with expert advice on the loan options available under CARES.
- 501(c)6 organizations are currently not eligible for PPP loans, however US Travel submitted a letter to SBA to lobby for a change. These organizations are eligible to apply for loans under EIDL.

### **Update on labor laws and workplace safety**

- Christie Totten (from OWA legal counsel Davis Wright Tremaine) provided the following:
  - Regarding OSHA inspections, employers should have someone on the premises ready to deal with any government inspector. They should be ready to ask for credentials, understand what areas the inspector intends to inspect, know where the relevant documentation is, have their attorney's phone number readily available, and accompany the inspector on the inspection.
  - For questions about addressing employee health concerns, refer to the CDC's [interim guidance for businesses and employers to plan and respond to coronavirus](#).
  - Regulations on employee leave were published on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201) on April 6 that apply as of April 1.
    - The Dept. of Labor clarified that if someone is not working due to lack of available work then they are not eligible for this paid leave.
    - Regulations also provided specific information that employers need to obtain from their employees in order to be able to claim their tax credit.
  - Business owners are urged to seek guidance specific to their circumstances while the Dept. of Labor further clarifies rules regarding absences from the workplace and how new rules relate to earlier state and federal legislation such as the Family Medical Leave Act.
    - More information on the FFCRA can be found on the [OWB's COVID-19 toolkit](#) under "Employer and Employee Resources."

### **Association updates:**

- OWB update:
  - Education: There are several DTC education offerings coming up, including a free webinar on

Wednesday presented by MTO Agency and an online course from VingDirect that OWB is sponsoring to make available at \$25 (normally \$399)

- Media relations: Lettie Teague is working on an article for the WSJ on wineries that are opening during this time, expected out on Monday. OPB is working on a story. The Register Guard just published a story on how wineries are managing social distancing, and the same writer is working for on an Oregon Wine Press article about what the wine industry will look like in the future.
- Marketing: More information about the Oregon Inside campaign will be shared next week
- Research: Please complete your Vineyard & Winery Survey. Also, the Vit & Eno Research Steering committee is meeting this week to put together project list to propose for funding.
- The International Committee meeting will take place April 16.
- Regional updates:
  - Umpqua Valley and Rogue Valley report that businesses are in operation to varying degrees, doing curbside pickups, deliveries, takeout type business operations, and vineyards are continuing operations.
  - Central Oregon Winegrowers reports that wineries are developing digital sales programs to keep momentum going.
  - Willamette Valley Wineries Association offered the following:
    - They are working to determine the status of Pinot in the City Chicago, scheduled for July 14, and advise that distributors will be pushing to do supplier tastings in the fall. Expect the end of Q3 and Q4 to be very crowded with events.
    - They are urging continued communication with Travel Oregon to request early release of additional Wine Country License Plate Grant funds and to allow grants to fund continuing projects rather than only new projects, given the current strain on association budgets.
    - A suggestion was made that the industry not delay in looking ahead at the public safety issues and marketing support associated with the eventual re-opening of wine regions to tourism.
- Other groups:
  - OWA virtual town hall meetings to discuss proposed bylaws changes will take place over next couple weeks.
  - IPNC has been cancelled.

#### **Other discussion points:**

- Morgen McLoughlin (WVWA) shared that Destination Analysts' latest COVID traveler sentiment report indicates travelers are not thinking about travel till September. Event cancellations are increasing for July and August. It is expected that a lot messaging coming out of this period will highlight outdoor activities and small communities.
- Morgen suggested the industry use the WVWA's Google document as a central listing of the various webinars relevant to industry members
- Travel Oregon is posting an update on travel research and information on its industry website regularly.
- Everyone is reminded to refer to the OWB's industry events calendar to post events and avoid conflicts in rescheduling.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

- Next meeting will be April 14 at 11 a.m.

Meeting adjourned 12:28 p.m.